

E29. Solomon's Wisdom

1 Kings 1:28-40; 3:3-28; 4:29-34

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to retell the story of Solomon and his wisdom.
2. The children will explore the meaning of wisdom and how we can ask God for it.

Memory Verse: *"...Because that is what you have asked for...I will give you a wise and understanding heart.... --1 Kings 3:11-12 (NIRV)*

Getting Started

Choose One Activity

Grades K-2

Keys to Godly Wisdom

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Activities → "Keys to Godly Wisdom"

You will need the activity page, sticker page, pencils/crayons, tape/glue for this activity. Print out a copy of the activity page for each child in class. Also, print out a sticker page for every three children. (You can print the sticker page on a full sheet sticker paper or print the images on card stock paper and have the children tape or glue the graphics on the activity page. Note: Cut out the stickers/images before class.)

Start the activity by explaining to the class that God tells us that wisdom is more valuable than rubies, silver and even gold. Read Proverbs 8:11, Proverbs 16:16, and Proverbs 3:13 from your Bible. Talk with the children about how valuable godly wisdom is. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and a guide to the discussion along with follow up questions.

Grades 3-5

"Wise Sayings" Activity

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → "Wise Sayings"

You will need to print out one copy of the activity worksheet for each child. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. The activity allows you to go through a list of wise sayings and decide whether or not it is from the Bible. This can be a fun activity. If you have younger children in your class, do the activity together. Older children would be able to do the worksheet independently before going over it together in class.

Then tell the children that today they will learn about the wisdom of the young King Solomon. Continue with the lesson.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *God will give us wisdom when we ask for it.*

1 Kings 1:28-53 ~ David Makes Solomon King

King David said, "Tell Bathsheba to come in." So she came and stood in front of the king. Then the king took an oath and made a promise. He said, "The Lord has saved me from all of my troubles. You can be sure that he lives. And you can be just as sure that I will do today what I promised in the name of the Lord. He is the God of Israel. I promised you that your son Solomon would be king after me. He will sit on my throne in my place."

Then Bathsheba bowed low with her face toward the ground. She got down on her knees in front of the king. She said, "King David, you are my master. May you live forever!"

King David said, "Tell the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan to come in. Also tell Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, to come." So they came to the king. He said to them, "Take my officials with you. Put my son Solomon on my own mule. Take him down to the Gihon spring. Have the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan anoint him as king over Israel there. Blow a trumpet. Shout, 'May King Solomon live a long time!' ³⁵ Then come back up to the city with him. Have him sit on my throne. He will rule in my place. I've appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah."

Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, answered the king. "Amen!" he said. "May the Lord your God make it come true. You are my king and master. The Lord has been with you. May he also be with Solomon. King David, may the Lord make Solomon's kingdom even greater than yours!"

So the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan left the palace. Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, went with them. So did the Kerethites and Pelethites. They put Solomon on King David's mule. And they brought him down to the Gihon spring. The priest Zadok had gotten an animal horn that was filled with olive oil. He had taken it from the sacred tent. He anointed Solomon with the oil. The trumpet was blown. All of the people shouted, "May King Solomon live a long time!"

Then they went up toward the city. Solomon was leading the way. The people were playing flutes. They were filled with great joy. The ground shook because of all of the noise.

1 Kings 3:3-28

Solomon showed his love for the Lord. He did it by obeying the laws his father David had taught him. But Solomon offered sacrifices at the high places. He also burned incense there.

King Solomon went to the city of Gibeon to offer sacrifices. That's where the most important high place was. He offered 1,000 burnt offerings on the altar that was there. The Lord appeared to Solomon at Gibeon. He spoke to him in a dream during the night. God said, "Ask for anything you want me to give you."

Solomon answered, "You have been very kind to my father David, your servant. That's because he was faithful to you. He did what was right. His heart was honest. And you have continued to be very kind to him. You have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. Lord my God, you have now made me king. You have put me in the place of my father David. But I'm only a little child. I don't know how to carry out my duties. I'm here among the people you have chosen. They are a great nation. They are more than anyone can count. So give me a heart that understands. Then I can rule over your people. I can tell the difference between what is right and what is wrong. Who can possibly rule over this great nation of yours?"

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for that. So God said to him, "You have not asked to live for a long time. You have not asked to be wealthy. You have not even asked to have your enemies killed. Instead, you have asked for understanding. You want to do what is right and fair when you judge people. Because that is what you have asked for, I will give it to you. I will give you a wise and understanding heart."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – *continued*

So here is what will be true of you. There has never been anyone like you. And there never will be. And that is not all. I will give you what you have not asked for. I will give you riches and honor. As long as you live, no other king will be as great as you are. Live the way I want you to. Obey my laws and commands, just as your father David did. Then I will let you live for a long time."

Solomon woke up. He realized he had been dreaming. He returned to Jerusalem. He stood in front of the ark of the Lord's covenant. He sacrificed burnt offerings and friendship offerings. Then he gave a big dinner for all of his officials.

Solomon Judges Wisely

Two women came to the king. They stood in front of him. One of them said, "My master, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was there with me. ¹⁸ Three days after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone. There wasn't anyone in the house but the two of us. During the night this woman's baby died. It happened because she was lying on top of him. So she got up in the middle of the night. She took my son from my side while I was asleep. She put him with her. Then she put her dead son with me. The next morning, I got up to feed my son, but he was dead! I looked at him closely in the morning light. And I saw that it wasn't my baby."

The other woman said, "No! The living baby is my son. The dead one belongs to you." But the first woman said, "No! The dead baby is yours. The living one belongs to me." So they argued in front of the king.

The king said, "One of you says, 'My son is alive. Your son is dead.' The other one says, 'No! Your son is dead. Mine is alive.'" He continued, "Bring me a sword." So a sword was brought to him. Then he gave an order. He said, "Cut the living child in two. Give half to one woman and half to the other."

The woman whose son was alive was filled with deep concern for her son. She said to the king, "My master, please give her the living baby! Don't kill him!" But the other woman said, "Neither one of us will have him. Cut him in two!"

Then the king made his decision. He said, "Give the living baby to the first woman. Don't kill him. She's his mother."

All of the people of Israel heard about the decision the king had given. That gave them great respect for him. They saw that God had given him wisdom. They knew that Solomon would do what was right and fair when he judged people.

God Makes Solomon Very Wise

God made Solomon very wise. His understanding couldn't even be measured. It was like the sand on the seashore. People can't measure that either. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all of the people of the east. It was greater than all of the wisdom of Egypt. Solomon was wiser than any other man. He spoke 3,000 proverbs. He wrote 1,005 songs. He explained all about plants. He knew everything about them, from the cedar trees in Lebanon to the hyssop plants that grow out of walls. He taught about animals and birds. He also taught about reptiles and fish.

The kings of all of the world's nations heard about how wise Solomon was. So they sent their people to listen to him.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

Discussion Questions:

1. What did God say to Solomon? (*Ask whatever you want, and I will give it to you.*)
2. What did Solomon ask for? (*A wise and understanding heart...wisdom.*)
3. If God asked you the same question, what would you ask for? (*Discuss together and share homework. Answers will vary.*)
4. Was Solomon more concerned for himself or for others? How do we know? (*He was more concerned for others because he asked God for wisdom and knowledge so that he would be a better king to the people.*)
5. What did God do then? (*He gave Solomon what he asked for, along with wealth and riches and a long life.*)
6. Where do you think true wisdom comes from? (*God.*)

Application to Real Life

Enjoy a healthy snack together. While you do, look up James 3:13-18 together in your Bibles.

James 3:13-18 (NIRV) ~ Two Kinds of Wisdom

¹³ Are any of you wise and understanding? You should show it by living a good life. Wise people aren't proud when they do good works.

¹⁴ But suppose your hearts are jealous and bitter. Suppose you are concerned only about getting ahead. Don't brag about it. Don't say no to the truth. ¹⁵ Wisdom like that doesn't come down from heaven. It belongs to the earth. It doesn't come from the Holy Spirit. It comes from the devil.

¹⁶ Are you jealous? Are you concerned only about getting ahead? Then your life will be a mess. You will be doing all kinds of evil things.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is pure. That's the most important thing about it. And that's not all. It also loves peace. It thinks about others. It obeys. It is full of mercy and good fruit. It is fair. It doesn't pretend to be what it is not.

¹⁸ Those who make peace should plant peace like a seed. If they do, it will produce a crop of right living.

Possible Discussion Questions:

1. What is that "H" word that means we are not proud or boastful? (*Verse 13: Humility or humbleness.*)
2. Why do you think wisdom is associated with humility? (*Answers will vary...because you have to be humble in order to admit that God's Word is right... and we might be wrong.*)
3. How does James tell us we can know if someone is wise? (*See Verse 13: They are to show it by their good life and the humble things they do.*)
4. James describes a different kind of wisdom- an earthly wisdom. What are signs of this earthly wisdom? (*See Verses 14,15: Being envious or jealous and having selfish ambitions.*)
5. What are selfish ambitions? (*When you do things and think only of yourself, rivalry, etc.*)
6. James describes what wisdom from Heaven looks like, describe it. (*Verse 17: Pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*)
7. How can we get this wisdom? (*Hint: See James 1:5. We should ask God for it.*)
⁵ If any of you need wisdom, ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone. He doesn't find fault.

Review the message and memory verse together. Remind the children that God will give us wisdom if we ask for it.

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Where is the book of 1 Kings located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
4. Is “loyalty” a fruit of the spirit? Can you name all nine of them? (See *Galatians 5:22-23*)
5. Ask for a volunteer to lead the class in a short prayer.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages**Puzzle: The Common Factor**

You will need to print and cut out the word cards (see the page at the end of the lesson) before class. Keep the word cards for each message together.

Divide the children into two groups. Give one child from each group the word cards for one of the messages. Ask that child to give a word card to each of the other children in their group. Tell the children they have to work together to put the word cards in the correct order. When the children think they have the message in the correct order, tell them to glue the word cards on a sheet of paper in that order.

After both groups finish the task, ask all the children what two words are similar in both messages. They should easily identify that God blesses and God blessed is present in both sentences. Briefly discuss what the children think the messages mean.

“Wise Ending” Skit Activity

www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Skits → “Wise Ending”

Please see the above website for the skit and detailed instructions. The children will witness (recruit volunteer actors as needed) the skit and then be given the opportunity to re-write the ending so that the participants in the role play make a wiser choice to resolve their conflicts. The “actors” will then re-do the skit with the “wise ending.”

Grades K-2**King Solomon’s Crown**

Make crowns out of poster board (or use pre-bought crowns, though they may need covering with foil or spray paint). Be as fancy as you like, allowing the children to decorate with fake jewels, etc. Then either glue or write the message statement onto the crown. Remember to keep the conversation going as you work. For other craft ideas for younger children, see “other resources” below.

Grades 3-5**Bible Time – “Wisdom”**

Look up the following verses in your Bibles. Allow the children to attempt this on their own first before assisting them as needed with clues. Discuss together what each verse says about “wisdom”.

Proverbs 3:13 Proverbs 4:6 Proverbs 8:11 Proverbs 28:26

Another option: Look up the verses before class and write one or two words from the verse on each index card. Make sure one index card has the verse reference information. Mix the cards up. Then have the children try to put the cards in order, allowing them to use their Bibles for help by looking it up. If you have enough children, make two sets of each verse, and have a race. You may also recruit other adult volunteers to join the class competition.

“Wise or Not-So-Wise” Activity

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Games → “Wise or Not-so-Wise”

In this activity, the children will look up James 3:17 in their Bibles in order to discover what words are in that verse to describe “wisdom”. Make a list together of those words on your easel or white board. You will also need to make two signs with poster board or a similar material and post them on opposite sides of your class area. One will say “wise” and the other will say “not-so-wise”. You will then read a series of scenarios (choose the ones most appropriate for your children) and the children will decide together if the person in the scenario was “wise” or “not-so-wise”. They will base their decisions on the list of words you created from James 3:17. Please see the above website for the scenarios and a detailed description.

Journal*Optional***Grades K-2**

Draw a picture of a situation when you made a wise decision.

Grades 3-5

Why do you think it is important to have wisdom? Be specific. Write about it.

Have you ever faced a problem in your life when you did not know what to do? Did you ask God for help? Do you think having wisdom would have made a difference in your decision? Write about it.

Why do you think King Solomon wanted wisdom?

 **Puzzle: The Common Factor**

God	blessed	Solomon
because	of	his
heart's	disposition.	

God	blesses	those
who	are	humble
and	God-fearing.	



Name: _____

Solomon's Builds the Temple

Draw a picture of what you think the temple that Solomon built for God might have looked like in the space below:

"Work at everything you do with all your heart..."
-Colossians 3:23 (NIRV)



Take Home Page: E29. Solomon's Wisdom

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **God will give us wisdom if we ask for it.** The children explored the story of Solomon and his wisdom. They also talked about what wisdom is and how we can ask God for it.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"...Because that is what you have asked for...I will give you a wise and understanding heart...

--1 Kings 3:11-12 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. Why do you think Solomon wanted wisdom?
2. What do you want to ask God for? Why?
3. Why do you think wisdom is valuable?

Live Your Faith...

Solomon asked for wisdom, and God granted it to him. If you could ask God for anything, what would you ask Him for? Why? Talk about this with your child. What do you need in your heart that would help you to be more like Jesus? Pray together and ask God to help you grow in those qualities.

