

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

I Kings 8:54-66

Ice Breaker: What is the best meal you've ever had or what is the most lavish party you've ever attended?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Context:** What has happened in the passage immediately prior to our text?
2. In our text, Solomon concludes his dedication of the temple with a powerful benediction. What is a benediction? How do we use benedictions at our church?
3. How does Solomon lead the people to praise God in his benediction? (vs. 56)
4. How has God provided you rest for your souls in this difficult season? How have you seen God keep his promises even in the midst of these hard circumstances?
5. What does Solomon declare over the people that God would do for them and in them vs. 57-61?
6. Why is it essential that we understand that in order to please God we need Him to incline our hearts to obey? What happens when we forget that God always supplies what he commands? How would that change how we view His character?
7. Solomon wants the people's hearts to be wholly true to God. What does this pure heart look like knowing that we will not keep his rules perfectly? How does this plea from King Solomon turn into tragic irony as we consider the remainder of his reign?
8. What are your observations from vs. 62-66? What made the people joyful and glad in heart?
9. When's the last time your heart was filled with gladness following a time of mediating and celebrating the goodness of the Lord? What lies do we believe that lead us to thinking that our joy apart from God's hands?
10. Consider breaking bread together with your Small Group for the specific purpose of celebrating the goodness of the Lord and ways he's kept his promises to you. (please consider the whole groups convictions and preferences during this season)