

WARM-UP

- Talk about your first day at a new school or workplace. How did you feel?
- Can you say that you are wise with resources? Why or why not?
- Tell the group about a mentor you love. What do you like about him or her?

WORD *For David said, "Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, of fame and glory throughout all lands. I will therefore make preparation for it."* **1 CHRONICLES 22:5**

The story of David and his son Solomon is one of good preparation for the transition to the next generation. While Saul, the previous king, lost the favor of God because he stopped obeying Him and tried to do things his own way for himself and his son, David planned extensively and took concrete steps to transition the kingdom to his son Solomon. Part of training the next generation is helping them start with a firm foundation, not a shaky foothold. Let's look at how David prepared the way for Solomon.

1 | David prepared people to support Solomon.

David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help Solomon his son . . . **1 CHRONICLES 22:17**

David did not leave Solomon to attempt to earn the people's loyalty alone. He took the first step by preparing the people to follow the man who would be their new king. In the same way, it is important to support the next generation by taking the time to endorse them to those they will be working with, leading, or even following. How has a leader prepared you and others to work together and support each other?

2 | David provided what Solomon needed to fulfill God's command.

For David said, "Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, of fame and glory throughout all lands. I will therefore make preparation for it." So David provided materials in great quantity before his death. **1 CHRONICLES 22:5**

David had a vision from God: to build God's great house. He also knew that Solomon was *young and inexperienced*; he did not know yet how to lead or the first thing to do. Instead of letting him figure things out by himself, David made preparations for Solomon to lead. He provided the materials he would need to build the house of God and fulfill God's command. David knew he would not live forever, and allocated the kingdom's resources so that he could transition it smoothly to Solomon. How can we be good stewards of what God has given us with regard to the next generation?

3 | David prayed for Solomon.

“Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision.” **1 CHRONICLES 29:19**

Without prayer, no preparation will work. David knew that God was the only one who could ultimately allow Solomon to succeed. He prayed for Solomon's heart—that he would obey God and keep His commands. He knew this was how Solomon would succeed. We must pray for the next generation, because without the firm foundation of God, nothing will succeed. How have you built a foundation of prayer for the next generation?

APPLICATION

- Name some people, either those ahead of you or those coming after you, with whom you can cultivate a better working relationship. List concrete steps you can take to make this happen.
- Take stock of what you have been given in terms of resources, skills, or experience. In what ways can you use these to help or support those who came before you or the next generation?
- Begin building a foundation of prayer for the next generation. Have a list of people you will commit to pray for today.

