

## PREVIEW TO SESSION 5

### *Wisdom, Lust and other Dangerous Things: Wisdom in Solomon's Story*

#### A. DESCRIPTION

Solomon's achievement of the throne is marked by shows of power and wisdom. The power is impressive to be sure, but also dangerous. The same might be said of *hokmah*, "wisdom," or "cunning." Only cunning exegetes dare read Solomon's story slowly. Here, all is calm on the surface of the text, but beneath, heavy currents are at work.

#### B. TARGETS

Learners who successfully complete this session will . . .

1. recognize that Solomon was not the expected successor to David's throne.
2. evaluate clues in the text that introduce both certainty and ambiguity into Solomon's succession story.
3. sense both wonder and danger in the literary display of Solomon's unprecedented power.

#### C. ASSIGNMENTS

Before the beginning of this session, all learners must . . .

1. Read 1 Kings 1:1-10:29
2. Complete the worksheet for Session 5 and bring a paper copy of this work to class. It will be collected in the first few minutes of the meeting.

#### D. FOR FURTHER STUDY

Weitzman, Steven. *Solomon: The Lure of Wisdom*. Yale, 2011.