**Chapter 13: the king who had it all**

**Icebreaker Question**: What do you consider to be the wisest thing you have ever done?

1. How did Solomon (and other Israelites) show love for the LORD in the Old Testament? How does this differ from New Testament believers? (See John 14:15, 15:12, and 1 John 5:2-3.)  
  
2. Look at Solomon’s prayer of dedication. What does this teach you about how you should approach God?

3. Solomon authored many proverbs that teach general principles of wise and practical living. Some examples are found on pages 179-183. Choose one that you particularly like or one that resonates with you. What is the main point that it communicates? How might your life be different if you lived out this proverb?

4. Using what you have learned about Israel’s history in previous chapters of *The Story*, why did Solomon make the dedication of the temple such a big event? What would it have been like to experience it first hand?

5. Compare God’s promises to Solomon with His promises to David (p. 159). Which promise(s) had God faithfully fulfilled? What would Solomon and his descendants need to do to keep a successor on the throne (p. 176, 188-189)? How could Israel avoid captivity (p. 189)?

6. Solomon accumulated unprecedented riches. Look up Deuteronomy 17:15-17 and 28:1-14. Did Solomon go too far? Is extreme wealth a good thing or a bad thing? Discuss.

7. As Solomon grew older, he was a rich and established ruler, but he did not apply the wisdom that defined his early career. How can you continue to seek wisdom, even after you have experienced success?

8. Solomon’s failures began when he married women who served other gods. Why is it important for a husband and wife to both be committed Christians? What advice would you give someone who is considering dating or marrying a non-Christian?

In the time remaining ask your group members to share any of their personal reflection insights from their journal entries.

**“The King Who Had It All”**1 Kings 3:10

*Proverbs 12:15 (ESV) 15The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.*

*Proverbs 22:1 (ESV) 1A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.*

*Proverbs 17:7 (ESV) 7*[*A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/k/kingsolomo189336.html)

*Proverbs 10:19 (ESV) 19When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.*

*Proverbs 26:4 (ESV) 4Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.*

*Proverbs 13:20 (ESV) 20Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*