

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – March 12, 2023

Theme: Servant Leadership Topic: The Consequences of Failed Leadership

Main Texts: 1 Kings 11:9-13, 31-39; Proverbs 14:34

Key verse: Proverbs 14:34 “*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*” (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: So far in the context of this quarter’s theme on servant leadership, we have looked at its cost, its implication on missions, its power to transform, etc. We have acknowledged the timeliness of this series, considering that we are choosing leadership both in VFC and in the country. So, let’s remember that leadership should be defined according to God’s word. Therefore, let’s be guided in choosing who to lead us. We should also be mindful of these so that we can respond appropriately when God calls us to serve whether in church or in the polity. This is especially so because, as today’s topic indicates, leadership failure has consequences. Ironically, the principal character in our text for today’s study is Solomon, a man to whom God appeared twice (1 Kings 11:9). A former first lady is famously quoted to have said that *being president doesn’t change who you are, it reveals who you are.*

1. **Read Exodus 20:5, and 1 Kings 11:1-10. (a) From these passages, with what does God measure success or failure? (b) How will you describe King Solomon from these passages and what would you attribute his failure to? (c) Considering King Solomon’s intimate spiritual experience of having God appear to him twice, what do these verses tell us about God’s attitude to disobedience, especially in leaders?**

Sin is a principal cause of leadership failure, especially when a leader lives a life invested in sin. This is true irrespective of one’s spiritual experience. Solomon surpassed every ruler of his time in wisdom and riches. Other world leaders sought Solomon out for his wisdom. Yet Solomon deliberately disobeyed God’s warning against intermarriage with other religions. King Solomon’s slide into sin started with one compromise – marrying his first foreign wife, possibly Naamah, an Ammonite and mother of Rehoboam. Before long, there were seven hundred wives, all princesses from nations God forbade the Israelites from marrying. And King Solomon did this in disregard to God’s clear warnings of the consequences of such disobedience (Exodus 34:15-16, Deuteronomy 7:3). Before long, this love for “foreign women” ended up in the overt worship of their gods on hilltops, visible to all the people.

2. **Read 1 Kings 11:1, 4-8. (a) From these passages of Scripture, let participants trace the sequence of actions or inactions leading to King Solomon’s leadership failure. (b) How do you think King Solomon’s actions in 1 Kings 11:6-8 must have impacted on the spiritual, moral, and social lives of the people at the time? (c). How can we apply the wisdom contained in Proverbs 4:23 and 1 John 2:15-16 to ensure that our hearts don’t get compromised?**

King Solomon’s personal failure soon became a national failure. From building a shrine for one wife, he soon was building for the rest of his seven hundred wives! Leading to a wanton breach of God’s boundaries for righteous behavior. Also, such visible enthronement of idolatry must have disoriented both the leader and the led. No wonder God became angry with Solomon (1 Kings 11:9). And like Exodus 20:5 tells us, the violation of God’s commands has grave consequences on both the present and future generations of the leader and his people. Solomon’s sphere of influence shrank, and his legacy became tainted. Leadership is all about God and His purposes!

3. **Read Deuteronomy 27:15; 1 Kings 11: 31-39; 1 Kings 14:22-26 (a) From these passages, what other consequences resulted from King Solomon’s leadership failure? How are we seeing similar consequences in our society today? (b) According to Proverbs 14:34, people follow their leaders, good or bad. In the light of this, let participants share how this will affect their lifestyle and leadership choices and decision. (c) How can a Christian servant leader counter the amplification of fault lines in his/her character and habits to avoid the consequences of failure?**

Prayer: Dear Father, help me to daily grow in my relationship with You. And may the spirit of that relationship influence every aspect of my role(s) in servant leadership. Amen.