

Unit 12 • Session 1

Solomon Asked for Wisdom

4-5's Lesson

BIBLE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 2-3

STORY POINT:

God gave Solomon wisdom.

KEY PASSAGE:

James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does God know? God knows everything.



INTRODUCE THE STORY

Opening Activities

(30 MINUTES)



TEACH THE STORY

Large Group

(15 MINUTES)



EXPERIENCE THE STORY

Small Group

(15 MINUTES)



Opening Activity Supplies

"Comparison Items"
printable (2-3 per class)

Large Group Supplies

Sleeping bag or pillow
Crown
Bible
Key passage marker

Small Group Supplies

Flashlight (1 per group)
Batteries from flashlight
Bible story coloring page
(1 per kid)

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 preschoolers 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 had been the king of Israel for a long time. Now his son Solomon was going to be the king. Before David died, he gave Solomon some special instructions.

David said, “Be strong and brave. Obey God, and you will be a good king. God will keep His promise to us. Every king of Israel will come from our family.”

David told Solomon to make wise choices. When David died, Solomon became the king of Israel.

One night, God talked to Solomon in a dream. God said, “Solomon, ask for anything you want and I will give it to you.” Now, a king might ask to live a long life or to be very rich. Solomon could have asked God to take away all his enemies. But Solomon did not ask to be rich or to live a long time. He asked for something even better.

Solomon said, “God, I am young, and I do not know very much about being a king. Please make me wise. Help me obey You. Help me know what is right and wrong. Help me be a good leader.”

God told Solomon, “I am happy you asked for wisdom. I am going to make you more wise and understanding than anyone who



has ever lived. No one in the future will ever be as wise as you, 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 while you are alive.”

Then Solomon woke up. He thanked God and praised Him.

**Bible
Storytelling Tips**

• **Use a prop:**
Spread out a sleeping bag before you tell the Bible story.

Christ Connection: Solomon was a wise king who wanted to follow God’s plan, but Solomon was not perfect. God had a plan to send a greater and wiser king—Jesus. Jesus trusted God and followed God’s plan by dying on the cross for our sin.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Solomon Asked for Wisdom

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 2–3

STORY POINT: God gave Solomon wisdom.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

Opening Activities

Welcome time

Play the intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers.

Intro music

Activity page

• “Which One?”
activity page, 1
per child
• Crayons

Encourage preschoolers to look at the activity page. Talk about what each person on the page is doing. Ask each child to circle which job he would most like to do.

SAY • You can choose from many different jobs when you grow up, but you cannot not choose to be a king. You have to be born a king or chosen to be a king. In today’s Bible story, a young king got to ask God for anything he wanted. Listen to hear what he asked for.

LOW PREP

Train for a challenge

Talk about how athletes prepare for competitions. Then practice “training” for challenges by running in place for several minutes. Take breaks and then encourage children to try running in place faster or for a longer time. You may also try jumping, push ups, or other physical challenges.

SAY • When athletes compete in races or games, they work hard before the competition to get ready. They know their bodies need to be strong and healthy to complete the challenge. In our Bible story today, a young king knew he was not ready yet for the challenge of being king. What do you think he needed to be a good leader?

Decide which is better

Show children each pair of pictures, and invite them to decide which is better in each pair. Encourage preschoolers to explain why they made their choice in each instance.

SAY • Good choices! An apple tree is better than one apple because you can pick more apples anytime. And a ripe banana is much more tasty than a rotten banana. Usually, we think that having lots of money is better than having just one coin. But do you know what is better than money? Listen closely to our Bible story today to find out what King Solomon thought was more valuable than money.

· ["Comparison Items" printable \(2-3 per class\)](#)

Transition to tell the story

Show the countdown video to gain the attention of all the preschoolers and move them to Large Group.

· [Countdown video](#)

Sing

Sing the key passage song, "Ask God" and the theme song, "You are Great."

· ["Ask God" song](#)

· ["You are Great" song](#)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Solomon Asked for Wisdom

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 2–3

STORY POINT: God gave Solomon wisdom.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

Large Group

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- Bookmark
- Sleeping bag or pillow
- Crown

· [Giant timeline](#)

· [CG Bible story picture](#)

· [“Solomon Asked for Wisdom” video](#)

· [CG Story point](#)

[Place a bookmark at 1 Kings 2 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.]

SAY • Today’s Bible story comes from 1 Kings in the Old Testament part of the Bible. This story might sound like a fairy tale, but it is a true story from history! The Bible is God’s Word. Everything in the Bible is true.

[Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.]
Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

[Put on crown and sit down on sleeping bag. Stretch arms like you are getting ready to sleep.]

SAY • In the Bible story we are about to watch, king Solomon goes to sleep and something amazing happens! Let’s watch our story to see what happens next.

Watch the Bible story

[Show the Bible story video. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.]

SAY • Being a good king is hard. Solomon knew he could not be a good king without God’s help! God loves to give good gifts to His people, so **God gave Solomon wisdom.** But Solomon was not perfect. God had a plan to send a greater and wiser king—Jesus. Jesus trusted God and followed God’s plan by dying on the cross for our sin.

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at James 1:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage.

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 key passage says that anyone can ask God for wisdom!

· Key Passage
Marker
Bible

· [CG Key
Passage](#)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • God can give us wisdom because God knows everything. In fact, that's our big picture answer!

What does God know? God knows everything.

· [CG Big
Picture
Question](#)

Pray

[Pray before dismissing to Small Group.]

LEADER • Lord, thank You for being so wise and good. We know that we can trust You. Help us to love you more each day. Amen.

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE The Story



Small Group

SESSION TITLE: Solomon Asked for Wisdom

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 2–3

STORY POINT: God gave Solomon wisdom.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

Dance and dream

LOW PREP

• “Ask God” song
• “Greater Than
Anything” song

Explain that while you play music, children may dance in their small group, but when the music stops, children should lie down and pretend to sleep. Then you will softly speak the key passage. Children must repeat or respond to what you said, then start the music and praise dance again.

SAY • God talked to Solomon in a dream, and **God gave Solomon wisdom**. When Solomon woke from his dream, he thanked God and praised Him. We don’t have to wait for a dream from God to thank Him. God sent Jesus to save us, and God gave us His wisdom in the Bible. Let’s praise God for all of that now!

Experiment with flashlights

Provide flashlights without batteries. Encourage children to try turning them on and then analyze the problem. Ask children what the flashlights need to work properly. Encourage children to ask you for the batteries before you install them.

SAY • Your flashlights had lightbulbs and power switches and all the other parts they need to shine light, but they were missing the batteries. They needed power to do their job. Solomon needed God’s wisdom to do his job, and **God gave Solomon wisdom**, but Solomon was not perfect. God had a plan to send a greater and wiser king—Jesus. Jesus trusted God and followed God’s plan by dying on the cross for our sin. And now Jesus gives us His power to walk in wisdom and shine God’s light in the world!

- Flashlights
(1 per
group)
- Batteries

Review

God told Solomon, “Ask for anything you want, and I will give it to you.” King Solomon could have asked for selfish things, but he asked for wisdom to lead people well. God was happy with his request. **God gave Solomon wisdom** and so much more. God gives good gifts to those who ask Him!

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Who became the new king of Israel when David died? (*his son Solomon*)
2. How did God talk to Solomon? (*in a dream*)
3. What did Solomon ask God to give him? (*wisdom*)
4. Did God give Solomon what he asked for? (*yes, and even more*)
5. Was Solomon a perfect king? (*no*)
6. Who is the greatest and wisest King? (*Jesus*)
7. ***What does God know? God knows everything.***

· Bible Story
Picture
Poster
· Big Picture
Question
Poster

Transition

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, practice the key passage, or practice the big picture question.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool activity page for parents to take home.

· Bible story
coloring
page
· Crayons
· Key passage
poster
· Big picture
question
poster