

Connection

What is a race or competition that you competed in and how did it go?

Content

Life Lesson #6: "A good start is not enough to finish well"

John 10:10: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Jesus is speaking here, as He wants us to have an abundant life. What does Jesus mean by "the thief" and why is it significant that He mentions this before the second half of this verse?

1.1 Kings 3:11-13 continues Solomon's story as we see that things started well for him, but then something happened and a downward spiral began. "The thief" seeks to destroy, and can not create but only destroy. What destruction was Satan trying to achieve in Israel at this time?

Darkness

2. James 1:13-15 outlines the progression of sin in a person's life. In what ways does the power of a temptation grow stronger when it remains a secret?

Downplay

3. Every time we downplay something the Lord says, we end up in bad places. Deuteronomy 17: 16-18 is one example of Scripture that Solomon downplayed as shown in 1 Kings 3:1,7-8 & 1 Kings 10:28-29.

Solomon ignored God's commands, and downplayed their significance. What, specifically, did Solomon disregard in God's instructions?

When have you found yourself doing something similar?

Dismissal

4. Read 1 Kings 11:1-2. Something was going on inside of Solomon, as he downplayed and then fully dismissed God's commands. What do you think was going on in Solomon's mind?

How is dismissing what God says different from downplaying and how are they both sin?

5. 1 Kings 11:3-8 shows us King Solomon living in defiance of God and fully allowing worship of false gods. How is it possible that King Solomon went from being in a place described earlier in 1 Kings 3:11-13 to where we find him now?

Downfall

6. 1 Kings 11:9-13 tells us due to Solomon's actions and sin against God, the nation of Israel was split in two. Consider your own life: is there an area where sin is present and is causing ramifications that affect those around you?

7. If Solomon was the wisest person in the world, how did he get caught up in sin and what does that message say for us?

Commitment

8. Here are four challenges for us to follow today as we keep ourselves focused on the Lord and the victory that we have in Jesus. Put a star by the one which you think is most essential for you, and take a moment to pray over that.

- **Keep going - Galatians 6:9**
- **Keep in step - Galatians 5:7,16**
- **Keep training - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**
- **Keep your focus - Hebrews 12:1-2**

Challenge Assignment: Memorize John 10:10 this week and put these words to heart.

**“John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;
I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”**