

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**The King(s) Dwelling Place**

1 Kings 5-7

**APPLY // 1 KINGS 3-4**

**Main Idea:** The Lord's king must rule in accordance with the Lord's wisdom so that the Lord's people might enjoy the Lord's blessing.

1. Read 1 Kings 3:1-14. What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? Why is that important to understand? What does Solomon ask for? What doesn't he ask for?
2. What's Solomon's posture in asking? How do we get wisdom? (cf. Colossians 2:1-3; James 1:5-7)
3. How do we see Solomon using his wisdom in chapters 3-4. How does Solomon teach us how wisdom is to be used? Why is this important?
4. How does Solomon's use of wisdom remind us of, point us to, and highlight our need for Jesus?
5. Share some areas of your own domain where you need to move from seeking to be served to serving others in wisdom for God's glory and not your own?

**OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 1 KINGS 5-7**

**Main Idea:** The King's obedience brings the Lord's blessing upon Lord's people, primarily the Lord's presence.

1. Read 1 Kings 5:1-18. Verses 1-12 tell of Solomon's treaty with Hiram, King of Tyre, to acquire materials to build the temple. Verses 13-18 describes the organization and oversight of labor to build the temple. How does this chapter connect to and flow from what we've already read in Kings, especially concerning Solomon's wisdom and construction of the temple?
2. Notice one of Solomon's tasks upon becoming king is to build the temple. What does this tell us about Solomon?
3. Read 6:1. Notice that before the author moves into giving details of the construction, he situates the text in Israel's redemptive narrative. What's the significance that the author links coming "out of the land of Egypt" with building the temple (cf. Ex. 6:6-8; 15:17)?
4. In chapter 6, verses 1-10 describe the temple's exterior, and verses 14-38 focus on the interior. And notice in between, the author inserts verses 11-13. Read these verses.
  - a. What does the Lord tell Solomon in these verses? What's the focus of these verses?
  - b. How does this relate to the construction of the temple? What's truly important to the Lord?
  - c. What promises does the Lord make if Solomon walks in joyful obedience?
    - i. Notice in verse 13, the Lord's blessing on the people depends on the obedience of the King. What does this tell us about the story of redemption? How does this point us to Jesus?
5. Read 6:21-29. What do you notice about the difference spaces of the temple? What do you notice about the design / décor of the temple? Do you notice any similarities to Eden (cf. Gn 2:9, 7; 3:24)? What might these similarities be designed to communicate?
  - a. It's also interesting to note the floors are gold (cf. Rev. 21:21). Perhaps the temple points us back to Eden and forward to the greater Eden, Heaven!!

6. In chapter 7, we see Solomon builds his own house (vv. 1-12). Following that we get a detailed description of the temple's furnishings (vv. 13-50). Read how the chapter concludes in verse 51. What does all of this tell us about the character of the Lord?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Follow up from last week.