

Gathering

DISCERNMENT

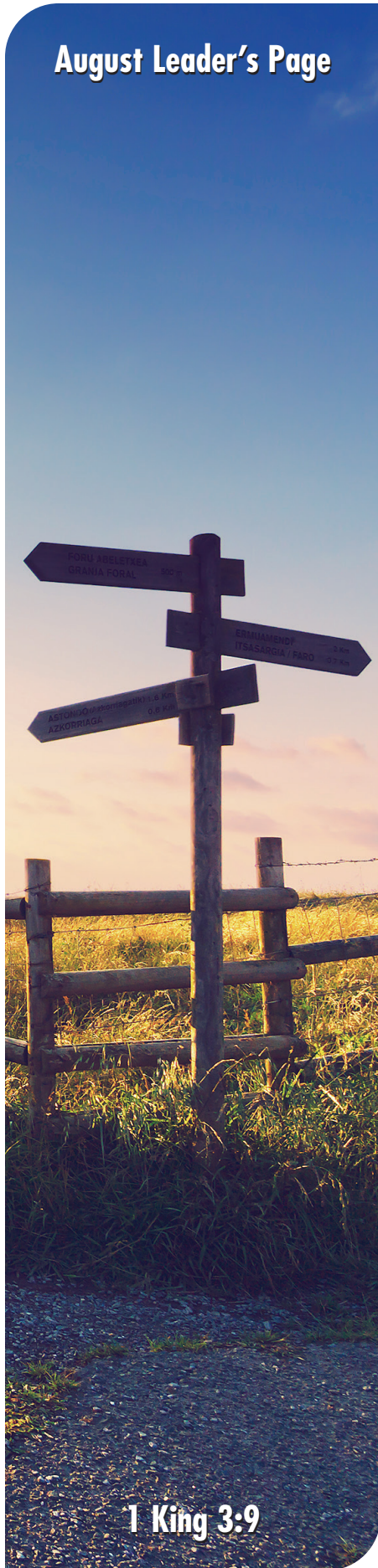
Have you ever come across a complicated situation for which you were completely unprepared? Solomon did. Although his father, King David, had been preparing his son to rule over Israel since his childhood, and, though David gave parting instructions for the new king, Solomon knew he wasn't ready to lead. So, when asked by the Lord in a dream what he wanted most, Solomon asked for

“a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong . . . (1 Kings 3:9).”

A good education can take you a long way. Our minds should be developed, broadened, taught to think critically and reasonably. But a well-trained mind is no substitute for a heart that longs to seek and find the right thing, a heart that desperately wants to be aligned with God's heart.

Every society adopts certain “do's” and “don'ts” when it comes to relationships with others, rules that govern human interactions, boundaries to protect citizens from injury or harm. Ironically, as of this writing, most everyone in the U.S. is “sheltering in place,” practicing strict social distancing directives prescribed by our governmental leaders to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. Adhering to these restrictions isn't just a matter of the intellect – but of the heart. To willingly compromise our own comfort and freedom for the sake of others requires us to not only intellectually grasp a sound argument, but to empathize with those around us. Caring matters.

So, do you care enough about what God wants to seek His wisdom, as Solomon did? The truth is we need discernment daily to live according to God's will.



1 King 3:9

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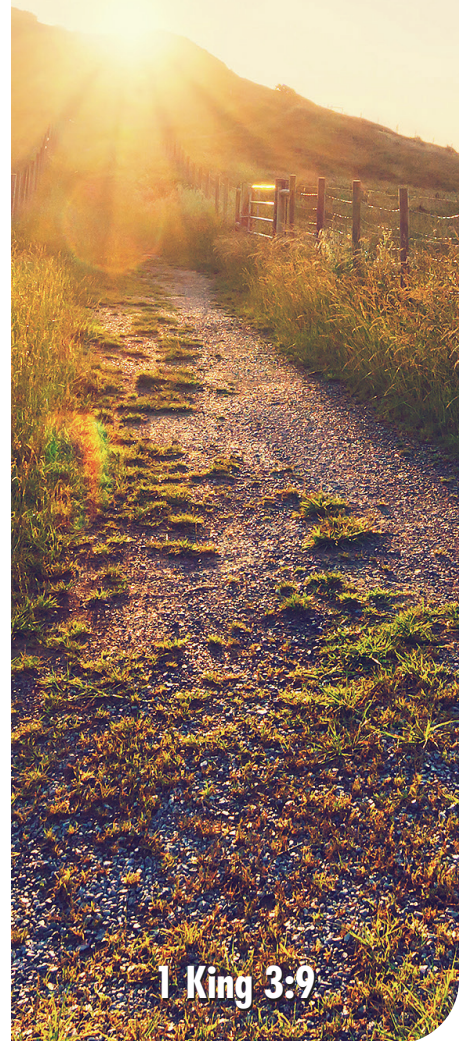
DISCERNMENT continued

After reading the scripture, consider these questions:

- We are overloaded with information these days. How do you know what's trustworthy?
- How can we maintain healthy boundaries while still genuinely relating with others?
- What is the difference between knowledge and discernment?
- What are the two things Solomon hopes to accomplish with a discerning heart? Why do you think God was so delighted with Solomon's request?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.

August Leader's Page



1 King 3:9

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It isn't always easy to know where to "draw the line" when it comes to dealing with other people. We want to be compassionate, generous and readily available to help when asked. But we're also expected to be firm, to keep high standards and to refrain from showing favoritism or bias. To complicate things even further, we aren't always given the whole truth by those who have a vested interest in the outcome of our decisions (read the rest of 1 Kings 3, for example). No wonder we need the "wisdom of Solomon" to relate to other people!

1 KINGS 3

Solomon refers to himself as a "child (1 Kings 3:7)" though he's clearly an adult. What does this imply?

JAMES 1:5-8

Do you sense in your prayer life that God provides wisdom when you need it? Explain. What other means, besides prayer, does God use to reveal His wisdom to you?

MATTHEW 6:33

Is it too simplistic to believe that once our number one priority is determined, the rest of our decisions, standards and priorities will easily fall into place?

*Written by Major Christine Rock, Divisional Director of Women's Ministries
- Empire State Division*



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