

Series: Living the Dream.

Scripture and Background Information for March 21-27.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we continue our series: Living the Dream: The Power and Pitfalls of a God-Sized Life. Our series continues with the observation of Solomon's life. We learned how Solomon's life could be an example for us of a God-sized life. Today we will look at **1 Kings 11:1-13**, the account of Solomon's life, which warns us that a life of blessing can also face difficulties and temptations.

Background for 1 Kings 11:1-13:

Today, our passage makes a sad turn, telling us about Solomon's failure.

Our text shows us that Solomon married many women, which led to his final turning away from the Lord. Solomon built various temples for the different gods of his foreign wives. This brought the destruction to his life, we read about in the text. Solomon turned his heart away from God. God responded to Solomon warning him about his lifestyle and giving him a chance to respond to the warning. Remember, David fell into sin as did Solomon; nevertheless, David was willing to repent, which reflected the often used title of being a "man after God's own heart." Sadly, we fail to see that repentance in the life of Solomon.

Some questions to engage with the text:

1. When comparing our passage to Deuteronomy 17:17, what do both texts tell us about the Word of God?
2. What was God's concern when warning the King's not to marry foreign women? We know that God had purpose and often worked through the different nations, so if the purpose was not about race, what might the more profound concern be?
3. What does God's response toward Solomon tell us about God? How is His response an encouragement to our failure?

Remember: Note, our text tells us that God appeared to Solomon twice, warning him from worshipping other gods. One encounter with God does not protect us from falling into Sin. Nevertheless, God is faithful to his covenant (1 John 1:9).

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

March 28-April 01

Ecclesiastes