

Unit 12 • Session 1

Solomon Asked for Wisdom

2nd-3rd Lesson

BIBLE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 2-3

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

KEY PASSAGE:

James 1:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.



INTRODUCE THE STORY

Opening Activities

(20 MINUTES)



Opening Activities

"Ask for Anything"
Activity Page (1 per
kid) Pencils

TEACH THE STORY

Large Group

(20 MINUTES)



Large Group Supplies

4 Wrapped Large Group
game prizes
Lab coat with feathers
Ornithologist stage decor
Bible marked to key passage

APPLY THE STORY

Small Group

(20 MINUTES)



Small Group Supplies

Bibles, 2-3 per group
2 Key passage posters per
group
2 Playground balls per group
Journal page, 1 per kid
Pencils

LEADER Bible Study

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.

The BIBLE Story

Solomon Asked for Wisdom

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 sin.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Solomon Asked for Wisdom

Opening Activities

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 2–3

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

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5

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

Intro Music

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share about a time they got something they wanted without asking for it.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Ask for Anything” on the activity page. Guide kids to rank the requests in order from 1 (most desired) to 8 (least desired). Kids can write the numbers on the flames. Encourage them to compare their answers with a friend.

SAY • Why are some of these things more desirable than others? Did any of your friends’ rankings surprise you? Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about a time a king asked for something that seemed a bit unusual for a king.

• “Ask for Anything” activity page, 1 per kid
• pencils or markers

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Solomon Asked for Wisdom

Large Group

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 2–3

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

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5

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

Countdown

[Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group.]

Large Group game

SAY • Welcome to KidCity! Let's play a game called Let's Make a Deal! I need 3 contestants who feel like they are good at choosing between 2 things. **[Choose 3 contestants to come up on the stage.]** Ok, here's how you play: I will give each of you a choice between 2 different secret items and whichever one you choose will be your prize to take home. But choose wisely! You might choose something that you really don't want! Ready? Ok, let's play Let's Make a Deal!

Ok, [Contestant 1's name] you're up! You can choose between this [Item 1] or this [Item 2]. Which item do you choose? Pull out whichever item they choose and make funny positive or negative comments about it.

Have Contestant 1 sit back down. OK, [Contestant 2's name] your turn! You can choose between what [Contestant 1's name] didn't choose or this NEW item [Item 3]. Which item do you choose? Pull out whichever item they choose and repeat comments as before.

Have Contestant 2 sit back down. OK, [Contestant 3's name] you are last but not least! You can choose between what [Contestant 2's name] didn't choose or this NEW item [Item 4]. Which item do you choose? Pull out whichever item they choose and repeat comments as before.

Wow! What a great round of Let's Make a Deal! I'm sure some of you wish you had chosen differently but enjoy those prizes either way!

Video: [Countdown](#)

Wrapped Items :
Toilet Paper, Sock Puppet,
Buff, Retro Glasses &
Candy Bar, T-Shirt

SFX: [Game Show Music](#)

SFX: [Winning Sound Effect](#)

OR

SFX: [Losing Sound Effect](#)

Sing

Now it's time to worship God by singing praises to Him. Everyone stand up and let's sing thank God for all He has done.

[Song: Alive](#)

[Song: Movin Me](#)

Introduce the session

[Leader enters wearing a white lab coat with feathers stuck to it.]

LEADER • Hello, kids! My name is Professor Peregrine.

[CG: Theme background](#)

I study birds. The technical term is *ornithologist*. But that's just a fancy word for a bird nerd. I like to study different kinds of birds to measure their intelligence. Did you know that although owls are commonly associated with wisdom or intelligence, studies have shown that they are not particularly smart?

[White lab coat](#)
[Feathers](#)

On the other hand, some birds like ravens and crows are so smart they often learn how to use tools and solve some puzzles. Some crows have even been shown to recognize and remember human faces. More than that, those birds would warn other birds if the faces they see belong to people they consider a threat! Let's see if you guys can recognize some faces. Check out the screen.

[Show Wreck it Ralph, Captain Marvel, and Mike Lee images. Allow time for kids to guess and help them if needed.] Great job everyone!

But you know, as clever as birds might be, they have nothing on King Solomon. He was the third anointed king of Israel and the wisest man who ever lived. I'll tell you all about it.

[CG: Wreck It Ralph](#)

[CG: Captain Marvel](#)

[CG: Mike Lee](#)

Big picture question

LEADER • As we get into the story, we need to ask our new big picture question: *What does God know?* We will talk a lot about wisdom over the next few weeks.

Wisdom and knowledge are often linked, so understanding God's wisdom often means understanding what God knows about the universe. We'll learn the specific answer to our big picture question soon. Think about it as we hear our story.

[CG: Big picture question](#)

Giant timeline

[Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.]

LEADER • We know that God’s chosen people were living in the land God had promised when they demanded a king. Their first king, Saul, was not a very good king. However, David, the man who became king after Saul, was a great king. When he died, his son Solomon became king. That’s where we are now.

[CG: Giant Timeline](#)

Watch the Bible story

[Show the Bible story video “Solomon Asked for Wisdom.”]

LEADER • I love this story, but it also makes me feel a little guilty sometimes. If God offered to give me anything I asked for, I think I might ask for something selfish like money, popularity, 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. ***What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.*** Nothing can surprise God, so His plans always happen. He knows what is best and always does it.

[Video: “Solomon Asked for Wisdom”](#)

[CG: Bible Story Picture](#)

[CG: Big Picture Question](#)

Solomon knew that God’s people needed a good leader, and he knew that wisdom is necessary to lead well. Solomon asked God for wisdom, so **God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.** God was so pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom that He decided to give Solomon other blessings on top of the wisdom.

[CG: Story Point](#)

Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. People came from all around to hear him speak and learn from him. He wrote lots of songs, poems, and wise sayings to help people live good lives. But even though Solomon was a wise and powerful king, he was not perfect. He disobeyed God just like we disobey God. He needed a Savior just as we do.

Christ connection

LEADER • 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 and obeyed God. Jesus gave His own life to die on the cross for our sin. Then He rose again to defeat death! Let's watch with video to see God is using people to share this good news.



Missions moment

[Play the "Going West (Part 1)" video.]

LEADER • Our culture tells us to be comfortable and stay safe, but sometimes God may call us to step away from what we know to share the gospel with more people. God often tells missionaries to leave a place they call home to live in a new place where they may not know anyone.

It takes a great deal of wisdom and trust to follow God. The Mandrells, a missionary family from Tennessee, needed God's wisdom to make some really big decisions about where they should go share the gospel.

Key passage (5 minutes)

[Open your Bible to James 1:5. Show the key passage slide. Lead the kids to read James 1:5 together as you read from the Bible.]

LEADER • Our key passage comes from the New Testament. James was one of Jesus' half-brothers, the son of Joseph and

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

[Video: "Going West" \(part 1\) missions](#)

[CG: Key Passage](#)

Mary. James knew that wisdom comes from God. In this passage we learn that God not only gives wisdom, He generously gives wisdom to people who ask for it!

Pray

[Pray before dismissing to Small Group.]

LEADER • Lord, thank You for being all-wise and good. We know that we can trust You completely. Help us to see the value of wisdom. Give us a desire to gain wisdom from You. We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

APPLY the Story



SESSION TITLE: Solomon Asked for Wisdom

Small Group

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 2–3

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

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5

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

Key passage activity

· Key
Passage
Posters, 2
per group
· Ball, 2 per
group

Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud James 1:5 together.

Instruct kids to stand and form two circles. Give one player in each circle a ball. The player holding the ball should say the first word of the key passage and pass the ball to the left. The next player will say the second word, pass the ball to the left, and so on until the group says the entire verse and reference. Play a second round, challenging the two groups to race each other.

If time allows for a third round, remove the key passage poster and challenge kids to say James 1:5 from memory.

SAY • If we want wisdom, we can ask God and He will give us wisdom! We will work on memorizing this key passage over the next few weeks. Practice it this week at home.

Discussion & Bible skills

· Bibles, 2-3
per group

Distribute 2-3 Bibles to each group. Help them find 1 Kings 2–3. Help show kids that 1 Kings is in the Old Testament (the first half of the Bible). Help kids see the book title, big chapter number, and small verse number. Read the verses to them and help them follow along.

Make requests

Guide kids to form pairs. Explain that in each round, the first partner will say, “Ask for anything” and the second partner will respond with a request: “Could I please have [*any silly request*]?” Neither player is allowed to smile during the exchange. If a player smiles, his partner earns one point. Kids should keep track of their own points.

After the first exchange, switch roles so the second partner begins with, “Ask for anything.” After two exchanges, guide kids to each find a new partner and play again.

SAY • What kinds of things did you ask for? In the Bible story we heard today, God told King Solomon to ask for anything. What kinds of things might a king request? We’ll soon find out!

**Journal page,
1 per kid
pencils**

Journal and prayer

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember?
How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

**Make sure to
send home the
activity page
for families to
use at home**

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, asking God to fill kids with wisdom to live in a way that honors Him.

As time allows, lead kids to complete “King Solomon’s Clues” on the activity page. Kids should decide if each statement is true or false. Encourage kids to find and read the Scripture references in the Bible to check their answers.