

Unit 12 • Session 1

Solomon Asked for Wisdom

K-1 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

"Wise Eyes" Activity
Page (1 per kid)
Pencils, markers

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
Key passage poster
Paper, 1 sheet per kid
Bible story coloring
page, 1 per kid
Pencils, markers, crayons
1 ball per group

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

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about what they might wish for if they were given one wish.

SAY • It can be fun to imagine wishes coming true. But the Bible teaches that good gifts come from God, not from wishing! When we want something, we can ask God for it. If what we want is best for us, we can be sure God will give it to us. If not, we can be sure He will give us what *is* best for us. Today we will learn about a time God offered a man the chance to ask for anything. What do you think he asked for?

Activity page (5 minutes)

• “Wise Eyes”
activity page,
1 per kid
• pencils or
markers

Invite kids to complete the “Wise Eyes” activity page. Ask kids to mark *Wise* or *Unwise* under each picture, based on the actions of the people in the pictures.

SAY • Sometimes it is easy to tell what is wise, but sometimes it can be a little tricky for us. Wisdom helps us avoid doing things that will harm us. Today we will learn that wisdom comes from God!

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 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. 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?

[CG: Theme background](#)

Whitelabcoat
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!

[CG: Wreck It Ralph](#)
[CG: Captain Marvel](#)
[CG: Mike Lee](#)

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.

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

[CG: 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.

Watch the Bible story

[Video: “Solomon Asked for Wisdom”](#) [Show the Bible story video “Solomon Asked for Wisdom.”]

[CG: Bible Story Picture](#)

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.

[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 (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- Ball, 1 per group

Stand in a circle and display the key passage poster on the floor in the middle of the circle. Read the key passage together multiple times. Say the first word of the key passage, then toss a ball to a kid. Challenge her to say the second word before passing the ball to another kid to say the third word. Continue passing the ball and saying words of the passage until each kid has had a chance to say at least one word and kids say the complete key passage at least once.

SAY • Our key passage teaches us that God isn't surprised when we need wisdom. He wants to give us wisdom. All we need to do is ask Him. **God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people**, and God will give us wisdom when we ask.

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.

When you grow up charades

Ask kids to think of what they want to be when they grow up, but not to say it out loud. Invite each kid to stand up and act out their job for the group one at a time until someone guesses correctly. Once everyone has had a turn ask them to share the skills and traits needed for the jobs they hope for.

SAY • No matter what job you have, wisdom is a great thing to have. Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge in the best way. We can ask God to give us wisdom and He will do it.

Reflection and prayer

Give each kid a piece of paper. Ask the kids to draw a picture to answer the following questions:

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

· pencils and
· crayons
· paper
· Bible Story
Coloring
Page, 1 per
kid

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.