

Solomon Asked for Wisdom

Bible Passage: 1 Kings 2-3

Memory Verse: ⁵If 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.*

Leader Notes:

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.

Worship and Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible Story today."

What You Do: Introduce the Story

"King David had many sons, but God chose Solomon to be king after David. David told Solomon, "Love God and obey Him. God will keep His special promise to our family." David died, and Solomon became king. One night while Solomon dreamed, God said, "Solomon, ask for anything you want, and I will give it to you." Solomon said, "God please give me wisdom so I can lead You people. Help me know what is right and wrong." God was happy with Solomon's choice. God made Solomon very wise- he was the wisest man in the world. God also gave Solomon what he did not ask for: money, power, peace. God was with Solomon like He had been with David.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

1. Wisdom Mobile

What You Need: Wisdom mobile printable (cut and ready for assembly), yarn, stickers, scissors

What You Do:

- Invite toddlers to decorate the Bible verse cards with crayons and stickers.
- Read the verses to the children.
- Thread the verse cards together with yarn, and then tie them to the wisdom card.

What You Say " God knows everything. God gave Solomon wisdom to lead God's people. Wisdom is loving God and obeying His words. Jesus is wise because He is God the Son.

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids.
- As you say the words point to them on the poster.
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include, "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"

What You Say " Did you know you could ask God for wisdom just like Solomon did? It's true! You don't have to wait for God to speak to you in a dream. Our memory verse says that anyone can ask God for wisdom! Let's pray and ask God to show us where we need wisdom."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Pray:** "Lord, thank you for being all- wise and good. We know that we can trust You completely. Help us to see the value in wisdom. Give us a desire to gain wisdom from You. We love You. Amen."
- Tell parents one thing you did today and encourage them to check out the Family Resources online, app and in paper copy on the slat wall.