

connect360

BIBLE TEACHING GUIDE

Solomon:

NO ORDINARY KIND OF WISDOM

A STUDY OF 1 & 2 CHRONICLES

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*Solomon: No Ordinary Kind of Wisdom—
Connect 360 Bible Teaching Guide*

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How to Make the Best Use of This *Teaching Guide*

Leading a class in studying the Bible is a sacred trust. This *Teaching Guide* has been prepared to help you as you give your best to this important task.

In each lesson, you will find first “Bible Comments” for teachers, to aid you in your study and preparation. The three sections of “Bible Comments” are “Understanding the Context,” “Interpreting the Scriptures,” and “Focusing on the Meaning.” “Understanding the Context” provides a summary overview of the entire background passage that also sets the passage in the context of the Bible book being studied. “Interpreting the Scriptures” provides verse-by-verse comments on the focal passage. “Focusing on the Meaning” offers help with the meaning and application of the focal text.

The second main part of each lesson is “Teaching Plans.” You’ll find two complete teaching plans in this section. The first is called the “Discovery Plan,” which emphasizes discovery learning techniques; and the second is called the “Discussion Plan,” which provides questions and suggestions for dialogue about the Scriptures. Choose the plan that best fits your class and your style of teaching. You may also use and adapt ideas from both. Each plan is intended to be practical, helpful, and immediately useful as you prepare to teach.

The major headings in each teaching plan are intended to help you sequence how you teach to follow the flow of how people tend to learn. The first major heading, “Connect With Life,” provides ideas that will help you begin the class session where your class is and draw your class into the study. The second major heading, “Guide Bible Study,” offers suggestions for helping your class engage the Scriptures actively and develop a greater understanding of this portion of the Bible’s message. The third major heading, “Encourage Application,” is meant to help participants focus on how to respond with their lives to this message.

As you begin the study with your class, be sure to find a way to help your class know the date on which each lesson will be studied. You might use one or more of the following methods:

- In the first session of the study, briefly overview the study by identifying for your class the date on which each lesson will be studied. Lead your class to write the date in the table of contents in their *Study Guides* and on the first page of each lesson.
- Make and post a chart that indicates the date on which each lesson will be studied.
- If all of your class has e-mail, send them an e-mail with the dates the lessons will be studied.
- Provide a bookmark with the lesson dates. You may want to include information about your church and then use the bookmark as an outreach tool, too. A model for a bookmark can be downloaded from www.baptistwaypress.org under the “Teacher Helps” tab.
- Develop a sticker with the lesson dates, and place it on the table of contents or on the back cover.

Here are some steps you can take to help you prepare well to teach each lesson and save time in doing so:

1. Start early in the week before your class meets.
2. If your church’s adult Bible study teachers meet for lesson overview and preparation, plan to participate. If your church’s adult Bible study teachers don’t have this planning time now, look for ways to begin. You, your fellow teachers, and your church will benefit from this mutual encouragement and preparation.
3. Overview the study in the *Study Guide*. Look at the table of contents and see where this lesson fits in the overall study. Then read or review the study introduction to the book that is being studied.
4. Consider carefully the suggested Main Idea, Question to Explore, and Teaching Aim. These can help you discover the main thrust of this particular lesson.
5. Use your Bible to read and consider prayerfully the Scripture passages for the lesson. Using your Bible in your study and in the class session

can provide a positive model to class members to use their own Bibles and give more attention to Bible study themselves. (Each writer of the Bible comments in both the *Teaching Guide* and the *Study Guide* has chosen a favorite translation. You're free to use the Bible translation you prefer and compare it with the translations chosen, of course.)

6. After reading all the Scripture passages in your Bible, then read the Bible comments in the *Study Guide*. The Bible comments are intended to be an aid to your study of the Bible. Read also the small articles—"sidebars"—in each lesson. They are intended to provide additional, enrichment information and inspiration and to encourage thought and application. Try to answer for yourself the questions included in each lesson. They're intended to encourage further thought and application, and you can also use them in the class session itself. Continue your Bible study with the aid of the Bible comments included in this *Teaching Guide*.
7. Review the "Teaching Plans" in this *Teaching Guide*. Consider how these suggestions would help you teach this Bible passage in your class to accomplish the teaching aim.
8. Consider prayerfully the needs of your class and think about how to teach so you can help your class learn best.
9. Develop and follow a lesson plan based on the suggestions in this *Teaching Guide*, with alterations as needed for your class.
10. Enjoy leading your class in discovering the meaning of the Scripture passages and in applying these passages to their lives.

Premium Commentary. Plan to get the additional Bible study comments available online. Visit our website, call 1-866-249-1799, or e-mail baptistway@texasbaptists.org to order the *Premium Commentary*. It is available only in electronic format (PDF) from our website. The price of these comments is \$5 per person. A church or class that participates in our advance order program for free shipping can receive the *Premium Commentary* free. Call 1-866-249-1799 or see www.baptistwaypress.org for information on participating in our free shipping program for the next study.

Premium Teaching Plans. An additional teaching plan is also available in electronic format (PDF) by visiting our website or calling 1-866-249-1799. The price of these plans for an entire study is \$5 per person. It is available only in electronic format (PDF) from our website. A church or class that participates in our advance order program for free shipping can receive the *Premium Teaching Plans* free. Call 1-866-249-1799 or see www.baptistwaypress.org for information on participating in our free shipping program for the next study.

FREE! Downloadable teaching resource items for use in your class are available at www.baptistwaypress.org. Watch for them in the “Teaching Plans” for each lesson. Then go online to www.baptistwaypress.org and click on “Teaching Resource Items” under the “Teacher Helps” tab for this study. These items are selected from the “Teaching Plans.” They are provided online to make lesson preparation easier for handouts and similar items. Permission is granted to download these teaching resource items, print them out, copy them as needed, and use them in your class.

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Solomon: No Ordinary Kind of Wisdom

A Study of 1 & 2 Chronicles

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lesson 1

When God Says "No"

MAIN IDEA

We must realize it is God who is in control.

QUESTION TO EXPLORE

How should I react when God says "no?"

TEACHING AIM

To lead adults to understand that God is infinitely wiser than they are



Bible Comments

Understanding the Context

The books of Samuel and Kings cover the story of David and his son, Solomon, in rich detail. However, Chronicles provides a unique perspective on the history. The book is written from a priestly scribe's point of view¹ by an unknown author, commonly referred to as "the Chronicler" by theologians.²

David's story is familiar to many who have read the Bible. Samuel, God's prophet, selected David, the young shepherd boy, out of his modest existence and anointed him as the King of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13).³ However, he had to survive to overthrow the existing king who had turned against God, before he could claim the throne. As king, David conquered Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:6-10), established it as his capital city, and united the southern and north-ern kingdoms under his reign.

David set about to build a temple to house the Ark of the Covenant and serve as a resting place for God among His people. However, God's plans did not match up with David's plans. God told David he was not the man to build the Temple and the task was passed to David's son, Solomon (1 Chronicles 22). The Bible has many examples showing us that God is not always interested in meeting our own expectations as much as He focuses on accomplishing His purposes. We can look to Job 38:1-8 to read how God responded to Job, who had asked God to explain why He was allowing such deep suffering in his life. God established His position as the Almighty Creator and put Job in his place.

When we attempt to commit God to our plans rather than submitting to His plans, we are missing a blessing. In fact, the wisdom of Solomon (Proverbs 16:3) tells us that when our plans are based upon a trust of God, they will have a far better chance of success. The only way we can secure our plans is when they align completely with the will of the Father.⁴

Interpreting the Scriptures

David Gathers Israel’s Royal Court (1 Chronicles 28:1)

In our study of Solomon, we begin by looking at the end of King David’s reign. Chapter 28 comprises David’s last speech as King of Israel. Looking to previous chapters, we find recorded in chapter 22 a private conversation that David had with Solomon. He explained his desire to build the Temple for God and God’s message that David would not complete the Temple, but Solomon would. Chapter 23 appears to depict Solomon being crowned as King of Israel. However, there follows a long listing outlining all the royal offices and duties of the royal court. This long listing, which is typical for Chronicles, stretches through chapter 27 and culminates in David’s final speech, given in chapter 28, recording David’s public proclamation to the United Kingdom of Israel that Solomon will be his appointed builder for the Temple of the Lord and will replace him as king.

This passage begins with David, as the elder statesmen of Israel and father to Solomon, calling together the entire royal court of Israel. The list of those called to attend includes David’s mighty men (1 Chronicles 11:10-47) and valiant men, who are those men who supported his overthrow of King Saul’s reign and helped to establish his kingdom and the uniting of Israel. When David was crowned as king, the royal court was established and gathered as a show of unanimous support for his reign.⁵ It only makes sense that David would gather the royal court for Solomon’s crowning as king in a similar display of unanimous support for the new king.

David Publicly Announces God’s Plans (28:2-8)

28:2-3. Verse 2 begins David’s address to the gathered royal court. This speech is similar to David’s private conversation with Solomon in chapter 22. The two speeches are rather similar, however the speech in this passage uses more formal language than the previous speech.⁶

David had always made it a point that one of his goals was to build the Temple. He had worked toward that goal and had gathered many building

materials necessary for the building project (1 Chronicles 22). It may have been a surprise that he would not be the one to build the Temple.⁷ He opened his speech by reminding the court of his intent and of his preparations. David then revealed that God had disqualified him from achieving this accomplishment because of his history of waging war and shedding blood. He explained that God would not have a man known for war to be the one to build His Temple.

28:4. Verse 4 is a reminder proclamation to the nation of Israel that God chose the line of Judah, and by extension the House of David, to lead the nation (Genesis 49:8-12; 1 Chronicles 17:23, 27). The modern reader could approach this text and think David is being puffed up and arrogant in his speech. But his purpose is to remind the assembly that he is king because God chose the line of Judah to lead the nation. He is building the case for the court to support the election of his son, Solomon, as their next king. This verse is David's reminder of the covenant God made with him to extend his heritage as leader over Israel.

28:5-8. Of equal importance to the news that David would not be the one to build the Temple, David wanted to ensure the entire court knew of God's selection of Solomon to build the Temple and become king of the nation. It was important David be clear that God had appointed Solomon to build the Temple. By doing this, David was securing a peaceful transfer of power for Solomon and for the nation of Israel.

There was some contention for the throne as a group of Israel's leaders supported Adonijah to take the throne and others supported Solomon (1 Kings 2:15; 1 Kings 1:7-8).⁸ David's reminder of the covenant relationship and his inclusion of the entire royal court and the men who had fought to bring him into power, made certain there could be no question of who would be the next king. David was very careful to reveal this was not his own desire, but God's choice for His people.

Verses 6 and 7 continue to emphasize the Davidic covenant language, culminating in a reminder that Solomon must maintain his faithfulness to

God and follow God’s commands. They considered this a requirement for the continuation of the covenant agreement.

It might be easy for the casual reader to assume that David is addressing Solomon in verse 8. However, the verb forms for “observe” and “seek” are plural commands in the Hebrew text. The plural form indicates that David was addressing the gathered leaders of Israel.⁹ This was a charge to the leadership to continue walking in righteousness with God. David was saying that Israel would experience God’s blessing if all the leaders could maintain this righteousness and obedience to the commands of the Lord. This is a common theme throughout the Old Testament, under the sacrificial system.

David Gives a Charge to Solomon (28:9-10)

In verse 9, David turns his attention to Solomon and delivers his charge to the new king. While David could have lumped Solomon in with the general instructions that he gave to the leaders of Israel, he made a special effort not to do that. Solomon’s charge was not only to follow God, but to follow God wholeheartedly. There was to be no question that Solomon’s entire focus was on accomplishing the work of the Lord, including the building of the Temple.¹⁰

Focusing on the Meaning

God disqualified David from building the Temple because he was a man of warfare and bloodshed. This was not much different from the time Moses and Aaron were told they would not enter the Promised Land (Numbers 20:12), though the reason was different. Moses and Aaron had failed to believe God and proclaim His holiness before the children of Israel.

We do not have a record of either David or Moses arguing with God about His decision to disqualify them. However, we do find Job’s complaint that God is ignoring his cries for help in Job 31. Some scholars have compared Job’s speech in chapter 38 to a legal defense for his innocence. Job declared his innocence and challenged God to provide any evidence against him. God responded in chapter 38 pointing out that Job could not understand God,

the Creator of the Universe, and that his case was not valid.¹¹ God has His reasons for what He does and He makes no promises that He will explain those reasons to us. Still, it is not uncommon for us to question God. However, when questions come, we should turn our mind to trusting in God for the outcome, even when we dislike the answers to the questions. We should know we can depend on God. Even when He tells us “no” and things do not go the way we expect they should, we can know God is working during difficult situations.

There is a common understanding among soldiers: “it is improper to question orders in the middle of a battle.” The good soldier follows orders and waits until later to seek understanding. Much of the time, the average soldier does not understand the big picture of warfare. They do not have all the information their superior officers have. In the Christian life, we are not so different from the common soldier. God is our commander. He knows what is going on in every corner of the battlefield and He is the one calling out the orders.

Romans 8:28 teaches us that God works through all situations to bring about His purpose. He often uses the difficult circumstances we experience to produce the results that serve His purposes.

NOTES

¹ LXX, which named the books Παραλειπομένων (Paralipomenon), i.e., “the things left over,” and placed them after Kings. Unfortunately this somewhat derogatory and nontheological view of Chronicles has often been shared by later readers, who have tended to see it in large measure as a repetition of Samuel–Kings, supplemented by a collection of priestly trivia, and hence have ignored its unique contents and message.

[Roddy Braun (1986). *Word Biblical Commentary: 1 Chronicles*. (Vol. 14). Dallas, TX: Word, Incorporated, p. xix.]

² With the vast majority of OT scholarship, we have assumed that the greater part of 1 and 2 Chronicles is the work of one author, whom we may for the sake of convenience call the Chronicler.

[Roddy Braun (1986). *Word Biblical Commentary: 1 Chronicles*. (Vol. 14). Dallas, TX: Word, Incorporated, p. xix.]

- ³ David’s story begins with his dramatic rise in fortunes, from humble beginnings as an insignificant shepherd in his father’s house to his acclamation as king over all Israel in his own capital city, Jerusalem. Through it all, we see YHWH favoring him and events consistently turning out in his favor.

[D. M. Howard, Jr. (1992). “David (Person).” In D. N. Freedman (Ed.), *The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary* (Vol. 2). New York, NY: Doubleday, p. 41.]

- ⁴ Trust in the Lord is a frequent topic in this book; here it is expressed in a command, while in verse 20 it is in a saying. The sequence in this verse is arresting—from deeds to thoughts. Are these deeds still in the future, or have they been already performed? Probably the former. If they have already been done, the firming up of the plans is hard to fit in. The emphasis of the verse is on the initial act of entrusting self to God; this will secure the plans; cf. Ps 127:122. The literal meaning of verse 3a is “roll” to the Lord your actions.

[Roland E. Murphy (1998). *Word Biblical Commentary: Proverbs* (Vol. 22). Dallas TX: Thomas Nelson, p. 120.]

- ⁵ Those individuals referred to in the remainder of chapters 11 and 12 are mustered as evidence for the unanimity of Israel’s support of David’s kingship, which expressed itself even prior to his coronation at Hebron.

[Roddy Braun (1986). *Word Biblical Commentary: 1 Chronicles*. (Vol. 14). Dallas, TX: Word, Incorporated, p. 160.]

- ⁶ Despite these many similarities, chapter 28 also reflects significant differences in structure. David’s preparations for the temple, which in 22:2-5 stood as a kind of prelude to his discourse with Solomon, are here introduced into the body of the speech itself, 28:3. The introduction of the speech in 28:2 is much more formal than in 22:7, as would appear proper before a large assembly. The two direct quotations of Yahweh in verses 3 and 6 mark the major divisions of the first part of David’s discourse.

[Roddy Braun (1986). *Word Biblical Commentary: 1 Chronicles*. (Vol. 14). Dallas, TX: Word, Incorporated, p. 268.]

- ⁷ David had already communicated to Israel’s leaders (who are all enumerated in chapter 27) his desire to construct a temple for the LORD. In fact, he had already started collecting the building materials (chapter 22). Now, with the end of his life imminent, he summoned all

the leaders again to encourage them to recognize Solomon's leadership and to follow him in this magnificent enterprise.

[Eugene H. Merrill (1985). "1 Chronicles." In John F. Walvoord & Roy B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, p. 616.]

- ⁸ When David became senile (1:1) without designating his successor explicitly, the leading courtiers were divided into two parties revolving about the two rivals for the royal throne. The first candidate was Adonijah the son of Haggith, who was the fourth son but the surviving eldest prince after the death of Amnon and Absalom. He was expected to be David's successor by the general public (2:15) and was supported by Joab, commander-in-chief of the army, and Abiathar the priest (1:7). A rival candidate was Solomon the son of Bathsheba, who was backed by Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the leader of the royal bodyguard called the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David's heroes (1:8).

[Tomoo Ishida (1992). "Solomon (Person)." In David N. Freedman (Ed.), *The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary* (Vol. 6). New York, NY: Doubleday, p. 106.]

- ⁹ 28:8. The use of plural verb forms in the Hebrew behind "be careful to follow all the commands of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever" indicates that this exhortation is still part of the address to the leaders of Israel.

[John A. Thompson (1994). *New American Commentary: 1, 2 Chronicles* (Vol. 9). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, p. 191.]

- ¹⁰ At this point, the address is directed to Solomon with the assembled company as witnesses. He was to acknowledge (da') the God of David and serve Him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind. He also reminded Solomon of a specific area in which he needed to be faithful to God: he must finish the temple. The temple was the abode of Yahweh and the symbol of His presence in the land among His people.

[John A. Thompson (1994). *New American Commentary: 1, 2 Chronicles* (Vol. 9). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, p. 191.]

- ¹¹ As explained by Edward L. Greenstein in his article "When Job Sued God" in the May/June 2012 issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, Job understood the ancient legal system well. He knows that he cannot call witnesses in a lawsuit against God. So, lacking witness, he swears an exculpatory oath, as was standard in such legal cases in the ancient Near East. He swears to his own innocence and lists numerous wrongs that he has not committed. In doing so, Job challenges God to provide the evidence against him and prove his guilt.

Finally, God responds. But in legal terms, he throws out Job’s case on a technicality. In his oath, Job claimed to know everything about God and how the universe works, so God reprimands him. Where was Job, questions God, when He laid the earth’s foundations? If Job is so wise, he must have been present at creation, God adds sarcastically.

[Edward L. Greenstein. “When Job Sued God.” *Biblical Archaeology Review*, 38, no. 3 (2012): 55-59. Cited in “Job Challenges God by Suing: God Responds.” *Biblical Archaeology Society*. Last modified July 4, 2020. Accessed September 19, 2020. <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/bible-interpretation/job-challenges-god-by-suing-god-responds/>.]

- ¹² Within David’s speech to the men before him—and to the readers of Chronicles—there lies a profound message. David, the great king and leader of Israel, must pass from the scene. What future or hope can the people have? Their hope must not be in David, whom they see but whose strength and wisdom are limited, but in God, whom they do not see but whose presence, power, goodness, and wisdom are forever. It was God who chose the house of David, God who determined who would build the temple, God who gave the commandments in which are life and peace, and God who would remain when David was gone. Israel must not despair the loss of their great king but realize that their only hope is in God.

[John A. Thompson (1994). *New American Commentary: 1, 2 Chronicles* (Vol. 9). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, p. 191.]

RECOMMENDED READING

“Job Challenges God by Suing: God Responds.” *Biblical Archaeology Society*. Last modified July 4, 2020. Accessed September 19, 2020. <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/bible-interpretation/job-challenges-god-by-suing-god-responds/>.]

New American Commentary: 1, 2 Chronicles (Vol. 9). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers. 1994.

The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary (Vol. 2). New York, NY: Doubleday.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures (Vol. 1). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Word Biblical Commentary: 1 Chronicles (Vol. 14). Dallas, TX: Word Books

Word Biblical Commentary: Proverbs (Vol. 22). Dallas, TX: Thomas Nelson.

Teaching Plans

DISCOVERY PLAN

Connect With Life

1. On a board or a sheet of paper, write “YES” and “NO.” As class members arrive, ask them to consider these responses to a major question of life (questions might include: marriage proposal, job hunting/offer, parent response to child’s question, and others). Have members identify any emotions accompanying these responses.
2. Allow members to share their responses, guiding discussion to include both possibilities. After a few minutes, draw discussion to a conclusion by stating the “Question to Explore.” Direct learners to consider their emotions when God responds in one of the two ways presented. Ask a member to say a prayer to begin the class time.

Guide Bible Study

3. Have someone read 1 Chronicles 28:1-3 aloud. Have the class form groups of 2-3 people and answer the following questions:
 - What reason does David present for God’s decision?
 - What is the difference between something *good* and something *godly*? (Be prepared to give an example.)
 - Which of those two would you use to describe David’s desire to build the Temple?

(A copy of this assignment is available in “Teaching Resource Items” for this study at www.baptistwaypress.org.)

4. Have someone read 1 Chronicles 28:4-5 aloud. Ask the following questions:
 - What evidence can you find to show God had a plan to see His Temple built?
 - How does David’s explanation illustrate that the house of worship will be a “footstool for our God?”
5. Have someone read 1 Chronicles 28:6-8 aloud. Ask the following questions:
 - Have you ever been disappointed by someone being chosen for something instead of you? How did that make you feel? What type of responses could you have given?
 - What did David choose to do in response to God’s choice? Why do you think David chose as he did?
 - What expectations, if any, did God place upon Solomon to be able to establish the planned kingdom?
6. Prepare a line graph on the board or a sheet of paper that would start at “0” and end at “10.” Ask the following questions:
 - On the scale, where 0 represents “No chance at all,” and 10 represents “100% Success,” what score would you give Solomon in meeting God’s requirements at this time? Why?
 - There is an indication that David included the leaders of Israel in his challenge to keep the Lord’s commands (28:8). Where do you feel they would fall on the graph? Why?
7. Have someone read 1 Chronicles 28:9-10 aloud. Ask the following questions:
 - Why are having a “whole heart” and a “willing mind” so important?
 - Would you say David has submitted wholeheartedly to God’s plan at this point? Why or why not?

Encourage Application

8. Display three colored sheets of paper: red, yellow, and green. Red symbolizes “I am not yet submitting,” Yellow, “I submit sometimes,” and Green, “I easily submit.” Ask learners to respond to the following questions by silently choosing a color:
 - When God prompts me to speak to someone about my faith, I ...
 - When God points me in a specific direction in my life, I ...
 - When God prompts me to give an amount of money to support a need, I ...
 - When I want to do something good for God, and He indicates His desire is opposed to mine, I ...
9. Ask learners to describe how they came to their responses (remarks can be as detailed, or as non-detailed as necessary). Have learners evaluate their responses with the following:
 - Based upon today’s lesson, I believe my responses honored God because ____.
 - Based upon today’s lesson, I believe my responses dishonored God because ____.
10. Have learners identify an area of life in which they might not be trusting God’s wisdom to guide them. Close the lesson in prayer, asking God to help learners develop a greater trust in His wisdom.

DISCUSSION PLAN

Connect With Life

1. Have the “Question to Explore” displayed for class members to consider upon their arrival. Direct learners to identify possible responses to God’s answer. Once class members have arrived, allow a short period of discussion to examine possible reactions to God’s negative answer.

2. Explain to class members that today’s lesson will encourage us when we face this possible outcome by looking at the example of a man who faced the very same response from God.
3. Lead class in prayer, asking for wisdom as the study begins.

Guide Bible Study

4. Have someone read 1 Chronicles 28:1-5 aloud. Have learners respond to the following questions:
 - Why was it necessary for David to call such an impressive group together?
 - Who is missing from the list of persons in verse 1?
 - What would you say is the emotional tone of David’s words? Why did you choose that answer?
 - What encouraging things does David mention? What discouraging things?
5. Have class members discuss the following questions:
 - How would you feel if you planned to do something great for God, but He said no? Why would you feel that way?
 - How is God’s choosing Solomon over David’s many other sons (28:5) a source of reassurance to David?
 - What principle for our lives can be formed from God’s choosing Solomon? (Hint: Compare Isaiah 55:8-11 for added information on God’s wisdom.)
6. Have someone read 1 Chronicles 28:6-10 aloud and discuss the following questions:
 - Is the promised kingdom mentioned in verse 7 an unconditional or conditional promise from God? How do you know?
 - What makes following such a promise difficult?
 - On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 equals “Extremely Difficult” and 10 equals “Very Easy,” how would you rank the requirement of verse 7? Why did you choose that answer?

- How would you describe the expected commitment level in David's challenge to Israel in verse 8, and then to Solomon in verses 9-10?
- What should our commitment level to God be, in comparison? What makes you choose that answer?

(A copy of this assignment is available in "Teaching Resource Items" for this study at www.baptistwaypress.org.)

7. Ask the class to consider the following portions of David's charge to Solomon and state why each is important.
 - "know the God of your father"
 - "serve Him wholeheartedly"
 - "and with a willing mind..."
 - "seek Him..."
 - "Consider now..."

Encourage Application

8. Have the class respond to the following: "God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why do you feel that way?
 - What do you see in this passage today that is reflected in the statement above?
 - What about God's actions makes it easy or difficult to trust Him?
9. Ask the class to consider the "Question to Explore." Have the class give examples of emotions that are felt when the answer received is negative.
 - What part, if any, should emotions play in trusting God's wisdom?
 - What evidence did David use in trusting God when receiving a negative answer?
 - How can that same evidence encourage and strengthen our faith in God's wisdom today?
10. Close the class in prayer, asking God to strengthen the hearts and memories of the class, to remember His faithfulness and allow us to trust Him more willingly, when facing answers not to our liking.