

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

If my family were a movie or TV show it would be:

- Revenge of the Nerds*
- Nightmare on Elm Street*
- Dumb and Dumber*
- The Brady Bunch*
- Other: _____

Question: Share a time in your life when you cut some corners you wish hadn't been cut.

Read 1 Kings 11:1-13

The Problem of Idolatry

Question: How would you describe Solomon's weakness (vs 1-5)? Why didn't his wisdom protect him from this weakness?

In your opinion, what was Solomon's biggest problem?

- Too much money
- Too much fame
- Too many women
- Too many gods
- Other: _____

Why is intermarriage forbidden in the law of God (Deuteronomy 7:1-4)?

What happened in the worship of Molech? (vv7-8; see Leviticus 20:5 and 2 Kings 23:10).

Why was God so harsh with Solomon's punishment? Also, why did God seem to soften the blow toward's Solomon in his judgment?

In the sermon, it was said,
"Idols lie to us. They enslave us. They kill us."

How have we seen this play out in Solomon's life?

Question: What weaknesses hurts your relationship with God? With others?

The Solution of Jesus

Read 1 John 5:20–21

[20] And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. [21] Little children, keep yourselves from idols. (ESV)

How is Jesus described in the above passage? How is this different from all the idols in Solomon's life and also in our lives?

When do you notice yourself drifting from the Lord?

- When I'm too busy
- When I want too much stuff
- When I get into the habit of missing worship
- When I give in to bad habits
- When I let others influence me
- When I forget to read what is true
- When I chase comfort and ease too much
- Other: _____

What lies do we have to believe to drift away from Christ?

What has devoting yourself to God been for you?

- an event
- a process
- a struggle
- an obligation
- a daily commitment
- something I'm putting off
- I'm still learning
- It's become a joy
- Other: _____

Even though we tend to loosen our grip on Christ, He never lets go of us. How is this a comfort to us today, and how does this truth help us understand Solomon's life and death?

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
