

SOLOMON BECAME KING

1 Kings 2-3



When David had grown old, he called for his son Solomon to give him this message: “Be strong, my son, and keep your promise to the Lord to walk in His ways and obey His commandments. If you do, you will have success in everything you do, and the Lord will keep His promise to our family.”

Then David died, and Solomon became king over Israel. One night, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream. God said, “Ask. What should I give you?”

Solomon replied, “You have shown great and faithful love to my father David because he was faithful to You and had a right heart before You. You have continued to show faithful love to him by giving him a son to sit on his throne.

“You have now made me king in my father’s place. But I have no experience in leadership. I am younger than most of the people I lead. So, give me a heart to judge the people and tell the difference between good and evil.”

The Lord was pleased with Solomon’s request. He said, “Because you have asked for wisdom to lead well instead of long life or riches, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and understanding heart. You will be wiser than anyone who has ever lived

before. In addition, I will give you what you did not ask for: both riches and honor. If you walk in my ways and keep my commands, I will give you a long life.”

Solomon woke up and realized it was a dream. He went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord’s covenant, and presented burnt offerings.

Christ Connection: God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people. Jesus is wisdom, and He leads those who trust in Him to eternal life. When we follow Jesus, we become wise.



1 WELCOME TIME

Be prepared to help the large group leader with one or both of the following activities. Feel free to also use these activities at the end of your small group session to fill time if you end early.

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: WISDOM OR KNOWLEDGE?



Challenge kids to determine which statement, in each pair of statements, showcases wisdom, and which one just demonstrates knowledge about something. Consider the following examples or create your own:

- Knowing a bicycle goes fast vs. wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle
- Following the school rules vs. reading the school rules sign
- Seeing a dangerous situation vs. walking away from a dangerous situation
- Knowing the crosswalk symbols vs. following the crosswalk symbols
- Loving and obeying God vs. learning about God

SAY “ Wisdom and knowledge may seem the same, but they are different. Wisdom is being able to judge what is true and right while acting on that judgment. Knowledge comes from gaining information about a subject. The Bible speaks about knowledge and wisdom because both are important. Without knowledge, we can’t grow in wisdom. Today, we will learn how David’s son, Solomon, became king and how **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.** ”

OPTION 2: ASK ME

Provide each kid with a note card and a pen. Lead kids to write an animal name on the card. Emphasize that the animal should be one others will know. Then guide kids to hand their note cards to you. Shuffle the note cards and tape one to each kid’s back. Direct kids to go around to different kids and ask them yes or no questions about the animal they have. For example, a kid may ask, “Does my animal have fur?” Or, “Is my animal very large?” Challenge kids to continue asking other kids questions to help them determine the animal taped to their back.

SAY “ You couldn’t figure out the animal name on your own, could you? You each needed help from others to determine the name of your animal. Today, we will learn how Solomon, David’s son, realized he needed help leading God’s people. God invited Solomon to ask Him for anything, and Solomon chose to ask God for wisdom so he could lead the people of Israel. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 RETELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today, we are going to hear how Solomon became king. Through our Bible story, we will learn that **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE**. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from 1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12; 3:1-15.

•What does this story teach us about God?

Solomon asked God for wisdom to lead His people. Solomon admitted that he was young and had no experience in leadership. He wanted a heart that was able to judge between good and evil. Solomon's request was granted, and God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people. **God is generous to give wisdom to those who ask. God is all-wise and knows everything about the past, present, and future.**

•Besides wisdom, what two other things did God give King Solomon?

God gave Solomon both riches and honor so that he would be greater than any other king. The Lord was generous, giving Solomon above and beyond what was needed to be king over His people. God is generous to believers, giving them an inheritance through faith in Jesus.

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

GOSPEL DISCUSSION

GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE. We need wisdom to live for God and follow His ways. But wisdom is more than knowing about God. Wisdom is a person: Jesus Christ. When we trust in Jesus, we become wise. Jesus lives in us, through the gift of His Holy Spirit, and helps us obey God.

PRAY

God, You know all things, and You know the need we have for Your salvation through Jesus. Lead each of us to trust You and to gain the gift of Your wisdom as we seek to follow Jesus. Amen.

The students can take out their guides and answer the questions about the story.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

At this time, have the students use their guides and follow along with the discussion.

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- **When we pray to God, how do we know if He says yes or no?**
- **Why should we ask God to help us follow His Word?**

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 3. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 3:15. Remind preteens that after Solomon woke up from his dream, he traveled to Jerusalem to worship God and offer sacrifices to Him. Solomon offered a burnt offering to symbolize a payment was required for his sin. He also offered a fellowship offering to symbolize peace between him and God. Like Solomon, believers' hearts are moved to worship when they realize the great grace of God in their lives. Solomon received a gift he did not deserve, and we receive the gift of salvation when we trust in Jesus. Christians love and obey God because of His great grace in their lives.

Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Why did Solomon ask God for wisdom? Why do we need wisdom?

Remind kids that Solomon realized he was too young and inexperienced to be able to lead God's people in his own knowledge. He also recognized that God is the source of true and lasting wisdom. He wanted a heart that was able to judge between good and evil. We also need wisdom to be able to judge what is right from evil. Only a heart that has been changed by Jesus can truly be wise.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 111:10.)

2. Why is wisdom better than riches?

Discuss how wisdom from God leads to life. God tells us what is true: we are all sinners. He also gives us knowledge on how to be saved: trust in Jesus. When we wisely act upon that knowledge and trust in Jesus, we are saved from our sin and given eternal life. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:13-16.)

3. How can we gain wisdom?

Encourage kids to remember that God desires to give us wisdom so we can live rightly for His glory. We can pray to God and ask, by faith, for the wisdom that only He provides. God's wisdom helps us when we are in hard times, keeps us from evil, and helps us become more like Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 1:5.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What does God know?

God knows everything about the past, present, and future.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Proverbs 3:7. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Recite the key passage with the following dramatic hand motions: Don't (create an X with your arms); be wise in your own eyes (point to your mind and eyes); fear the Lord (point to heaven); and turn away from evil (spin). As you fall into a rhythm, increase the speed and the volume of your voices. Encourage kids to recite it without you.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God that the true source of wisdom comes from following Jesus and trusting Him for salvation.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Lead kids in a series of "would you rather" questions about various topics. For example, "would you rather have unlimited chocolate or vanilla ice cream?" "Would you rather have a kitten or a puppy as your pet?" "Would you rather be the world's greatest guitar or piano player?" "Would you rather be able to swim like a fish or fly like a bird?" Consider inviting kids to think of a would you rather question to ask the group.

Remind kids that Solomon had the choice to ask God for riches or honor or power, but rather than seek after those things, Solomon asked God for wisdom. God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people. God invites us to ask Him for wisdom too. Sometimes we may be confused at a situation before us, or we might be tempted to follow our hearts. Instead, when we ask God to help us make choices that honor Him, He is faithful to give us the wisdom we need.