



Use Week of:

Unit 12 • Session 1

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.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
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TEACH THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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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.

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.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use different voices:** Speak in a wise, fatherly manner as you narrate David’s speech, in a powerful voice as you speak for God, and in a young, humble voice for Solomon.
- **Use a prop:** Spread out a sleeping bag and gather preschoolers to sit on it as you tell the Bible story. Encourage preschoolers to imagine they are sitting in Solomon’s bed.

INTRODUCE the Story



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

Welcome time

- “Greater Than Anything” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Which One?” activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

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

- timer
- books (optional)

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 (higher), lifting (more) weights such as books, 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.

• "Comparison Items"
printable

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.

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Allow children to ask your permission to perform an action of their choice as they move to Bible study.

• countdown video
(optional)

TEACH the Story



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

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at 1 Kings 2 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently 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 sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Solomon Asked for Wisdom" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. 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. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

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!

Sing the key passage song, "Ask God," and the theme song, "Greater Than Anything."

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- "Ask God" song
- "Greater Than Anything" song

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.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • God often calls missionaries to leave a place they call home to live in a new place where they may not know anyone. God knows everyone and every place on the planet! Missionaries depend on God's wisdom to help them take the gospel to places they know very little about. Watch this video about the Mandrells, a missionary family from Tennessee. They needed God's wisdom to make some really big decisions about where they should go to share the gospel.

Show the "Going West (Part 1)" missions video.

- "Going West (Part 1)" missions video

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE The Story



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LOW PREP

- “Ask God” song (optional)
- “Greater Than Anything” song (optional)

Dance and dream

Explain that while you play music, children may dance, but when the music stops, children should lie down and pretend to sleep. Then you will softly speak truths such as the key passage, story point, and/or big picture question. 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!

LOW PREP

- classroom items

Ask for anything

Allow children to take turns asking you for anything in the room. Each child will close his eyes and hold out his hands and ask for one item from the classroom. Then you will give him that item plus something more. If he asks for a marker, give him a marker and paper. If he asks for a block, give him several blocks. Allow the child to play with his items independently while each child takes a turn.

SAY • Each of you received more than you asked for, just

like Solomon! When Solomon asked for wisdom, **God gave Solomon wisdom** as well as long life, riches, and honor. God loves to give good gifts to His children. God is so kind to us!

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 installing them.

· flashlights
· batteries

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!

Dress for success

Set out an assortment of career dress-up items. As the children play, talk about the importance of each item in doing a job well. For example, a firefighter's hat protects his head while he saves other people from danger. A doctor's stethoscope helps her hear how healthy a person's heart and lungs sound.

· career dress-up items (such as a firefighter's hat and doctor's stethoscope)

SAY • Every job requires certain tools to perform well. Solomon knew that he needed wisdom to be a good king, so he asked God. ***What does God know? God***

knows everything. God gave Solomon wisdom for leading his people, and God can give you everything you need to serve others well, too!



Feel and guess

- small, familiar items
- pillowcase

Place a small, familiar item such as an unused toothbrush, a small umbrella, or a shoe in a cloth pillowcase. Tie a knot at the open end. Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle and pass the pillowcase. Instruct preschoolers to feel the item and to think about what it could be. Once everyone has had a chance to feel its contents, ask preschoolers to guess what item they think is in the pillowcase. After the guesses, open the pillowcase to reveal the item. Place another item in the pillowcase out of sight of preschoolers. Then play again. Play with more items as time allows.

SAY • Were you surprised by what was inside the pillowcase? Sometimes, God tells us to go without giving us all the details, like He did with the Mandrell family. We can ask God for wisdom as we follow Him. You may be surprised how He uses you!

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Offer several options for snack. Allow preschoolers to request their favorite. Remark how 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.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

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 big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- “Ask God” song
- “Greater Than Anything” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers