

HE DELIGHTED IN YOU

MAIN POINT.

If we know Christ, then it should be evident to others.



CHRIST CONNECTION

When Peter and John boldly preached the gospel, the people knew they had been with Jesus (**Acts 4:13**). It was evident in their bold words and actions. If we know Christ, then it should be evident in our lives as well.



CHRIST IN YOU

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to read all of the content on the timeline as you prepare to teach.

1 Kings 10:1—1 Kings 10:29

WISDOM IS EVIDENCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1 KINGS 10:1-7

1 The queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's fame connected with the name of the LORD and came to test him with difficult questions. 2 She came to Jerusalem with a very large entourage, with camels bearing spices, gold in great abundance, and precious stones. She came to Solomon and spoke to him about everything that was on her mind. 3 So Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too difficult for the king to explain to her. 4 When the queen of Sheba observed all of Solomon's wisdom, the palace he had built, 5 the food at his table, his servants' residence, his attendants' service and their attire, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he offered at the LORD's temple, it took her breath away. 6 She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your words and about your wisdom is true. 7 But I didn't believe the reports until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, I was not even told half. Your wisdom and prosperity far exceed the report I heard."

THE EVIDENCE POINTS PEOPLE TO CHRIST

1 KINGS 10:8-10

8 "How happy are your men. How happy are these servants of yours, who always stand in your presence hearing your wisdom. 9 Blessed be the LORD your God! He delighted in you and put you on the throne of Israel, because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel. He has made you king to carry out justice and righteousness." 10 Then she gave the king four and a half tons of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones. Never again did such a quantity of spices arrive as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

BEFORE YOU TEACH

MAIN POINT.

If we know Christ, then it should be evident to others.

Leaders: May the evidence of your love for God be apparent to your family, friends, and the students you teach.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

WISDOM IS EVIDENCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1 KINGS 10:1-2

“The nations are being drawn to the God of Israel (8:41–43,60; Josh. 9:9). Once again we see that God isn’t a mere village god or even a national god but a global God.”¹³

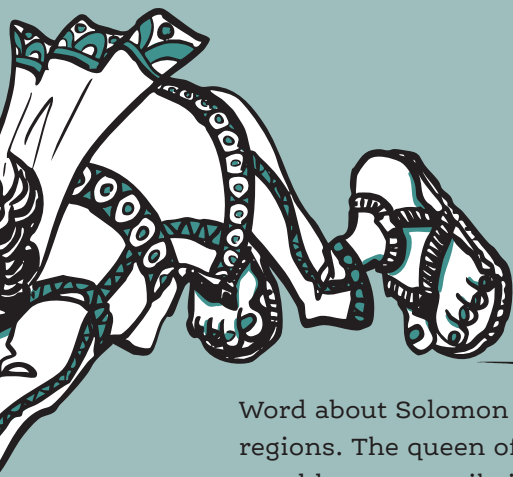
1 KINGS 10:1-7

“Surely the visit of the queen of Sheba remains one of the most famous stories in the lengthy Solomonic tradition. As Jesus later reminded his skeptical Pharisaic audience, she will be one of the non-Israelites who will stand up on Judgment Day to condemn his generation’s lack of faith, ‘for she came from a distant land to hear the wisdom of Solomon. Now someone greater than Solomon is here—but you refuse to listen’ (Matt. 12:42; Luke 11:31).”¹⁴

THE EVIDENCE POINTS PEOPLE TO CHRIST

1 KINGS 10:8-10

“Between the confession of Solomon’s greatness and the offering of the gifts, the queen makes an important statement about the Lord. She claims that God deserves praise for choosing him to rule Israel. In fact, the presence of Solomon on the throne proves ‘the Lord’s eternal love for Israel.’ This love has motivated God’s choice of Israel (Deut. 7:7–8), David (2 Sam. 7:15–16), and now Solomon. How must Solomon reflect God’s love? By maintaining justice and righteousness in the land, the very gift Solomon requested in 1 Kings 3:1–9. These comments are similar to those Hiram makes in 1 Kings 5:7. Both non-Jewish monarchs recognize God’s primacy in Israel’s history. Quite ironically, Solomon and future kings of Israel choose to ignore what even noncovenant rulers seem to know is true: God rules Israel, and God blesses obedient Israelite kings.”¹⁵



CONTEXT

Word about Solomon and, more importantly, Israel's God had spread to other regions. The queen of Sheba traveled from modern-day Yemen to Jerusalem, roughly a 1,500 mile journey. Most scholars believe she had two motives for the trip: trade delegation and a desire to meet Solomon. His reputation piqued her interest, so she traveled with a large entourage to see if the rumors were true. What she discovered exceeded her expectations. Jesus referred to the queen of Sheba when speaking to the Pharisees. He pointed out that even a Gentile woman, who was completely detached from Israel's history, sought out Solomon's wisdom while the Pharisees refused to see one greater than Solomon standing among them (Matt. 12:42).

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

Evangelism

The duty and privilege of every Christian and of every church is to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of a person's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary efforts rest on a spiritual necessity for all people to be renewed and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. Jesus Christ commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. Every child of God has a duty to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness and by a Christian lifestyle.

LEADERS' PRAYER

LORD, HELP US TO BUILD REPUTATIONS WHICH SPEAK YOUR NAME. HELP OUR LIVES SERVE AS EVIDENCE FOR YOUR EXISTENCE AND YOUR GOODNESS. HELP US TO STEWARD THE GOOD GIFTS YOU GIVE US TO BRING HONOR TO YOUR SON.



KICK STARTER

RATE IT!

How important are first impressions (1=they're never accurate; 10=it's someone's only chance with me)?



These optional activities are designed to help your students interact. You'll find a Discussion Activity and a Cultural Connection, which touches on a relevant topic in today's teen culture. Each group is different, so adapt these activities to fit your group's needs. The goal is for students to connect more to the lesson as they connect to the topic and to one another.

1

FAMOUS FOR...

SUPPLIES LIST: NONE

Ask the following questions, allowing time for students to share responses:

- **WHO IS MOST FAMOUS FOR THEIR TALENTS?**
- **WHO IS MOST FAMOUS FOR AN INTERESTING STYLE?**
- **WHO IS MOST FAMOUS FOR BEING GENEROUS?**

People earn reputations for all sorts of things—for being the most talented, the best dressed, or the most generous. When we see these people, we instantly associate them with these things because in a sense, they're defined by them. In a similar way, our reputations say a lot about us. Do they point to Christ?

2

CULTURAL CONNECTION

Do you believe God delights in you? When we say that God delights in us, we mean that He deeply loves us. He longs to save us. He desires to give us good gifts. He cares for us. In essence, it means that God is absolutely for us. If you've ever felt like God didn't feel this way about you, then you've allowed the enemy to feed you a lie. Of course Satan would desire to make you feel like you don't matter to God. But every move God has made throughout human history says otherwise. He delighted in you so much that He allowed His Son to suffer in order to redeem you. He still delights in you; your very existence stirs His heart to love. When you question your worth to the Lord, look at the evidence in Scripture. It's undeniably there.

DISCUSSION

MAIN POINT.

If we know Christ, then it should be evident to others.

WISDOM IS EVIDENCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

READ 1 KINGS 10:1-7

WHAT DREW THE QUEEN OF SHEBA TO SOLOMON? WHY SHOULD NONBELIEVERS BE DRAWN TO US?

Solomon had developed a reputation that extended to other nations. People heard of his great wisdom and wealth, but the queen of Sheba came to see Solomon because she was curious about how his wisdom and wealth connected to God (v. 1). **Solomon's fame was tied to Yahweh, and this is what set Solomon apart from all other kings and nations.** Nonbelievers should be drawn to us as well. **When they hear about us or watch us, they should hear and see a connection to God, and if not, then we must examine why the Lord isn't connected to our reputation.**



GOD GIFTED SOLOMON WITH GREAT WISDOM. WHY DO WE OFTEN MISUSE THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN US?

Solomon's wisdom and wealth didn't originate from him; they were gifts from God. Up to this point, Solomon sought to honor the Lord with his gifts and with his position. God gives us gifts too—things like wisdom, maturity, leadership, athleticism, intelligence, the ability to sing, and so on. **Sometimes, we forget these gifts aren't our own. Our hearts become prideful, and we seek to use our gifts for our own name and for our own glory.** When God blesses us with gifts, we must train our hearts to remain humble and submissive, or we'll squander those gifts for worldly reasons.



THE QUEEN WAS A NON-JEW FROM A GENTILE REGION. WHY AREN'T WE ALWAYS WILLING TO TALK WITH PEOPLE WHO MAY NOT SHARE OUR BELIEFS ABOUT GOD? WHY MUST WE BE?

The queen wanted to sit down with Solomon and question him on a series of matters. We aren't told exactly what the conversation was about, but we are told that she came to test him with some pretty difficult questions. Solomon willingly sat down with the queen and conversed with her. He answered her questions with godly wisdom, and in the end, she saw that his wisdom was even greater than what she had heard. **As believers, we must be willing to sit down and talk with people who have different beliefs. We must be willing to let them ask us honest questions.** While we may not always have the answers, we can seek God for wisdom. We never want our motive to be proving people wrong; instead, our motives must be showing them God's love and helping them move toward Him. **It can be unsettling when someone asks us questions about our faith. Sometimes, it's okay to tell people that we don't have the answers or that we need to do some research. But we must always be willing to talk.**

THE EVIDENCE POINTS PEOPLE TO CHRIST

READ 1 KINGS 10:8-10

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS GOD HAS BLESSED YOU? HOW CAN YOU USE THOSE BLESSINGS TO POINT OTHERS TO HIM?

Solomon was blessed with unmatched wisdom and wealth. Maybe you're blessed with a great family or friends. Maybe you're blessed with talents or likability. Maybe you're blessed with intelligence or great humor. **These gifts didn't originate from you; every good and perfect gift comes from God (James 1:17). When you realize this and surrender those gifts back to God, then He can use them to draw others to Himself.** If you have a wonderful family, consider including someone who doesn't to come and hang out. If you have talents, use them in your local church to serve the body of Christ. Give your blessings away and watch as they grow.



READ ACTS 4:13. HOW DOES THIS CONNECT TO SOLOMON?

The queen of Sheba knew Solomon was connected to Yahweh. Peter and John were ordinary men. Nothing in Scripture indicates they came from wealth or exhibited profound intelligence. In fact, this verse says they were "uneducated and untrained." The crowds listening to them couldn't deny they knew Jesus though. They lived boldly for Christ, and their actions and words imitated Him. **It matters that people can see who we belong to; it matters that people can watch us and listen to us and realize we follow Jesus. If they can't, then we must ask why there isn't evidence for our faith.**



SOLOMON WAS RICHLY BLESSED FOR WALKING WITH GOD. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

When we read this passage, we can falsely assume that following God leads to wealth and fame. Reading Scripture through this lens is dangerous. God blessed Solomon and used him for very specific purposes during a specific time in Israel's history. **The fact that God blessed Solomon with extravagant wealth is not a prescription for us. This type of false thinking leads us to believe in a "prosperity gospel," which teaches that following God will give us worldly riches, ease, and wellness.** We never see this concept reflected in God's Word; in fact, following Christ often led to persecution for the apostles and members of the early church. **Jesus said following Him would be costly; not following Him costs more.**

WRAP-UP



WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE ABOUT YOUR REPUTATION SO THAT PEOPLE ARE DRAWN TO CHRIST?

Many of us look up at some point and realize our reputation isn't what we wanted it to be. We may have treated others poorly or made decisions that caused people to lose respect for us. We may have acted arrogantly when we received recognition. We may have gossiped or lied to get what we wanted. We may have cheated to get ahead. We may have compromised in ways we never imagined we would. Sometimes, we need God to humble us and help us repair our reputations. We need Him to convict us of where we've gone wrong and help us to walk a better way. We all make mistakes, but we don't have to stay in them. Our reputations can point people to Christ. **We can live in such a way that people are drawn to us because they see or hear something different than what they see or hear in the world.** It's not too late to surrender your sin and walk a better way. It's not too late to allow God to change you. **Your very name can point others to Jesus when your life speaks of Him.**