

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSON  
NOVEMBER 29, 2020  
BAD INFLUENCE

This is our last lesson in this section. Next we will begin our lessons in the New Testament with the story of Saul, who became Paul. But this week we are going to learn about how Solomon was negatively influenced by his foreign wives. I want you to think about some good and bad influences that you see around you in social media or other electronic media. How much time do you spend each day with electronic media?

What kind of messages does media send us?

In what ways can media prevent people from doing worthwhile things?

Think about some ads that you have seen on electronic media, in the newspaper or magazines. What do you think makes an ad appealing?

How could an ad influence your thoughts and actions in a negative way? How about in a positive way?

How can we keep up our guard to protect our minds from negative media influence?

Our minds are like computers – whatever we enter into the program and database is what the computer has to work with. What goes in comes out. So, if we spend times with negative influences, negativity is going to come out in our words and actions. If we put things in our brains that are honorable and true, then the fruit of the Spirit will overflow in our actions. Our minds need protection so we don't slip away from God's truth.

Solomon was a man chosen by God, and yet he allowed the influence of his time to get the best of him. Even the wisest man in the world did not always act smart! Solomon was attracted to women from other lands. He knew that God had warned against marrying these women, because they worshiped idols and false gods.

Read 1 Kings 11:1-3.

What did God warn would happen?

What was Solomon's response to God's warning?

Why do you think Solomon ignored God's warning?

Read 1 Kings 11:4-8.

What effect did Solomon's wives have on him?

How did Solomon's action reflect what was in his heart?

How was Solomon's sin made worse because he was king?

As king, Solomon was to set an example for God's people. His duty was to encourage them in their worship of God. By disobeying, not only did Solomon sin, but he was a bad influence on God's people.

Read 1 Kings 11:9-13.

What were the consequences of Solomon's sins?

Because Solomon had turned from God, God allowed his enemies to gain in strength. Foreign kings and leaders within Solomon's own kingdom rose up against him. Jeroboam (jer-uh-BO-um), one of Solomon's officials, had met the prophet Ahijah outside the city. Ahijah tore his new cloak into 12 pieces, handed Jeroboam 10, and told him he would be given 10 tribes of the kingdom that was being torn from Solomon.

Read 1 Kings 11:33.

Why did God punish Solomon and Israel?

How could a wise man like Solomon worship false gods and put his entire kingdom at risk?

How did he let his relationships influence his actions?

The Lord promised Solomon he would die in peace but that his kingdom would be taken from his family. Solomon's son, Rehoboam (ree-uh-BO-um), refused to ease taxes and forced the people to work when he was king. The people rebelled, and Jeroboam was made king over the ten tribes of Israel, leaving only two tribes of Judah, for Rehoboam, as the Lord had promised.

What relationships make the most difference in your attitude toward God?

How can you make sure your relationships have a good influence on you?

We have many negative influences in our lives. The more we spend time with those influences the more we are like them. When we fill our lives with God's word and godly friends, we remain strong in the Lord. We are going to do a little experiment. Put a glass in a large bowl. Now I want you to think about negative influences in your life or in the life of kids your age. While you name these negative influence, I want you to pour a cup of cold coffee into the glass until the glass is nearly full. Now I want you to think about positive influences in your life or in the lives of kids your age. Now slowly add the clear water from a beverage pitcher to the glass. I know it will overflow (that is why the glass is in the mixing bowl.) Add the water until the beverage pitcher is empty and the glass is filled with clear, clean water.

The cold coffee represents the bad influences and sin in our lives. The beverage pitcher of water represents Jesus, God's word and godly influences.

Think about the things that are "coffee" in your life. How can you filter the junk from your mind?

How can you be like the clear, clean water in your friendships?

Here are a couple journal entries from a boy who is the same age as you are. He has a new friend who could be a bad influence. Read these journal entries, then put yourself in his place. What do you think he should do? Then write another journal entry that tells the best way to handle the situation.

November 11

This is a good week. I've been spending time with my new friend, Shawn. He is a great basketball player and we have a good time playing after school. He invited me to stay overnight at his house this weekend. My mom said yes! I can hardly wait.

November 12

Today Shane told me he has special plans for us this weekend. He stole a pack of cigarettes and he wants us to smoke them at his house. He said his big brother will show us how. I'm not sure what I should do.

November 13

---

---

---

---

In our Bible lesson we learned how Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, made some really foolish choices in his relationships. The relationships he had were bad influences on him, and he ended up turning away from God because of them. Every day we, too, have choices to make that can either turn us away from God or bring us closer to Him.

How can we avoid the bad influences that some relationships can have on us?

Solomon was wise, but his relationship influenced him to turn from God to worship idols. Let's close by asking God to help us choose our friends wisely and realize when others are bad influences on us.

Heavenly Father, teach us your ways, that we may rely on your faithfulness. Help us to make the good choices so that we remember your love for us. Keep us safe this week. Amen.