



## Solomon Asked for Wisdom

**Bible Passage:** 1 Kings 2-3

**Memory Verse:** <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. **James 1:5**

**Bottom Line:** I turn to God for wisdom because He helps me make good decisions.

**Big Picture Question:** What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

**Christ Connection:** *Solomon was a wise king who wanted to do God's plan. Solomon wasn't perfect, but God had a plan to give His people a greater and wiser king—His Son, Jesus. Jesus completely trusted God. Jesus surrendered His own life to die on the cross for our sins.*

### 10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Would You Rather

**What You Need:** Would You Rather Activity Page (1 copy per kid), pencils, Uno Cards

**What You Do:**

- Groups kids into pairs. They will ask their partner a question and circle the answer.
- As kids are asking each other questions, they should ask them why after to encourage more conversation.
- After about 5 minutes, give kids a chance to introduce each other to the group, based on what they learned in the Would You Rather questions.
- Toward the end of the series, if everyone knows each other pretty well you can play Uno together until large group starts.

**What You Say** " We are so happy to have you in our group this year. We are going to spend the next few weeks playing this game, so that we can get to know each other better. I am so excited for our year together. Please know that if you need anything, I am here for you and would love the chance to grow together. Let's see what is going on in Large Group today."

### 10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

### 15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

#### CONTEXT

The downfall of David's kingdom was propelled by David's sin with Bathsheba. Amid the pain of losing their firstborn son, God showed David and Bathsheba that He still loved them. Bathsheba gave birth to Solomon. God chose Solomon to be Israel's next king. (See 2 Sam. 12:24-25; 1 Chron. 22:9-13.)

David spoke to his son from his deathbed, giving specific instructions: "Keep your obligation to the LORD your God to walk in his ways" (1 Kings 2:3a). After 40 years of reigning over Israel, David died and Solomon became Israel's king.

Early in Solomon's reign, God appeared to him in a dream. "What should I give you?" God asked. Solomon's response set him apart from many other kings. His God-honoring qualities were apparent. First, Solomon humbly acknowledged his lack of experience in leading God's people. Then he said, "Give your servant a receptive heart to judge your people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours?" (1 Kings 3:9).

If you were a king or queen and God offered to give you anything you asked for, what request would you make? Ask the kids you teach what they would ask for if they could receive anything their hearts desired. One might assume that a king would ask for power or for victory over his enemies. Perhaps he would ask for riches or to live a long life. Solomon asked for none of these. Instead, he asked God to make him wise. God was pleased with Solomon's request, and He agreed to give Solomon a wise and understanding heart.



Solomon's heart was surrendered to God. Solomon was a wise king who wanted to do God's plan. Solomon wasn't perfect, but God had a plan to give His people a greater and wiser king—His Son, Jesus. Jesus completely trusted God. Jesus surrendered His own life to die on the cross for our sin.

## TEACHING FOCUS (1 Kings 2-3)

David was the king of Israel for many years. His son Solomon was going to be king after Him. Before King David died, he gave Solomon some instructions.

"Be strong and brave, Solomon," David said. "Obey God, and you will be successful. God will keep His promise that every king of Israel will come from our family." **When David died, Solomon became the king of Israel.**

**One night, God appeared to Solomon in a dream. God said, "Solomon, ask for anything you want, and I will give it to you."**

Anything? A king might have asked to live a long life or to have lots of riches. Solomon could have asked God to give him victory over all his enemies. But Solomon did not ask to be rich or to have a long life. Solomon wanted to be a good king. He asked for something even better.

**Solomon prayed, "God, I am young, and I do not know very much about being a king. Please make me wise and obedient to You. Help me know the difference between right and wrong. Help me lead Your people well."**

**God was happy with Solomon's request. God said, "I will give you wisdom. In fact, I will make you more wise and understanding than anyone who has ever lived. No one in the future will ever be as wise as Solomon."**

**God also said, "Because you asked for wisdom, I will also give you what you did not ask for: long life, riches, and honor. You will be greater than any other king during your lifetime."**

**Then Solomon woke up. He praised God and offered sacrifices to worship Him.**

**Christ Connection:** *Solomon was a wise king who wanted to do God's plan. Solomon wasn't perfect, but God had a plan to give His people a greater and wiser king—His Son, Jesus. Jesus completely trusted God. Jesus surrendered His own life to die on the cross for our sins.*

## TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- *If God offered to give me anything I asked for, I think I might ask for something selfish like riches, power, or good health. Solomon did not ask for those things. Solomon asked for wisdom.*
- *Wisdom is more than just knowing a lot, it is understanding how to use what you know to make the best choices.*
- *God is the source of all wisdom.*
- *Because God knows everything about everything, He always does what is best.*
- **BL:** *I turn to God for wisdom because He helps me make good decisions.*

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

## 25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

### Discussion Questions:

- What did David tell Solomon about God? (*to obey Him; that He would keep His promises; 1 Kings 2:3-4*)
- What did Solomon ask God for? (*wisdom to lead, 1 Kings 3:9*)
- What did God give Solomon? (*wisdom as well as riches and honor, 1 Kings 3:12-13*)
- What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? *Guide kids to discuss the nature of knowing information versus knowing how to use information in the best way. Remind them that if a person knows the right things but still does the wrong things, he is not wise. Talk about God's perfect knowledge and perfect wisdom.*
- Why does God want us to have wisdom? *Guide kids to see that behaving wisely glorifies God*



*and benefits us. When we behave foolishly, we dishonor God and hurt ourselves. God wants us to glorify Him, and He loves us and doesn't want us to be hurt. Wisdom leads us to Jesus. When we love and obey Jesus, God is glorified.*

- Ultimately, wisdom comes from God. What are some ways God gives us wisdom? *Guide kids to see that we can gain wisdom by studying God's Word, by spending time with other believers, by praying to God, and by listening to the Holy Spirit's guidance. Remind kids that the wisest decision we can make is the decision to put our faith in Jesus to save us.*

### **Activity: Wise or Foolish?**

**What You Need:** "Wise or Foolish Cards" (1 set per group)

**What You Do:**

- Form up to six groups of kids.
- Give each group one of the "Wise or Foolish Cards".
- Give groups a minute to read their cards.
- Guide them to imagine themselves in the situation and possible reactions.
- Instruct group members to work together to imagine one wise reaction and one foolish reaction.
- Then call on groups one at a time to act out the scene.
- Encourage each group member to participate-even as a prop.
- For example, one kid could be the main role player while others play secondary roles, tables, trees, and so on.
- Instruct each group to act out reactions to the scenario: a wise reaction and a foolish one. (Example: asking permission to borrow a pencil[wise] or stealing the pencil [foolish])

**What You Say** How do you know if a choice you make is wise or foolish? How do we become wise? In today's Bible story we heard about how King Solomon gained wisdom. What else did He get because He asked for wisdom? This reminds me of the memory verse we are learning for this series. Let's look at it together and play a game."

### **Activity: Memory Verse Activity**

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster (printed on 11x17 for this series), sticky notes (with one word from the memory verse on it)

**What You Do:**

- Display the memory verse poster.
- Lead kids in reading aloud together.
- Place all but one sticky note on the poster.
- Ask kids to read through the words to see what word is missing.
- Then have kids say the memory verse together again.

**What You Say** "Our memory verse comes from the Book of James. James, the son of Mary and Joseph, was the half-brother of Jesus. The Book of James is a letter James wrote to Jewish Christians about how to live as followers of Jesus. At the beginning of the letter, James wrote about how to get wisdom. It seems pretty simple; ask God, and get wisdom! We'll work on memorizing James 1:5 together over the next few weeks."



## All Star Kids

August 11, 2019  
3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Pray and Dismiss:

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

### What You Say:

“God, thank You for Your Word. All knowledge and wisdom is found in You. We confess that when left to ourselves, we are foolish. We look to You for wisdom and power to follow You. Thank You for generously giving us everything we need. We love You. Amen.

### 5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Question. **What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present and future.** So God can help us make good decisions when we turn to Him for guidance.