

**TERM 3 2021 BIBLE STUDY BOOK**

**MAKE WISE MY HEART**

**1 KINGS 1-11**



# Make wise my heart

## Introduction

Back in 2017 we spent a term in 2 Samuel looking at the reign of paradigmatic King David. 1 Kings picks up where we left off. King David is now old and the promises of 2 Samuel 7, that God will establish the kingdom of David's son, hang over the narrative.

We will look at the first 11 chapters of 1 Kings, seeing the Kingdom established under Solomon, Israel grow in prosperity and power and Solomon heart eventually turn from God. 'The heart' and 'wisdom' are the key recurring themes of these 11 chapters. Solomon asks for a 'heart that hears' God, and is granted wisdom. In time, Solomon's heart will grow divided as his love for his many wives and their many gods sees him growing deaf to the word of God.

1 Kings answers the questions being asked by the people of Israel as they see their kingdom divided and fall to enemies. In exile they ask whether their God was in control of history, as Moses had claimed? If the God of Moses did exist, and was good and all-powerful, how was it that God's chosen city and temple had been destroyed. Why has God's chosen royal family all but come to its end?

The books of Kings respond to such questions, explaining why Israel was defeated. Israel's God is indeed in control of nature and history. There are no other true gods anywhere. It is this good and all-powerful God who has overseen the destruction of his chosen city and his temple, and Israel's exile to Babylon. Israel's sin has caused these punishments.

In Matthew 12:42 Jesus makes an enormous claim: that in him someone greater than Solomon had come. That is, in the splendour and wisdom of Solomon we see a shadow of the wonder, majesty and wisdom of Christ crucified. In the sad decline of Solomon we grow thankful that Jesus' heart will never be divided against his father or his people. We have in him the greatest of kings.

Some of the challenges we face reading Old Testament narrative will be found here in 1 Kings. Vary rarely does the narrative call out right and wrong. Characters do not come with a 'good guy' or 'bad guy' editorial note. How do we tune our ear to that which these passages might teach us?

## Reading Cumulatively

We read and hear 2 Samuel with the first 9 books of the Bible ringing in our ears. Specifically, with some key 'King' moments.

### A Failed King

The first key 'king' moment is the Garden of Eden. It was here we see the rise and fall of God's first King. Adam had no crown or throne, but he was told to 'rule and have dominion'. However, a serpent would find a home in the Garden Adam was called to protect. Adam, called to rule as an image of the True King, becomes a law unto himself. Eden themes abound in the early chapters of 1 Kings, especially as the temple is built. Solomon will appear as a new Adam at times, but will fall like the first.

### An Ideal King

The second key 'king' moment is Moses' articulation of a 'good king' in Deuteronomy 17. Here Moses lays out the character of a King worthy of ruling God's people. This character list will become key as we assess the actions and decisions of those who aspire to claim the throne.

### A King like the Nations

The third key moment to have in mind as you read about the rise and fall of Solomon is Samuel's warning about the dark side of crowning a king. In 1 Samuel 8, Samuel fills out the implications of Israel's desire for a 'king like the nations'. Again, this will be a key way to assess Solomon's actions and decisions throughout 2 Samuel.

# Term Planner

As always, these bible studies are a tool rather than a master. They are there to help you guide your group into the scriptures. Some groups will do more of the questions and some will do less. Some groups will do the studies before hearing the sermon on the same passage. Some will prefer to do the study after as a recap. Leaders will need to discern when their groups need a break from 1 Kings to attend to specific group matters of topics that have arisen. All that being said, below is a map of how bible studies might relate to the sermon topics if you choose to do a bible study as preparation for hearing the sermon.

<b>Week Starting</b>	<b>Study</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Sermon Topic</b>
Monday 12th July	Bible Study Leader Launch	-	Enjoying God through temptation
Monday 19th July	Study 1: 1 Kings 1:1-40	5	Enjoying God in one another
Monday 26th July	Study 2: 1 Kings 1:38-2:46	8	1 Kings 1-2. Cold King: Young King
Monday 2nd August	Study 3: 1 Kings 3:1-4:34	11	1 Kings 3-4. Make wise my heart
Monday 9th August	Study 4: Every wise path	14	Global Mission Week 1
Monday 16th August	Week 5: Global missions week events	16	Global Mission Week 2
Monday 23rd August	Study 6: 1 Kings 6 and 8	17	1 Kings 6 and 8. Where God dwells
Monday 30th August	Study 7: 1 Kings 8:22-53	20	1 Kings 8. God's heart
Monday 6th September	Study 8: 1 Kings 10:1-29	23	1 Kings 10. A deaf heart
Monday 13th September	Study 9: 1 Kings 11:1-13	26	1 Kings 11. A heart led astray

# Study 1: The Cold King

## Talk

- 1) How 'political' are you? How much time do you spend following political matters in Australia or globally? Why or why not?

## Read 1 Kings 1:1-40

### 1 Kings 1:1-27

- 2) What episodes in the life of David are most memorable? How does this depiction of David in the first 4 verses make you feel?
- 3) If David is 'old and advanced in years', what key promise from God is front and centre in our minds?
- 4) Adonijah is David's oldest surviving son, so in one sense it is no surprise he expects to inherit the throne. However, we know that God has other plans for the throne that do not include Adonijah (2 Sam 7:12). Is there anything in the passage that suggests Adonijah knows Solomon was supposed to inherit the kingdom? What other details in verses 5-10 concern us about Adonijah (cf 1 Samuel 8:11, 2 Samuel 15:1, 1 Kings 1:5)?
- 5) Picture the scene where Bathsheba and Nathan have to go to David and tell him what is happening in his kingdom. How must Bathsheba be feeling? Considering God's promises to David (2 Samuel 7), what might we expect him to be doing at this stage in his life?

### 1 Kings 1:28-40

- 6) God has set his heart on Solomon to succeed David. Do Bathsheba and Nathan just leave matters for God to sort out?
- 7) David shakes off his weariness and rises to act. How does David speak about God in verses 29-30? How might similar truths compel us to act for God's glory when we feel like withdrawing and ignoring what is going on around us?
- 8) As we see Solomon ride into Jerusalem, are there any echoes of Jesus' triumphal entry and 'coronation' at the cross?

# Apply

9) The high point of David's reign was 2 Samuel 7. Immediately following, in 2 Samuel 11, David commits adultery with Bathsheba. We see here where his slow decline from this point leads. Yet we see here that even in the midst of low moments we can rise, in the strength of God, and act for the good of the kingdom. Is there someone you could encourage with this? Is this something you need to hear?

10) As we look at David, the old cold king, we have a chance to consider how we each will grow old:

- a) From our passage, what particular trials and temptations came as David aged (see also Ecclesiastes 12:1-7)? How are these different or similar to the trials and temptations of the young?
- b) How might the young, the old and those in between work in partnership for God's glory (Psalm 71:18, Deuteronomy 4:9, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13)?
- c) How might the church provide a counterbalance to the 'ageism' and segregation of the ages we might see in society (1 Timothy 5:1-2, Titus 2:1-2)?

# Prayers

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Pray for Brett and Mardi, Evie, Harriet, Olivia, and Willow Middleton. Please pray for Brett as he seeks to encourage, serve and build up the wider staff team. Pray for wisdom that he and the team develop ministry plans that will help St Luke's stay faithful and grow into the future.

Pray for Matt and Lauren, Ezra, Joanna and Samuel Thomas and their mission work with OMF International to an unreached people group in South East Asia.

Pray for our Church Wardens: Colin Adams, Joel Garlato & Helen Webster. Pray for our Parish Councillors: Timothy Clipsham, Laurie Davidson, Amanda Garlato, Elise Hankin, Jade Loughnan, Eliza Lucas, David Parkes, Kath Telfer and Simon Veltmeyer (also our treasurer). Pray for our Parish Nominators: Timothy Clipsham, Michael Easton, Megan Smith, Amanda Garlato, Louise Parkes. Pray for our Synod Reps: Michael Easton and Amanda Garlato.

We pray for Kids Hope, Scripture and School Chaplains. Pray that those entering the school can care and witness Christ's love to the kids and teachers.

Pray for English as a Second Language classes each Friday during school term. Give thanks for Marina and her team as they teach and encourage this vulnerable group of people.

# Study 2: The Young King

## Talk

- 1) What is a good age for someone to:
  - a) be elected Prime Minister?
  - b) become a mother or father?
  - c) be hired as a School Principal?
  - d) become a CEO?
  - e) become a GP?
  - f) join the army?
  - g) be licenced for pastoral ministry at a church?

## Read 1 Kings 1:38-2:46

### 1 Kings 1: 38-53

- 2) How old do you imagine Solomon to be when he is anointed king by Zadok the priest?
- 3) How do Adonijah's supporters respond to the news of Solomon's coronation? How does Adonijah respond? What is the meaning of his actions at the altar (Exodus 21:12-14)?
- 4) What do you think about Solomon's first decision as king, to spare Adonijah's life? How would Adonijah be feeling?

### 1 Kings 2:1-12

- 5) What is your reaction to David's final charge to Solomon 2:1-9? What seems admirable? What seems less so?
- 6) In both OT and NT, there is an acceptance that those in power wield the sword and execute justice (Romans 13:4-5). To what end do they do so? How does verse 7, nestled between David's judgement on Joab and Shimei, reveal why Kings must sometimes employ violence?



## 1 Kings 2:13-46

7) Chapter 2 ends with these words, “*The Kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon’s hands*”. What is required for the Kingdom to be established? Trace the crimes, punishments and eventual fate of the following characters.

a) Adonijah: Crime (1 Kings 1:5, 1 Kings 2:17) Punishment (1 Kings 1:23) Fate (1 Kings 2:25).

b) Abiathar: Crime (Kings 1:7) Punishment (1 Kings 2:26) Fate (1 Kings 2:27)

c) Joab: Crime (2 Samuel 3:27, 1 Kings 1:7) Punishment (1 Kings 2:29) Fate (1 Kings 2:34)

d) Shimei: Crime (2 Samuel 16:5-13) Punishment (1 Kings 2:36-37) Fate (1 Kings 2:46)

## Apply

8) “*The Kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon’s hands*”. This is a clear reference to the promises of God in 2 Samuel 7 and signals God’s faithfulness to his promises. Yet we might note the twists and turns required over the last chapter for the promise to be kept. What might we learn from this? How might this comfort and spur us on as we long for God’s promises to be fulfilled.

9) Adonijah’s followers are so consumed with their clandestine party, they have no idea God’s king is being installed on the throne. Do you see any resonance with this scene and Australian society? Is there someone you would like to pray about, for the rest of the term, that they may come to recognise God’s true king Jesus.

## Prayers

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Pray for Jennie and Don Everist. Pray for Jennie as she ministers and cares for the people who attend the Thursday Communion Service. Pray for her as she continues to pray and care for those who are unable to attend, due to Covid.

Nicole Murray working with our Young Adults. Luke Murray working on Sundays as our Student Minister. Prayer that their time in preparation is productive and good for all they serve.

Pray for Shane and Ruth, Kye, Joel, and Finn Sparks and their mission work making disciples in Gijon, Spain.

Pray for our Prime Minister and government. Pray for our state and federal members, our Premier and government. We pray also for our local Council including our Mayor.

Pray for those who serve to protect our country. Pray for health and safety for the service men and women and their Chaplains both here and overseas. Pray for their families waiting at home.

# Study 3: A Heart that Hears

## Talk

- 1) When was the last time you felt 'out of your depth' or that you didn't possess the skills, character or intelligence to do what was being asked of you?
- 2) Are you wise? Who is someone you would call wise?

## Read 1 Kings 3:1-4:34

### 1 Kings 3:1-15

- 3) In 3:1-4 we are confronted with some seemingly contradictory information about the newly established King Solomon. Is this a positive or negative portrayal of the new king?
- 4) God invites Solomon to ask anything of him. What does Solomon's response reveal about:
  - how Solomon sees God?
  - how Solomon sees himself?
  - what Solomon thinks he needs most?
- 5) We often think of Solomon as the King that prays for wisdom, but what exactly is Solomon's request and how does God respond? How might this change our understanding of wisdom?

### 1 Kings 3:16-28

- 6) The story found in 3:16-28 might be familiar, but take a moment to discuss some of the strangeness of it. Is this what we would expect Solomon to be doing as the ruler of "a great people, too numerous to count or number"?
- 7) Solomon has asked for a 'heart that hears' and God has granted him this wisdom. How do Solomon's actions in this moment, therefore, reveal to us God's heart? What moments in Jesus' life do we see a similar wisdom in action?
- 8) Have a read of Psalm 72:1-4, where David prays for his son. How is this moment a fulfillment of this Psalm?

## 1 Kings 4:1-34

- 9) Read Genesis 22:17, Deuteronomy 4:5-8 and 2 Samuel 7:10. What promises from God are being fulfilled at this point in the story?
- 10) Do you find any 'seeds of trouble' in chapter 4? Anything that could very well grow into sin and injustice if not kept in check by a wise heart?

## Apply

- 11) At this stage of Solomon's reign he is portrayed as a faithful king, and yet we are rightly concerned about these 'seeds of trouble' throughout the chapter. They don't constitute sin, but we know they could easily grow into sin if Solomon allows them. Are there any 'seeds of trouble in your life'? How is the sort of wisdom described here in 1 Kings 3 so important for navigating these moments?
- 12) How might the wisdom of God, seen in care for the poor and powerless, be seen in our church community and in our individual lives?

## Prayers

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Pray for Tim and Shona, Annika, Hamish, Edward and Hugo Goldsmith. Pray for Tim as our Community Pastor. Pray for Tim as he also heads up our Local Mission profile for St Luke's and focuses on outreach and evangelism.

Pray for Colin as Office and Site Manager. We pray for energy and enthusiasm as he takes on this new role looking after staff and the Church site.

Pray for Eddie as he assists with the bookkeeping on a Wednesday.

Pray for Lisa as Admin Assistant, as she looks after the administration of the Church.

Thank God for the many and varied resources available to us as a parish. As we seek to witness to the goodness of God daily, pray that we might make the most of opportunities to invite people we know to church. Pray that God would be preparing the hearts of people we could invite to a service at St Luke's.

Pray for Sarah and husband Tim and her work in India with BCTI and SIM.

# Study 4: Every Good Path: Solomon's Wisdom in Proverbs

## Read Proverbs 1:1-7 and 2:1-8

- 1) Why might Solomon so desire to see the simple and young grow wise?
- 2) Having looked at Solomon's prayer for 'a hearing heart' last week, how might we now better understand Proverbs 1:7 and 2:1-8?

## Proverbs 6:6-11

- 3) Thinking through the early chapters of 1 Kings, who do these words remind you of?

## Read Proverbs 29:1-27

- 4) What moments in Solomon's life might have provided the grounds for some of these proverbs?
  - a) 29:1
  - b) 29:6
  - c) 29:7, 14
  - d) 29:17, 21

## One Greater than Solomon

- 5) Read through the following verses to see how the wisdom of Solomon was a shadow of someone greater to come.
  - a) Matthew 12:42 and 13:54
  - b) 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- 6) How did the wisdom of the cross make foolish the wisdom of the world? How does the cross transform our understanding of wisdom?

## Prayers

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Pray for Kylie Zietsch and her work at Johannesburg Bible College, South Africa.

Praise God for our Bible Study leaders and for their faithful work in teaching and ministering to us throughout the term.

Pray for our witness to our local community – especially as more units are developed and more people move into the area. Pray for opportunities to connect with our community.

Pray for peace and wise leadership in our world. Pray that there would be opportunities for Christians to share the love, peace and saving grace that Jesus offers to all.

## Week 5: Global Missions Week

Please see the weekly newsletter for information on 'Global Mission Week' events your bible study could attend.

If you would like to receive our monthly mission prayer letter, email [office@stlukesmiranda.org.au](mailto:office@stlukesmiranda.org.au)



# Study 6: Where God Dwells

## Talk

- 1) Flick through the paragraph headings for chapters 5-7. What events are we looking at here? If someone was to ask you what Solomon's temple looked like, how would you describe it?
- 2) Have a flick through these church buildings <https://www.boredpanda.com/50-most-extraordinary-churches-of-the-world/> (you may want to get your group to have a look in their own time before the study). Which do you like? Should a church look 'extraordinary'?
- 3) Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiF-wObznds&t=68s>

## Read 1 Kings 6:1-38

- 4) What is your overall impression of the temple as it is described here? What theology is being given physical form in this building?
- 5) What is God's promise in 6:13? How does this connect to his overarching creation project (Genesis 3:8)? How does the decorating of the temple also speak to this?
- 6) As magnificent as this building was, it was just a shadow of the things to come (Colossians 2:17). How do we see the temple, the place where God dwells, fulfilled in the New Testament (John 2:19,21, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Ephesians 2:20, Revelation 21:22)?

## Read 1 Kings 8:1-21

- 7) We now witness the arrival of the ark to the completed Temple. Do you think there is anything significant about:
  - those summoned in 8:1?
  - the notes about the poles in 8:8?
  - the note about the ark's contents in 8:9?

- 8) 1 Kings 8:10-13 is a stunning moment. What other moments in the bible does it remind you of (Exodus 13:21, Exodus 24:16, Exodus 40:34, Numbers 9:15)?
- 9) What themes from 1 Kings 8 are present in John 1:14?

## Apply

- 10) What New Testament hope(s) does the Temple point us to (you may want to watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTnq6l3vUjU> )? Where do the following fit in:
- Jesus? (John 2:19-22)
  - Church? (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)
  - Heaven? (Revelation 21:22)
- 11) If the Temple has now been fulfilled in Jesus and his people, how does our attitude to church buildings change? What is a godly attitude towards our buildings knowing that the true temple is now Christ and all who believe in him?
- 12) The people assemble (that is, they 'church') because the King summoned them to do so. How is this fulfilled in our church gatherings (1 Peter 2:4-5)? How might this change our thinking about church attendance?

## Prayers

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Pray for Cam, Katrina, Peyton and Thea Harte. Pray for Cam as he heads up Children's Ministry, including KOS (Kids on Sunday), Primary Scripture, Children's Thursday arvo programs.

Pray for Jess Moran as she oversees our Crèche and Playtime programs. We pray for energy and enthusiasm as she looks after this age group as well as providing support and encouragement for the parents.

Pray for our ongoing and various Children's, Youth, and Young Adults Ministries; that God would be using the leaders and volunteers to sow seeds and help people grow into mature and loving relationships with Jesus. Pray that this would be a great witness to the wider community.

Pray for Geoff and Liz, Johanna, Will, Tom and Zoe Robson as Geoff takes up a position at Matthias Media.

Pray for Rob and Jo, Lili, and Jemma Copland. Pray for Rob's work as the Anglican Chaplain at the University of Wollongong and for his work as Campus Director of the University Bible Group.

# Study 7: God's Heart

## Talk

- 1) How is everyone's prayer life going? Is it in a good place or not? Is it enjoyable or not? Do you have a set pattern or not?
- 2) For those who struggle to pray, are your struggles related to theology (Does God hear me? Does prayer change anything?) or practice (no time, distracted etc)?

## Read 1 Kings 8:22-53

- 3) What are some of the characteristics of God we learn in the prayer of Solomon from verses 8:22-27? When you pray, are you conscious you are praying to a God like this?
- 4) What word is repeated in verses 27-30? What moment in Solomon's life does this remind us of?
- 5) What seems to be the most important thing God can grant to his people (8:30, 34, 36, 39, 50)? Does this surprise you? Considering this, do you think our church speaks about forgiveness enough/too little/too much?
- 6) Solomon prays for 7 particular situations. What are they? Do any of Solomon's 'top 7 prayers for Israel' surprise you?
- 7) What is the deep cause of most of the situations Solomon prays for (1 Kings 8:31, 33, 35, 46, 50)?
- 8) However, sin is not the only force at work in the world. How does situation 5 provide an interesting counterbalance?
- 9) Where does Solomon stand when he prays? What location is faced by each person praying in the seven situations? Why might this be the case?

## Apply

- 10) Solomon stands before the altar and intercedes for the people. How is this moment fulfilled in Jesus (1 John 2:1, Romans 8:34, Hebrew 7:25, 1 Timothy 2:5)?

- 11) How often are the crises we face personally or as a nation the result of our sin or others? How often are they just the result of living in a fallen world?
- 12) The grounds for the Israelite prayer is the altar, the temple and the land. What are the grounds by which we pray to God (John 14:13-14, Romans 5:2, Ephesians 2:18, Hebrews 4:14-16)?
- 13) How often does repentance and asking forgiveness feature in your prayer life? Should it, considering we are forgiven in Christ at the cross?

## Prayers

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Please pray that our new system for welcoming people would be useful and encouraging to keep loving new people. Pray that we would continue to connect with hospitality and warmth even with the current restrictions in place.

We pray for Evan Caddy our Ministry Trainee, with us over the next 2 years, working alongside Brett and Sam.

Pray that St Luke's as a community would be a welcoming family to the new person who walks through our doors, as well as the person who's been walking through our doors for many years. Pray that God would help us to love the people as he first loved us. Give St Luke's a spirit of hospitality, care and inclusivity.

Pray for Marty & Katrina, Simeon, Jed and Luke Feltham, preparing to serve in Kenya with CMS.

# Study 8: A Deaf Heart

## Introduction

- 1) It's been said we are most prone to sin when we are hungry, angry, lonely or tired (eg the H.A.L.T method of resisting temptation). Would you add anything else? What about when we are praised, successful and popular? What particular temptations are we prone to when times are good and we are held in high esteem?

## Read 1 Kings 10:1-13

- 2) Why did the Queen of Sheba come to visit Solomon (10:1-2)? What impression does this give of her? She is undoubtedly wealthy, but what is the real treasure she is seeking?
- 3) For all the deep wisdom she experiences as she tests Solomon, what is she impressed by in the end?

## Read 1 Kings 10:14-29

- 4) The Queen of Sheba tells Solomon that he is on the throne to 'maintain justice and righteousness'. What are some of the ways a king may fail to do so according to Deuteronomy 17:14-20 and 1 Samuel 8:10-12?
- 5) What are the warning signs we start to see throughout 10:14-29?
  - 10:14, 18, 21
  - 10:26
  - 10:28
  - 10:29
- 6) What do we learn here about the nature of wisdom? What happens when a wise man no longer has 'a heart that hears'.

## Apply

- 7) Have there been moments in your life when you realised, like the Queen of Sheba, that wealth could not be your everything? Do you know people who live for wealth and neglect the deeper matters of existence?
- 8) Consider 10:27. What does this teach us about the foolishness of greed? Is this a trap you are falling into?
- 9) Solomon's reputation for wisdom and wealth was growing as his regard for the word of God was declining. Have you seen this play out in the lives of people you know? Have you/Do you ever feel this happening to you?



## Prayers

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Pray for Sam and Jess, Percy, Lois, Finn and Cleo Morton. Pray for Sam as our Services Pastor, preparing the elements, which make up our Sunday services. Pray for Sam as he also heads up Youth Ministry and high school Scripture.

Pray for Sandy Rigby as she supports Sam in ministering to the youth of St Lukes. We continually bring before God, high school scripture, that he will continue to make paths for us to teach over this disrupted year.

Pray for Andrew and Adele, Isaac, Lucy, and Finn Southerton and their church plant in Wellington, City on a Hill, New Zealand.

Pray for Rachel and Michael Burgess as Rachel serves with AFES as a senior staff worker at the Australian Catholic University in North Sydney

Thank God for his loving provision in drawing us to him and making us his children and heirs. Pray for members of our families and those close to us who do not know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Pray for both wisdom and boldness in how to share the good news we have with those who are nearest and dearest to us.

# Study 9: A heart lead astray

## Talk

- 1) Have you ever seen a friend or family member change because of an intimate relationship they were in?

## Read 1 Kings 11:1-13

- 2) Lots of the power of this passage is in hearing the biblical echoes within it. What echoes do we hear in:
  - a) 11:1 Solomon loved many foreign women (cf 1 Kings 3:3)
  - b) 11:2 Solomon held fast to them (cf Genesis 2:24, Deuteronomy 10:20)
  - c) 11:4 His heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God (cf Deuteronomy 6:5, 1 Kings 8:61)
  - d) 11:11-12 I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you (1 Samuel 15:28)
- 3) What part of God's law was Solomon breaking in the 1 Kings 11:1-3? Do you think this is a fair law? Does this law continue into the New Testament in any way?
- 4) What part of God's law was Solomon breaking in 1 Kings 11:4-8? Does this law continue into the New Testament in any way?
- 5) What do you think contributed to Solomon's heart turning from God? What do the following suggest?
  - a) 1:3
  - b) 1:4
  - c) 11:9

- 6) The hill east of Jerusalem is the Mount of Olives. How does this make Solomon's idolatry all the more shocking (Mark 13:3)?
- 7) How is God's mercy and faithfulness still present in this moment of judgement? Do you think, like David, this moment of judgement would have led to Solomon's repentance?
- 8) Hearts are trouble. Their longings often feel out of our control. What comfort do we find in Galatians 4:6?

## Apply

- 9) How has temptation changed for you throughout the seasons of your life?
- 10) Have you ever found your heart being turned from God because of your love for someone?
- 11) Have you ever found your heart being turned from God because of your love for something (idolatry)?

## Prayers

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Pray that the word of God which we hear on Sundays might shape how we live Monday to Friday. Pray that we would be respectful of workplace boundaries, but that we'd also *"be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks [us] to give the reason for the hope that [we] have"* (1 Peter 3:15). Thank God that we have the opportunity to represent Christ in how we speak and act in the workplace.

Pray for the global COVID crisis and ask for wise decision making from leaders. Bring before God those who are physically or mentally ill, grieving or experiencing financial hardships due to the pandemic.

Pray for David and Kathryn, Reuben and Felix Luis. Pray for David as Campus Director of Geelong Christian Union at the Deakin University Campus in Victoria.

Pray for Peter, Katharine, Noah and Atticus Yock. Pray as they work amongst the students at the campus of Griffith University.