

KEY SCRIPTURE & SERMON POINTS:

GOD LOVES BLESSING HIS PEOPLE

The most important of these places of worship was at Gibeon, so the king went there and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings. That night *the Lord appeared* to Solomon in a dream, *and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"* 1 Kings 3:4-5 NLT

2 TRUTHS ABOUT GOD'S GENEROSITY

1) HE WANTS BETTER FOR YOU THAN YOU WANT FOR YOU

"The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. So God replied, *"Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have!"* 1 Kings 3:10-12 NLT
"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 ESV

2) SOME OF THE BEST BLESSINGS ARE THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUS PURSUIT

"And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life!" 1 Kings 3:13 NLT

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control....." Galatians 5:22-23 CSB

DON'T BLOCK THE BLESSING – 3 POSTURES TO RECEIVE

1) EMBRACE GODLY BURDENS

"Solomon loved the Lord and followed all the decrees of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local places of worship. *"Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around.* And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! *Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong.* For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?" 1 Kings 3:3, 7-9 NLT

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope....." Romans 5:3-4 ESV

2) SURRENDER TO CONVICTION

"And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life." 1 Kings 3:14 NLT

"For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death." 2 Corinthians 7:10 ESV

3) BE STILL BEFORE GOD (QUALITY TIME) *"The most important of these places of worship was at Gibeon, so the king went there and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings."* 1 Kings 3:4 NLT

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; *but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."* Psalm 1:1-2 ESV

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read 1 Kings 3:1-15. Can you find each of the principles from the follow along in the text?
- What are some cautions to take when applying King Solomon's story to our own lives and in what ways is it appropriate to do so?
- So much happens in this part of Solomon's story - what do you find most interesting?

Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- How does understanding God's generosity impact your own relationship with Jesus?
- Using Solomon's situation as a pattern for other areas of life, Pastor Jeff said that "some of the best blessings are the fruit of righteous pursuits." Share an example of this being true in your own life.
- What do you think of the principle that sometimes we're blocking the blessings God is offering us?
- Solomon models three "postures" to receive God's blessing. Which one resonated with you most? How are you moving forward in God's blessing because of it?
- What is the difference between a "godly burden" and "conviction" per the definitions used in this message?

Start Praying. Pray this prayer in your own words with your group.

Almighty God, we thank you for your generosity. You give us so much than we deserve, and that which we do not deserve, you make us worthy of by clothing us in the righteousness of Jesus. We are not capable of comprehending how much you have done for us in our daily lives, and even more so in our salvation. And so, with as much as we are capable, we give you our thanks in Jesus' name, amen!

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Choose one "posture" from this message and commit to living it out this week.