

## Central Evangelical Church Cell Groups : Week of 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Solomon : Solomon's prayer : 2 Chronicles Ch. 5&6.

1. The Ark of the covenant was brought to the newly constructed temple (Ch.5v4&5), before Solomon commenced his prayer. Discuss the significance of the ark to the children of Israel.
2. You might wish to trace some of the times in the OT when the ark was prominent. (Ex 25:10etc., Deut10:5,Joshua3:6 and 1Sam 4:11,18.)
3. The ark was described in detail. Made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold inside and outside. The lid was of solid gold and also known as the mercy seat or atonement cover and was adorned by 2 cherubim. It contained the stone tablets (v10) and was placed in the most holy place (v7). How is this relevant to us now?
4. Only on the day of atonement could the great high priest enter this most holy place, containing the ark. (Heb.9:7). Compare this to the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. (Heb.10:12)
5. God's glory was evident above the ark (Lev.16:2). When the ark was in place and as God was praised His glory filled the temple (v13,14). Could we experience God's glory filling CEC?
6. The last mention of the ark in the OT is in King Josiah's reign (2Chr. 35:3), 300 years after Solomon. Then silence - "a dark hole"-a reason for speculation in film and books. Any thoughts about how something so prominent in scripture could disappear?
7. Solomon acknowledged that God had kept His promises (Ch 6:10,15). What biblical promises have helped you?
8. Solomon, in prayer, anticipated that the Children of Israel would sin and would experience God's judgement. Note the different disasters that were predicted (v24, 26 and 28). Will God judge nations like the UK, who have turned from Him?
9. v 40-42 makes a lovely benediction. You might wish to finish by reading these verses.