

## Leader Notes- Saul, David and Solomon

### Day 1

Sovereign Will versus Will of Command- I've never seen this distinction articulated in this way- I think the big idea is that God has given us parameters to live by (will of command) but regardless of whether or not we choose to live by those parameters, God will still accomplish His sovereign will. I think Lysa is setting this up because so much of the study is based on whether or not the kings followed God's commands. Lysa sums it up at the bottom of page 17- God is in control but He doesn't control our choices. He has given us the responsibility to choose Him, His way, His best for us.

You can read the passage 1 Samuel 8 together, if you have time, to show that Israel demanding a king was outside of God's will of command- they should have just obeyed His precepts. Instead, Israel rejected Yahweh as king, and wanted their own human king like the other nations around them.

At the bottom of page 18, Lysa is having us compare God's warning (1 Sam 8:11-18) to Saul's behavior (1 Sam 11:5-8) when he threatens the people "if you don't come out and fight for Israel than I will chop you up into little pieces just like this oxen." A human king would not care for the people as Yahweh would have.

Our obedience to God is an indication as to whether we trust Him or not. When God says NO to something, often, we assume it is because He is being mean and restrictive, instead of trusting that He is trying to protect us from something. To trust God when we will feel He is being restrictive takes patience, perspective, discipline and self-control something our society severely lacks.

CARD- Take look at the cards in the back of the study that can be taken out- I think they could be a really useful tool. For those of you who are meeting weekly, you could take a card out each week and reflect on it until the next study. I may find a verse to go with it as well. The first one states- there is a weight to our want. There is a consequence when we resist trusting God, and instead try to manipulate things to work out the way we want them to.

### Day 2

On this day, we meet David- you can do a whole study just on David. I think this is why we have 9 pages of homework for this day alone! There are so many teaching points in the character study of David:

- God judged him based on his heart, not his outward appearance.
- David was called "a man after God's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14) not because he never sinned. David was called a man after God's own heart, because he never wavered in his trust in or loyalty to God. When David was confronted by Nathan about his sin, (2 Sam 12:1-15), he repented.

- God does not give up on us.
- God has plans for our lives. His plans are for the expansion of His kingdom, they require obedience, and they are not always easy.

Lysa makes some excellent points on trust in this day:

- To rebuild trust with God can be harder than to have trust in the first place. (top of page 25)
- Pursuing answers to why God has allowed hard things does not necessarily bring the peace that we desire, because we may not be able to see enough of His big picture to agree with Him. (bottom of page 25)
- To understand God's incommunicable characteristics can increase our trust in Him. (page 26)
- Trusting God produces powerful spiritual fruit in our lives that can sustain us. (page 27)
- When we have doubt, we can filter it through God's truth which allows us to respond to our doubt in faith. (top of page 30)

### **Day 3**

In this day we are introduced to Solomon.

Even though David was forgiven of his sin, there were still consequences to his sin. His first son with Bathsheba died and there was much dysfunction in the lives of David's sons- toward David and toward each other. When Adonijah asks to marry Abishag- Adonijah is trying to usurp the kingship from Solomon.

I never realized before that nowhere in Scripture does God tell David that Solomon is to be the next king. Apparently, David made this oath to Bathsheba (see 1 Kings 1:13) but it is not specifically recorded in Scripture.

Solomon made a lot of mistakes in life. But he started off well- he requested wisdom from God. This is a great example to us. Wisdom is something we can boldly ask from God. James 1:5 says "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him." What a promise to us! God wants us to be wise and He will help us grow in our wisdom if we ask Him.

### **Day 4**

In this day, we talk about God's plan regarding the building of the temple- in regards to David's life and Solomon's life. The big idea here is that God has assignments for us to accomplish, and timing for those assignments. He is a personal God- and His plans are specific to our personalities, backgrounds and gifts. We need to trust His plans for our lives. It is so easy for us to compare our lives to others, and question His plans for us.

God put a lot of effort into the plans for the temple- the completion of this assignment was important to God. An assignment may not seem important to you- is important to God. What assignments have the ladies in your group been given? Do they recognize them as important, even if they “seem” like they are small?

Solomon took his assignment seriously- we see that in his prayer of dedication in 1 Kings 8:22-61. There is a lot in this prayer, but I think Lysa hits on the big ideas well. We have a propensity to wander from God, however God is always faithful. His faithfulness is unaffected by our faithlessness. He is always there to receive us back. How do you think Solomon’s prayer influenced the people of Israel? How does our perception of God influence the people around us?

Solomon wants Israel to be an instrument for other nations to hear of Yahweh’s great name. Jesus refers to us being a “city on a hill”. What do these descriptions mean to you?

CARD- We don’t have to understand the why’s of God’s ways- but we do have to keep choosing Him. Practically speaking, what does it look like to choose God each day?

## **Day 5**

Great analogy of the sweater- sin becomes a snagging point that unravels our lives. When we find ourselves far from God often it is due to a pattern of disobedience that develops little by little over a period of time.

Solomon (and his father, David) had a weak spot for women.

Women may wonder if God approves of polygamy, since it is not addressed here in 1&2 Kings. Polygamy was not part of God’s design (see Gen 2:18-24). The first we hear of polygamy in Scripture is Lamech taking two wives (Gen 4:19), which was in violation of God’s covenant. On some topics, Scripture remains silent on things in specific passages, but we cannot infer that Scripture’s silence equates to approval. There is an article here about it, that delves into it further. I am not sure if I agree with everything said here 100% but I think it is helpful overall: <https://www.gotquestions.org/polygamy.html>

People were worshipping Yahweh, but worshipping other gods as well, represented by the high places. The high places represented halfhearted trust in God. When we invite half-hearted trust, we are making ourselves vulnerable to Satan’s schemes, or our own weak flesh. To trust God takes humility.

Where are we displaying half-hearted trust? To what do we turn to, when we don’t think God is coming through for us?