

## Applying It In My Life .....Group time - 25 minutes

1. As Solomon grew older he did not apply the wisdom that defined his early career as King of Israel. Why is it important for us to cling to God's wisdom at all points in our life? How can you continue to seek God's wisdom for all the challenges in your life?
2. Temptation surrounds us in our culture. Sometimes we are unaware of the small compromises we are making and the dangerous path they can lead us down. What are some examples of dangerous and incremental changes happening around us that we can fail to notice? What can we do to wake up, notice and resist these changes?
3. At the end of his life, the wise King Solomon did some very foolish things. How can we avoid finishing poorly? Is there some area of your life you would like your *Growth Group* to pray for you to continue living wisely or to redirect you so you can live and finish strong?

## Prayer Time .....Group time - 15 minutes

Thank God for the wise people He has placed in your life and ask Him to help you become someone who can offer wisdom to the next generation. Ask God to help you grow in His wisdom more and more with each passing day. Invite the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to temptation in your life and help you to finish well.

Finish your prayer time by praying for the needs of those in your *Growth Group*. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests. Ask someone in the group to record your prayers so you can see in future weeks where God is answering your prayers. Share where God has answered any previous prayer requests.

**Personal Action:** The book of Proverbs is thirty-one chapters long. Consider making a commitment to read one chapter of it each day for the coming month. It will take just a few minutes per day. As you read this amazing book you will grow in wisdom.

## THE STORY – EXPECTING *The King Who Had It All*

### A Great Beginning

### 1 Kings 1-10

- It is still a great idea to ask God for WISDOM.

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting...” James 1:5-6a*

- God wanted EVERYONE to become part of His perfect community.

### A Poor Finish

### 1 Kings 11

- Solomon pays a significant PRICE because he doesn't do things God's way.

*“For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.” 1 Kings 11:4*

### What About You?

- How we live our lives MATTERS!
- True wisdom leads us to DEPART from sin and to DEPEND on God.

# GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of December 6-12, 2013

## Getting Started.....Group time - 20 minutes

1. If there are new people in your group, briefly introduce yourselves – Share your name; when you came to *South Shores Church*; where you live; if married, how long you have been married; and if you have children, share their names and ages.
2. Take a few minutes to look over the *Growth Group Covenant* as a group. (Your leader will have them at your first meeting). This helps everyone know what to expect from your group time.
3. If you could be given one super power that would enable you to help others, what would it be?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

## Getting Into God's Word .....Group time - 30 minutes

Read *The Story*, Chapter 13 (In preparation to answer questions)

1. Read 1 Kings 3:5-14. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and engaged him in the "If you could have anything you want" conversation. What did Solomon ask for and what did he refrain from asking for? What do we learn from Solomon's request about what we should seek in our prayers?



2. 1 Kings and Ecclesiastes give us an account of Solomon's life. How was Solomon a successful and godly king? Read 1 Kings 11:1-6. Where did Solomon get off track in his godly leadership? What were the mistakes that Solomon made and what were the results for him and for the nation of Israel?
3. As Solomon's wisdom grew, the Holy Spirit inspired him to write and collect wise sayings. According to Proverbs 1:1-7 what is the purpose and value of the proverbs?
4. God's Word includes many examples of proverbs. Respond to questions below about Solomon's collection of wise sayings from the Book of Proverbs cited in *The Story* (pp.179-183):
  - What do they teach us about fearing God?
  - What do they teach us about God-honoring relationships?
  - What do they teach us about how to handle our finances wisely?
  - What do they teach us about how we use our words?
5. Read 1 Kings 8:54-61 and 9:1-9. Following David's death Solomon built the temple of the Lord. As the temple was dedicated, Solomon prayed and spoke to the people of Israel. What did he ask for himself and for the people? After Solomon's prayer, God spoke. What promises did God give the people? How did these promises give both hope and a sober awareness of their need to follow God closely?