



# Solomon Turns Away From God

1 Kings 11:1-13

First- and second-graders have developed the capacity to choose right over wrong. They also know what it's like to get distracted from a task, from homework, or simply from following through with a simple task like making their beds or brushing their teeth. This is the perfect time to teach them to be focused on God and to be fully devoted to him. Use today's lesson to help children understand that God wants them to be wholeheartedly devoted to him.



► **Bible Point**  
Be devoted to God.

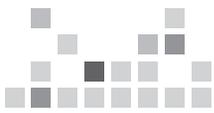
**Key Verse**  
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Kids will devote their lives to God despite distractions.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Faithful Followers</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Follow a leader.		
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Marriage Mania</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Learn about Solomon's many wives and how they distracted his devotion to God.	Bible, sticky notes <b>Teacher Pack:</b> heart stamp, ink pad	
	<b>Trust in the Lord</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Give Solomon advice to stay devoted.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD: "Wise Advice" (track 12)	



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration <i>(continued)</i>	<b>Be Devoted</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to listen through many distractions.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD: “Distractions” (track 13)	
	<b>Key Verse Connection</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse song.	Bible, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD: “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 14)	
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Every Day, Every Way</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn how to see God in situations.	My Bible Fun, crayons, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD: “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 14)	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	<b>Straight Paths</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a craft to illustrate devotion to God.	poster board, several colors of construction paper, scissors, washable markers, crayons, markers, glue sticks, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD: “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 14), “Straight Path” cards	Cut poster board into sections a little bigger than the construction paper. You’ll need one section for each child.  Separate the “Straight Path” cards. 
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Commit to a specific way to trust God.	My Bible Fun	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		



# Solomon Turns Away From God

1 Kings 11:1-13

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Solomon Begins His Reign

During his reign, David made preparations for a temple to be built, and he commissioned his son Solomon to make sure that it happened (1 Chronicles 22:2-11).

Once the Temple was built, Solomon dedicated it with a magnificent prayer (1 Kings 8:23-53). He praised God’s power, goodness, and mercy. He asked God to hear, forgive, and bless his people. After that prayer, God appeared to Solomon and reaffirmed his promise to establish an heir of David on the throne forever if Solomon and his descendants continued to walk before God in “integrity of heart and uprightness” (1 Kings 9:4-5). However, God also issued a warning: If Solomon or his sons turned away from the Lord and served other gods, God would reject them and make Israel an object of ridicule among all peoples (1 Kings 9:6-7).

## Solomon’s First Mistake

Solomon’s wisdom and Israel’s prosperity made Solomon enormously wealthy. First Kings 10:14-29 describes some of his possessions, including huge amounts of gold, a fleet of ships, hundreds of chariots, and thousands of horses—all in spite of the fact that the accumulation of large numbers of horses and vast amounts of gold and silver was expressly forbidden in Deuteronomy 17:16-17.

## Solomon’s Folly

The king of Israel was not to take many wives for himself because they would lead him astray (Deuteronomy 17:17). Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. But having foreign wives was even worse than having many wives, and many of Solomon’s wives were from nations whose people the Israelites were expressly forbidden to marry (1 Kings 11:1-2). Indeed, the wives led him astray. After such an illustrious beginning to his reign and many years of faithfulness

and prosperity, Solomon turned to worshipping the gods of his foreign wives. The next time God spoke to Solomon, it was to tell him that the kingdom would be torn from Solomon’s son.

## The Jesus Connection

Biblical wisdom isn’t primarily knowing facts about Jesus—it’s living out a friendship with and a respect for Christ. Wisdom produces transformation, not just information.

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. Long before Solomon went astray, God gave him and his people a road map to restore their friendship with God. Take a minute to reflect and confess your own sin to God. As you pray, you can draw a road map below that symbolizes your sin and repentance.





## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Faithful Followers

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **To be devoted to someone means to be faithful and loyal. Let's play a game to see what being devoted means. In this game, we'll try to faithfully obey and follow the actions of a leader.**

Have kids line up single file. Have the child at the head of the line lead the group once around the room while performing an action that the other kids will imitate. For example, the Leader might skip, take baby steps, or clap hands. Then choose another child to lead the line in another action as they walk around the room again. Let each child who wants to have a turn being the Leader. Then have kids sit in a circle on the floor with you.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in the following discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like trying to faithfully follow the actions of the Leader in this game?
- What's it like trying to follow God?

Say: **When we obey or try to faithfully follow someone, we can say we're devoted to that person. In today's Bible passage, we'll look at how King Solomon followed God. We'll learn how we can ► BE DEVOTED TO GOD. Let's get started.**

.....

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Marriage Mania

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather the children in a circle.

Say: **Today our Bible passage is from 1 Kings 11:1-13. This is the sad account of how King Solomon turned away from God.**

Marriage Mania  
Supplies

.....

Bible  
sticky notes  
**Teacher Pack**  
heart stamp  
ink pad



Open your Bible to the passage, and show it to the kids. Ask a willing child to be “Solomon.” Distribute the sticky notes to the children.

Say: **In his job as king, Solomon met lots of women. Over time, he married hundreds of these women. Unfortunately, many of them did not follow God. I’ll read a verse of Scripture that tells us about what happened. At the end of the verse, I’ll motion for one of you to add a heart to our Solomon here.**

Read 1 Kings 11:1 aloud to the group. Have one of the children stamp a heart on a sticky note and stick the note on Solomon. Read 1 Kings 11:2, and have another child stamp a heart on a sticky note and stick it on Solomon. Continue until you’ve read through 1 Kings 11:13.

Say: **Solomon got married to 700 women. Wow! That’s a lot of wives! Having more than one wife was the custom back in Bible times, but Solomon’s wives led him away from God. Solomon’s wives got him in trouble—big trouble—with God. That’s because not all of Solomon’s wives believed in the one true God. Many of them worshipped false gods. Solomon loved his wives so much that he started worshipping the false gods, too, just to make his wives happy. Solomon’s heart used to be devoted to God, but now it was like his heart was divided—it didn’t all belong to God anymore. And that made God sad and angry.**

Put away the ink pad and the heart stamp. Have the children help Solomon take off the sticky notes and put them in the trash.

Ask:

- What happened to our Solomon as we went through this activity?
- How can we be devoted to God?

Say: **Solomon was called to ► BE DEVOTED TO GOD. When Solomon started following the false gods, God was upset. He told Solomon that he was going to tear the kingdom away from Solomon’s family because Solomon hadn’t obeyed God and Solomon wasn’t devoted to God anymore. Let’s see how that happened.**

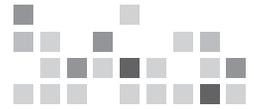
## Trust in the Lord

### What You’ll Do

Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5, and show the verse to the kids. Tell kids this is God’s book.

Say: **In our Bible passage today, Solomon started to turn away from God. But Proverbs 3:5 says: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.”**

Explain that kids will listen to the Bible passage on the CD. Each time they hear Solomon say, “Hmm...I wonder what I should do,” kids should respond by shouting, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart!” Practice the prompt and response several times with kids. Then play the “Wise Advice” segment (track 12 on the CD).



### Trust in the Lord Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Wise Advice”  
(track 12)





### Be Devoted Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Distractions"  
(track 13)

### Key Verse Connection Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
copies of the lyrics page  
(at the end of this  
lesson)  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Trust in the Lord"  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)  
(track 14)

## Talk With Kids

After the segment, have kids form pairs to answer the following questions. After each question, invite willing children to share their answers with the rest of the group.

Ask:

- What happened when Solomon stopped being devoted to God?
- What could Solomon have done to stay devoted to God?

Say: **Having so many wives who wanted Solomon to worship their gods caused problems for Solomon. However, in the end, it was Solomon who chose to turn away from God. And that was very sad. Sometimes things get in the way of our staying devoted to God. This next activity will help us understand how that can happen, and how we can choose to ► BE DEVOTED TO GOD.**

## Be Devoted

### What You'll Do

Have kids sit on the floor as far away from each other as possible. Explain that you'll start the CD, and kids should listen carefully to what the narrator is saying. Remind kids to stay focused on the voice of the first person they hear.

Play the "Distractions" segment (track 13 on the CD).

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in the following discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to try to listen to this CD?
- Tell about a time someone tried to get you to do something that God wouldn't like.
- What can you do to stay devoted to God and not let anything or anyone get in the way?

Say: **We couldn't hear what the man was saying because all the other voices got in the way of the first voice. Sometimes that's what it's like when we try to listen to God—too many other voices get in the way. That's what happened to Solomon. Solomon allowed his wives to convince him to turn away from God. But we can do better. We can ► BE DEVOTED TO GOD.**

## Key Verse Connection

### What You'll Do

Say: **Solomon started out great as king by asking God for wisdom, and God made Solomon the wisest man on earth. Solomon wrote lots of wisdom in the book of**





Proverbs in the Bible. But this week, we learned that Solomon made a big mistake. He stopped being devoted to God.

The Bible tells us how to ► **BE DEVOTED TO GOD.**

Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5-6, and show kids the passage.

Listen to what the Bible says about staying devoted to God: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6). Trusting in God is like using a map or GPS to get to where you’re going instead of guessing and getting lost.

Have kids say the passage with you several times until they can repeat it by themselves.

That’s what it means to ► **BE DEVOTED TO GOD.** God wants us to trust and follow him. Let’s learn from Solomon’s mistake and make sure we trust God. Let’s sing about that.

Pass out copies of the lyrics page, and play “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 14 on the CD) while kids listen. Then play it again, and have kids sing along.

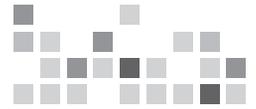
 **Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)**  
With all your heart (with all your heart).  
And lean not on your own understanding (understanding).  
In all your ways (in all your ways),  
Acknowledge him (acknowledge him),  
He will make your paths straight.

Once you begin that way,  
Don’t you ever, ever stray;  
You’ll be on your way to an amazing life.  
Once you begin that way,  
Don’t you ever, ever stray;  
You’ll be on your way to an amazing life.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)**  
With all your heart (with all your heart).  
And lean not on your own understanding (understanding).  
In all your ways (in all your ways),  
Acknowledge him (acknowledge him),  
He will make your paths straight.  
Yeah, he will make your paths straight.  
Oh, yeah, he will make your paths straight.

“Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) by Rob Biagi. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in the following discussion.

Ask:

- What's one message you heard in the song we just sang?
- What's one way you can show God you're devoted to him this week?

Say: In our Key Verse from the book of Proverbs, we learned that to ► **BE DEVOTED TO GOD** means to trust him with all our heart. Solomon wrote the words, but he forgot what they meant. He didn't follow his own advice. But we can do better. Let's find out how.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Every Day, Every Way

#### Every Day, Every Way Supplies

My Bible Fun  
crayons  
CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Trust in the Lord"  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)  
(track 14)

#### Every Day, Every Way Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 7  
pages from each My  
Bible Fun student book.

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Set out crayons for kids to share. Have kids turn to the "Every Day, Every Way" activity on their My Bible Fun pages.

Tell kids to look at the three pictures and think of how they could ► **BE DEVOTED TO GOD** in the situations pictured. Have kids write or draw pictures of their solutions in the boxes next to the pictures.

Be prepared to help kids who seem stumped. In the first picture, the boy is being tempted to steal. A child in your group could draw a picture of the boy walking away, or write "No!" in the empty box next to the picture. In the second picture, a storm is approaching while the kids are walking home from school. Your students could draw a person praying or finding shelter soon. The third picture is a soccer player being put in the game. A child could draw him playing well with the team or praying for God to help him do well.

As children work, play "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 14 on the CD).

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

After a few minutes, invite willing children to share their responses with the rest of the group.

Then ask:

- What did you think of for the kids to do to show their trust in God?
- Why can we trust God with all our heart?





Say: **When we trust God with all our heart, God will show us where we need to go in life and how to get there—just as the Bible says. Let’s make something to remind us to ► BE DEVOTED TO GOD and to trust God every day.**

## Straight Paths

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give one “Straight Path” card to each child. Set out washable markers, crayons, regular markers for coloring, glue sticks, and scissors. Have kids form pairs.

Explain that partners will help each other trace their shoe outlines onto construction paper using washable markers. Have one partner in each pair stand on construction paper while the other partner traces the first child’s shoe outlines. Do this for both shoes; then have kids switch roles. Have kids cut out their shoe outlines and glue them to a sheet of construction paper in a contrasting color. Have each child glue a “Straight Path” card onto the paper, above his or her shoe outlines.

Give each child a poster board section, and show kids how to glue the construction paper to the poster board to make a mat. Let kids use markers and crayons to decorate the edges of their mats. Using markers, help kids write or draw a way they will commit to devoting their lives to God during the week. For example, you could help a child write, “This week I will pray every day when I wake up.”

As kids work, play “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 14 on the CD).

Say: **When you get home, tape your mat on the floor next to your bed so it won’t slip. Every morning when you get up, you can place your feet inside your shoe prints and remember to trust God with all your heart and ► BE DEVOTED TO GOD.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how we can ► BE DEVOTED TO GOD this week. Instead of choosing a Daily Challenge for this week, each day think of a way you can trust God, and then pray that you’ll have the strength to trust him in that way.**

Make sure you share with the kids how you will think of a way to trust God each day this week in your own life. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.



### Straight Paths Supplies

- poster board
- several colors of construction paper
- scissors
- washable markers
- crayons
- markers
- glue sticks
- CD player

### Teacher Pack

- CD: “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 14)
- “Straight Path” cards

### Straight Paths Easy Prep

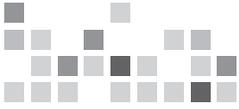
Cut poster board into sections a little bigger than the construction paper. You’ll need one section for each child.

Separate the “Straight Path” cards.

### Daily Challenges Supplies

- My Bible Fun





## Talk With Kids

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your commitment of trusting God each day this week? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.

Say: This week, let's remember to ► **BE DEVOTED TO GOD** by following through on our commitment to trust God each day. Don't get distracted away from God the way Solomon did.

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the way they chose to trust God and what they learned about being devoted to God. Kids can also do the activities on the "HomeConnect" portion of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about e-mailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for making our paths straight and asking for help to stay devoted to God.





## Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)  
With all your heart (with all your heart).  
And lean not on your own understanding  
(understanding).  
In all your ways (in all your ways),  
Acknowledge him (acknowledge him);  
He will make your paths straight.

Once you begin that way,  
Don't you ever, ever stray;  
You'll be on your way to an amazing life.  
Once you begin that way,  
Don't you ever, ever stray;  
You'll be on your way to an amazing life.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)  
With all your heart (with all your heart).  
And lean not on your own understanding  
(understanding).  
In all your ways (in all your ways),  
Acknowledge him (acknowledge him);  
He will make your paths straight.  
Yeah, he will make your paths straight.  
Oh, yeah, he will make your paths straight.

"Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) by Rob Biagi. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

