

## **Lectionary Bible Study**

### **For Sunday, July 26, 2026 (Pentecost 9)**

#### **1 Kings 3:5-12**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. Why does God use a dream to communicate to Solomon? Why not a more direct method? Do you believe that God still uses dreams today?
2. How would you describe Solomon's agenda as king? Whose interests does he have at heart and why?
3. Why do you think Solomon asked God for wisdom?
4. What about Solomon's request pleased God? What might this say about the kinds of prayers that we offer?
5. By giving Solomon more than he asked for, what was God saying in response to Solomon's request?
6. How can someone know if what they sense in a dream is actually God's Word to them?

#### **Romans 8:26-39**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. Describe a time when you didn't know how to pray and felt the assurance that the Spirit was praying on your behalf?
2. What confidence does verse 28 give you about events in your life? How might this verse be misused and misapplied? When has it been the hardest for you to believe the truth of this verse?
3. In what ways would verses 31-39 be a comfort to someone facing persecution? How can they be a comfort to us today?
4. How could the forces described in verses 38-39 disrupt your trust in God's love?

#### **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. In verses 31-32, Jesus makes the point that small seeds make a big difference. What might be examples of "small seeds" in our Christian living?
2. In verse 33, Jesus makes the point that faith becomes obvious at some point. What are examples of how faith becomes evident to others?
3. What do the parables in this reading teach you about the value of the kingdom?

#### **WRAP UP**

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?