



THE STORY *continues...*

*Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric
of our daily lives.*

Chapter 13 The King Who Had It All

Listen to *The Story*

Read **Chapter 13** of *The Story* this week.

After you have read Solomon's story, compare his reign to the following passages:

- *Proverbs 3:1* "My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments ..." In what way did Solomon honor his father David's teaching?
- *Proverbs 3:5* "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." When/how did Solomon exhibit his great *trust* in God?
- *Proverbs 3:9* "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;" In what way did Solomon honor the Lord with his great wealth?

Learn *The Story*

*Look for ways in which God's story and your story
connect this week.*

The exact date of when Solomon wrote Proverbs 3 is not known. However, it has much to say to Solomon and to us. Proverbs 3:11-12 says:

*My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.*

Have a moment of honest reflection. Are there things in your life that "despise" the Lord's discipline? "Reproof" is another word for "rebuke" or "getting in someone's face about sin." How has God reproofed you for those sins? How does the final line change or support how parents should speak to their children about sins that offend God?

Love *The Story*

Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

Over and over again Solomon's Proverbs encourage us to ask for wisdom. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

Intentionally add this prayer to your prayers this week:

"Heavenly Father, you promise to give wisdom to all if we would only ask for it. Make us wise. Make us discerning. Fill us with honor and love for you, and only you."

Luther's Explanation

King Solomon is famous for building the temple in Jerusalem, and he's famous for his wisdom. When God appeared to him in a dream and said, "Ask what I shall give you," Solomon answered with this request: "Give to you servant an understanding mind to govern your people that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern your great people?"

God was pleased and so gave him what he requested – wisdom to rule – and also what he did not request – both riches and honor.

Solomon was wise indeed, but he was also human. He acknowledged his need for God's help. "I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in." He wasn't, of course, a child at the time, but he used this figure of speech to express his lack of experience and the desire of his heart to serve God.



Martin Luther also acknowledged that we are nothing if not completely dependent on God for all we do in our personal lives, and in our work. He wrote, "It is incurable and damnable rashness and arrogance on my part when I claim to be such a person and such an extraordinary man that I can manage the state, the home and the church wisely and properly. But even if you are a judge, a bishop, or a prince, you should not feel ashamed to fall on your knees and say: Lord God, Thou hast appointed me... guide and teach me, give me counsel, wisdom and strength to attend successfully to the office committed to me."

As Lutherans, we remember that even as we ask for and are guided by God's wisdom we remain in our sinful state – broken, human, and completely relying on and trusting in God's grace when we fail. Ultimately Solomon couldn't withstand the forces of this world. Thanks be to God in Christ Jesus: "behold, something greater than Solomon is here!"

(Matt 12:42b).

PROMISE

This week, cling to God's promise for you:

"I make my home with you. I bless you, so that you will be a blessing."

The EXTRA Mile



Solomon built a very special temple for God. Search "Solomon's Temple" and look at the various images and illustrations about this structure. Discuss how a temple like this could have been constructed during ancient times. How does Solomon's temple differ from our churches of today? How are they alike?