

# Devotion: 1 Kings 8:56-61

*Therefore devote yourselves completely to the Lord our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments.*

—1 Kings 8:61

Read 1 Kings 8:56-61

The dedication of the temple in Jerusalem was a big moment for God's people. They had endured slavery in Egypt, years of wondering through the Sinai desert, inconsistent leadership, and threats from powerful neighbors. Despite these hardships they settled in the Promised Land and established the kingdom of Israel. In King David, the people had a strong leader who was devoted to God and who moved the kingdom's capital to Jerusalem. Under King Solomon, David's son, the people built the temple in Jerusalem, a temple where the people of Judah would worship for several centuries.

Establishing a kingdom and building the temple were huge accomplishments for the Israelites. But, as King Solomon told the people who had assembled for the temple's dedication, the work of God's people was far from complete. The people had served God with their hands; now they had to love God with their hearts. Solomon told the Israelites to be devoted to God, to "incline our hearts" to God, and to obey God's commandments. As God's people today, we should also devote ourselves to God, spending time in prayer, reading and studying the Bible, and doing our best to be the people God wants us to be.

Questions for Reflection:

- What are you devoted to? Maybe you're devoted to playing a sport or an instrument. Maybe you're devoted to a hobby or to your schoolwork. Think about the time and energy you devote to these things. How could you devote the same amount of time and energy to your relationship with God?
- What things keep you from being fully devoted to God? When is it difficult for you to make time for prayer and reading the Bible?
- According to King Solomon in 1 Kings 8:56-61, why is it so important for God's people to be devoted to God and to follow God's commandments?