

SOLOMON BECAME KING

1 KINGS 2-3



KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 3:7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: *What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.*

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.

STORY POINT: God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

As King David neared the end of his life, he desired for his son, Solomon, to walk in God's ways, obey His commands, and honor the Lord as he continued their family line on Israel's throne. Though Solomon would not be a perfect king over Israel, he was able to lead the people with the wisdom he received from God. In the wisdom of King Solomon, we see a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, the true embodiment of godly wisdom in human form.

What was the significance of Solomon asking for wisdom? How is Jesus greater than Solomon?

Perhaps it was David's last words to his son which prompted Solomon to ask for wisdom. After all, when God spoke to Solomon in the dream, Solomon responded by recalling how his father walked in God's ways. In any case, Solomon told God that he was inexperienced and just a youth. Solomon's humble request for wisdom pleased God, and He generously bestowed Solomon with wisdom, wealth, and honor. Solomon's request for wisdom revealed a heart that desired to esteem God by governing His people and discerning between good and evil.

Still, the wisdom of Solomon pales in comparison to the wisdom of Christ. Jesus fully embodied wisdom by perfectly fearing and obeying the Lord. Infinitely greater than Solomon is the wisdom of God's Son, who formed the world, rules the world, and sustains the world. 1 Corinthians 1:30 tells us that Jesus, "became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." Only through Jesus can we receive the wisdom to walk in God's ways with hearts that desire to glorify Him. When we know Jesus, we know wisdom.

Reflect on the wisdom of God offered to us through Jesus Christ. Consider His gift of wisdom in your own life as you have matured in your faith. Pray for the Lord to open children's hearts to their need for not only wisdom, but the salvation that grows our wisdom as we continue to walk in the Lord's ways.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



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.

WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “ If you could have a super power, what would it be? Why? ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: WOULD YOU RATHER?



Invite kids to line up at the center of the room. Call out a pair of items, and invite kids to determine which they would rather have. If kids choose the first item, lead them to take a step to the left. If they choose the second item, kids take a step to the right. Consider the following pairs, or create your own:

- ice cream or pizza
- scooter or bicycle
- dog or cat
- water or soda
- video games or art supplies
- riches or wisdom

| **SAY** “ Today, we will see how God appeared to King David’s son, Solomon, in a dream. God said to Solomon, ‘What should I give you?’ Solomon had a choice to ask God for anything! He could have asked for money or fame. But Solomon asked God for wisdom. We’ll learn that **God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.** ”

OPTION 2: RICHES, RICHES, WISDOM

In this variation of “Duck, Duck, Goose,” lead kids to sit in a circle. Choose one kid to be *It*, and instruct him to gently pat the other kids on the head and say either “riches” or “wisdom.” When *It* says “wisdom,” that kid must run around the circle and race back to the open space. If *It* runs and returns before the other kid, the new player now becomes *It*. Play as time allows.

| **SAY** “ In this game, we listened for the word **wisdom**. Today, we’ll see how David’s son, Solomon, became king over Israel. Solomon was young and had no experience being king. We’ll learn that **God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.** ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

HAND OUT THE ACTIVITY PAGE TO BEGIN SMALL GROUP –

If you choose not to use the activity page during small group, **PLEASE hand it out BEFORE parent pick-up** as it has the parent information sheet attached to the coloring sheet so parents know what the children studied today.

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Seek Wisdom” activity page.

SAY “God wants us to be wise and follow His Son, Jesus. Today, we’ll see how **God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.**”

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 3. Tell kids that the books of 1 and 2 Kings were originally written as one large book. Share how these books are named after the kings who ruled over God’s people.

Consider pointing out Jerusalem (H5) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 3:7 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “When Solomon became king, he was still very young and didn’t have much experience leading others. Did being young stop God from giving Solomon wisdom? **[Allow responses.]** No, God was happy to give Solomon wisdom. Even though you are young, God can give you wisdom too. The Bible tells us that when we follow Jesus, we become wise because Jesus is Wisdom. Part of being wise is understanding that we need help to know the right way to live. Following Jesus and obeying His commands guides us to live for God and His glory.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Why was Solomon’s request greater than riches or honor?”

Share that riches and honor might be fun for a moment, but they don’t lead us to salvation (Matthew 19:23-24). Remind kids that Jesus is wisdom, and He leads those who trust in Him to eternal life. By asking for wisdom, Solomon showed that he did not want the glory; instead He wanted to honor God.

SAY “How can we tell the difference between right and wrong like Solomon?”

Remind kids that God is Creator and King. He determines what is right and wrong. Explain that God teaches us the difference between right and wrong in His Word (Psalm 119:105). When we are unsure or have questions, we can go to the Bible. Jesus always did what is right. When we learn about Jesus, trust in Him, and follow His ways, we can know what is right.

SAY “Why was Solomon’s wisdom a gift from God?”

Discuss how God came to Solomon and offered to give Solomon anything. God didn’t have to give Solomon wisdom, or riches, or honor. Solomon hadn’t done anything to deserve them. But God is generous, and He loves to give good gifts. God gave Jesus, who became wisdom for us. Salvation is a gift of God because we didn’t earn it. When we trust in Jesus, we receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of new life.

Transition from LOVE to LIVE





LIVE

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Make a Pop-up Solomon.

Provide the kids with the cut-out sheet. Have them cut out the pieces (or pre-cut them for younger children). Then have them glue the pieces together to make a bed and put Solomon on the bed sleeping under the blanket.

Have them Glue the Thought Bubble to a craft stick.

Tape another craft stick or long piece of cardstock to the back of the Solomon bed. Slide the craft stick with the thought bubble in-between the bed and stick, the thought bubble can now move up and down.

SAY *Take these home as a reminder that Solomon ruled over Israel as a wise king. But his wisdom did not come from himself. He asked for God to give him wisdom and **God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.** When we trust in Jesus and follow Him, He leads us in wisdom too!* ”

OPTION 2: TURN AWAY



Write the words *Fear the Lord* on a piece of paper. Write the words *Turn away from evil* on another piece of paper. Lead kids to line up at one end of the room. Tell kids that if you hold up the paper that says *Fear the Lord* they can take a step toward you. When you hold up the paper that says *Turn away from evil*, kids must turn around and run back to the start line. Kids who do not follow the directions will be out. Turn your back to the kids, choose the paper you will hold up, and quickly turn toward them. Play several rounds holding up each paper in random order. Consider inviting kids to hold up the papers as well.

SAY “ Our key passage reminds us that we can be wise by fearing God and turning away from evil. Those who are truly wise will turn away from their sin and turn to Jesus. We call this repentance. When we turn to Jesus and trust in Him, God will forgive us of our sin.”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.



ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY AND LESSON

YOU CAN ALSO CHOOSE TO TEACH THE STORY OF SOLOMON'S WISE CHOICE from 1 Kings 3:16-28 and Make the finger puppets instead to help you teach the story.

Here is the continued lesson:

SAY:

"Sometimes it's easy to know what's right. But sometimes it's hard! In today's Bible story, we learned that God Gave, King Solomon wisdom. After that, he had to solve a very difficult problem. Do you want to hear about that problem? "

Tell the Story

Say: One day, two women came to King Solomon. They both had baby boys.

But something very sad had happened that the women needed help with. During the night, one of the babies died. And the next morning, both women claimed that the living baby belonged to them! They argued and argued about it. One woman claimed the other had stolen her baby!

SAY: If you were King Solomon, how would you know who was telling the truth?
(Pause for answers.)

SAY: The women had no witnesses. There was no proof. It seemed impossible to know which woman was the baby's real mother.
But God had given Solomon wisdom and he made a surprising command.
What do you think he commanded?

He said, "Bring me a sword! Cut the baby in two and give half to each woman."
Now Solomon didn't really want anyone to hurt the baby. He wanted to find out which woman truly loved the child.

And sure enough, When the real mother heard this, she cried out,
"Please! Give the baby to the other woman. Just don't hurt him!"
She loved her son so much that she would rather lose him than see him harmed.
But the other woman said,
"Neither of us should have him. Go ahead!"
Then Solomon knew exactly who the real mother was. He said, "Give the baby to the first woman. She is his mother."
The people were amazed by Solomon's wisdom!

Christ Connection

Today's story shows us that God gave Solomon wisdom to judge fairly and help His people. Jesus is an even greater King. He always knows what is right, and we can trust Him to lead us and care for us.

Questions

1. Who came to Solomon with a problem?
2. What were they arguing about?
3. How did Solomon discover who the real mother was?
4. Who gave Solomon wisdom?
5. Who is wiser than Solomon?