

David’s advice to Solomon I Kings 2:1-4

If we could take a survey of the little boys we know, I am sure most of them would say, “I want to be just like dad.” I realize that I was very fortunate growing up because I had both mom and dad there to help and support me. It was always exciting to me when I got to do things with my dad, whether it was fishing, lumberyard, or even the junkyard, it was a special privilege for me. By no means was my dad perfect, but I thought he was, and I had great respect for him.

Who is the perfect dad in Scripture? Of all the people I could write about, I want us to look at the life of David and the influence he had on his son, Solomon. Now, don’t misunderstand, David made lots of mistakes along the way, but I personally believe by the time Solomon came along, David had regained his focus and wanted to walk with the Lord.

As we look at I Kings 2:1-4a (I trust you will read it), we see David in the last days of his life. He realizes that the Lord has chosen Solomon to be the heir apparent to the throne. David’s life is nearly over, and he has some important things to share with Solomon so he might not make the same mistakes David did. Have you ever thought about what you might say to those you love in the last days? We have here an old man speaking to a young

man. A seasoned King to a



JUST A THOUGHT
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young man who has no idea what he is in for. An aged warrior to a youthful man of peace. David’s thoughts are flowing to a son that he loves deeply and has great confidence in his ability to do the will of the Lord. We want to list a couple things that David wanted to impart to his son:

1. Be Strong, Show Thyself a Man. David knew that Solomon would have to be strong to do the job he was called to do, and David knew that the Lord was the power source. We have here a picture of a man of action giving guidance to a man of knowledge. A picture of a dying man to one who is just beginning the journey. Advice given by eyes of experience to innocent eyes. David understood

very well what was ahead, but Solomon had no idea.

2. Keep the Charge of the Lord. Scripture tells us that David was a man after God’s own heart, but he made many mistakes along the way. He told Solomon to walk in His ways. The New Testament gives us a good illustration of this, “Ye are our epistle, known and read of all men” (II Corinthians 3:2). The significance of keeping the charge of the Lord is the example you put forth for others to follow. David instructs Solomon to keep His statutes and commandments, “Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11).

Among the instructions that David left with his son, he wanted Solomon to understand the payoff. If you do what the Lord wants, there will be peace, prosperity, and peace of mind. One couldn’t ask for a whole lot more.

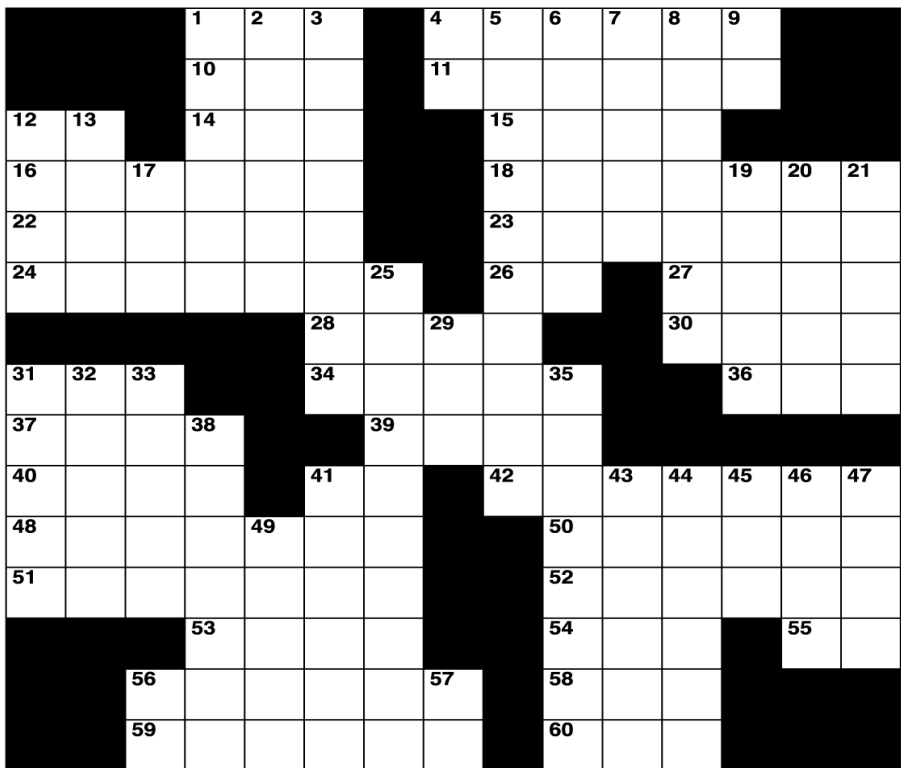
Solomon told the Lord in I Kings 3:3-9 that he was but a child, and not equipped to be great like his father. These words came from a young man with deep love and respect for his earthly father. David had left a great legacy behind for Solomon, and he wanted his son to continue with the Lord. What an interesting story that God gives us about a father and his son. The Bible is rich in wonderful stories if we would

only read them.

The Rev. Tom Mansbarger is senior pastor at Grace Community Church. He offers free counseling. Reach him at 765-517-1187 or tom@graceccmarion.org.

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Crossword and Sudoku answers, page 8



CLUES ACROSS

1. Opposite of on

4. Creator

10. No seats available

11. About springtime

12. Flagship ESPN show (abbr.)

14. Automobile

15. A matchup

16. Porous volcanic rock

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Not written in any key

23. Revolved

24. Archrival

26. Within

27. Smoker’s accessory

28. Disfigure

30. Primordial matter

31. Thrust horse power (abbr.)

34. Kisses
36. Some is iced

37. A way to derive

39. Unaccompanied by others

40. Discontinued Google app

41. Tony B. left his heart there

42. Condiment

48. Ancient Italian city

50. One who distributes payoff money

51. Guarantees

52. Highly decorative

53. A hair on top of the eye

54. Pie ___ mode

55. Spanish be

56. Glued

58. A way to drench

59. Part of the body

60. Changes the color

CLUES DOWN

1. Passerine birds

2. Noisy quarrel

3. The front arm or leg of an animal

4. Early multimedia

5. Golden years

6. Large mollusk

7. Small arm of the sea

8. Persian jurisdiction

9. Atomic #81

12. From end to end

13. Adorable

17. Ma

19. Nearly falling

20. Portable conical tent

21. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
25. Fish with high dorsal fins

29. Equal (prefix)

31. Aquatic plant genus

32. Choppers

33. Hand parts

35. Region bordering the sea

38. Well-liked

41. Nap

43. It’s used to make beer

44. Related on the father’s side

45. Senior officer

46. Delicacy (archaic)

47. Figures

49. A way to take away

56. Beloved sandwich ___&J

57. Symptom typical of withdrawal (abbr.)

SUDOKU

		9						2
7	3				4	9		
		5						
			4					5
9			5					1
				1			8	
4				8			5	
						6	1	
6				3	1		4	

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!