

UNIT 12 | SESSION 1

SOLOMON BECAME KING

1 KINGS 2-3



KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 3:7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people. Jesus is wisdom, and He leads those who trust in Him to eternal life. When we follow Jesus, we become wise.

STORY POINT: God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

As King David neared the end of his life, he desired for his son, Solomon, to walk in God's ways, obey His commands, and honor the Lord as he continued their family line on Israel's throne. Though Solomon would not be a perfect king over Israel, he was able to lead the people with the wisdom he received from God. In the wisdom of King Solomon, we see a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, the true embodiment of godly wisdom in human form.

What was the significance of Solomon asking for wisdom? How is Jesus greater than Solomon?

Perhaps it was David's last words to his son which prompted Solomon to ask for wisdom. After all, when God spoke to Solomon in the dream, Solomon responded by recalling how his father walked in God's ways. In any case, Solomon told God that he was inexperienced and just a youth. Solomon's humble request for wisdom pleased God, and He generously bestowed Solomon with wisdom, wealth, and honor. Solomon's request for wisdom revealed a heart that desired to esteem God by governing His people and discerning between good and evil.

Still, the wisdom of Solomon pales in comparison to the wisdom of Christ. Jesus fully embodied wisdom by perfectly fearing and obeying the Lord. Infinitely greater than Solomon is the wisdom of God's Son, who formed the world, rules the world, and sustains the world. 1 Corinthians 1:30 tells us that Jesus, "became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." Only through Jesus can we receive the wisdom to walk in God's ways with hearts that desire to glorify Him. When we know Jesus, we know wisdom.

Reflect on the wisdom of God offered to us through Jesus Christ. Consider His gift of wisdom in your own life as you have matured in your faith. Pray for the Lord to open children's hearts to their need for not only wisdom, but the salvation that grows our wisdom as we continue to walk in the Lord's ways.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Seek Wisdom" activity page



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Solomon Became King" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 12, Session 1" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Orvil Reid" missions video

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Fear the LORD (Proverbs 3:7)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ plastic cups
- ☐ ball



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ yellow cardstock
- ☐ stickers, gold foil, gems (optional)

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “If you could have a super power, what would it be? Why?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Seek Wisdom” activity page.

| **SAY** “God wants us to be wise and follow His Son, Jesus. Today, we’ll see how **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.**”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: WOULD YOU RATHER?



Invite kids to line up at the center of the room. Call out a pair of items, and invite kids to determine which they would rather have. If kids choose the first item, lead them to take a step to the left. If they choose the second item, kids take a step to the right. Consider the following pairs, or create your own:

- ice cream or pizza
- scooter or bicycle
- dog or cat
- water or soda
- video games or art supplies
- riches or wisdom

| **SAY** “Today, we will see how God appeared to King David’s son, Solomon, in a dream. God said to Solomon, ‘What should I give you?’ Solomon had a choice to ask God for anything! He could have asked for money or fame. But Solomon asked God for wisdom. We’ll learn that **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.**”

☐ OPTION 2: RICHES, RICHES, WISDOM

In this variation of “Duck, Duck, Goose,” lead kids to sit in a circle. Choose one kid to be It, and instruct him to gently pat the other kids on the head and say either “riches” or “wisdom.” When It says “wisdom,” that kid must run around the circle and race back to the open space. If It runs and returns before the other kid, the new player now becomes It. Play as time allows.

| **SAY** “In this game, we listened for the word wisdom. Today, we’ll see how David’s son, Solomon, became king over Israel. Solomon was young and had no experience being king. We’ll learn that **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.**”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I am excited to learn from God’s Word together. If you have a Bible with you, will you hold it up? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] When we study the Bible, we learn more about God and His Son, Jesus. Following God’s ways helps us to become wise.

As we hear our story, we will see that **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s pray together: ‘God, thank You for Your Word. Help us learn from the story of King Solomon and trust in Your Son, Jesus, for the wisdom we need. Amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “Over the next few weeks, we will ask the question, **What does God know?** The answer we will learn through reading His Word is that **God knows everything about the past, present, and future.**

You might know some people who are very smart. It might seem like they know everything. But only God knows everything about what has happened, what will happen, and what is happening right now. God even knows our thoughts before we think them and our words before we say them. In our Bible story, we’ll see that Solomon knew a lot. But Solomon got His wisdom from God, who knows everything. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “Who did the people choose as the first king of Israel? [Allow responses.] The people chose Saul. After Saul died, who became king over Israel? [Allow responses.] David became king. Unlike Saul, David walked in God’s ways and followed His commands. David wasn’t perfect. He sinned against God. But David repented of his sin and trusted in God to forgive him. Today, we will hear how David died and his son Solomon became king over Israel. ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12; 3:1-15. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Solomon Became King.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

SOLOMON BECAME KING

“When David had grown old, he called for his son Solomon to give him this message: **“Be strong, my son, and keep your promise to the LORD to walk in His ways and obey His commandments. If you do, you will have success in everything you do, and the LORD will keep His promise to our family.”**

Then David died, and Solomon became king over Israel. One night, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream. God said, **“Ask. What should I give you?”**

Solomon replied, “You have shown great and faithful love to my father David because he was faithful to You and had a right heart before You. **You have continued to show faithful love to him by giving him a son to sit on his throne.**

“You have now made me king in my father’s place. But I have no experience in leadership. I am younger than most of the people I lead. So, give me a heart to judge the people and tell the difference between good and evil.”

The Lord was pleased with Solomon’s request. He said, **“Because you have asked for wisdom to lead well instead of long life or riches, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and understanding heart. You will be wiser than anyone who has ever lived before. In addition, I will give you what you did not ask for: both riches and honor. If you walk in my ways and keep my commands, I will give you a long life.”**

Solomon woke up and realized it was a dream. He went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord’s covenant, and presented burnt offerings.

Christ Connection: God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people. Jesus is wisdom, and He leads those who trust in Him to eternal life. When we follow Jesus, we become wise. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Active listening: Invite kids to point to their head and their heart when they hear the word “wisdom.” Tell kids that wisdom is not only what we know about God but also how we follow God with our heart.

Set the scene: Add some pillows and blankets to the floor, and invite kids to sit on the floor with you. Tell kids that God sometimes appeared to people in dreams.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ After David died, who became the next king of Israel? **[Allow response.]** Solomon became Israel’s new king. Solomon was young and didn’t know how to be king. The Bible tells us Solomon loved God and obeyed Him, but he also wasn’t wise enough to lead God’s people in ways that were right and good (1 Kings 3:3).

God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told Solomon to ask Him for anything. What did Solomon ask God for? **[Allow responses.]** Solomon asked God for wisdom to lead His people. Solomon said he wanted a heart that was able to judge between good and evil. God was pleased with Solomon’s request, and **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.**

What else did God give Solomon? **[Allow responses.]** God gave Solomon riches and honor. He also promised to give Solomon a long life, if he obeyed God’s commands. When Solomon asked God for wisdom, it showed how he knew God is more powerful than him and that he needed His help to lead the people in ways that were good.

Like Solomon, we need wisdom to know what is good and right. We need help to follow God and obey His commands. Jesus is wisdom, and He leads those who trust in Him to eternal life. When we follow Jesus, we become wise. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Left to follow our own ways, our hearts will lead us to evil. We need a King to rule our hearts and help us know what is right and good. We need Jesus to be the King of our lives because only He can save us from sin and guide us to what is right. Is Jesus the wise King who rules your heart? I’d love to help you understand how Jesus can be your Savior and Lord. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 12, Session 1” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. When we pray to God, how do we know if He says yes or no?
2. Why should we ask God to help us follow His Word?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Tell kids that Orvil Reid and his wife, Jewell, were missionaries to the people of Mexico City, Mexico. Share how Orvil depended on God to help him share the good news about Jesus and the power of God to save anyone who believes in Jesus. Play the missions video.

SAY “ When Orvil’s wife Jewell died, her funeral became a celebration of hope. Orvil was able to share how those who believe in Jesus will live with Him forever. Even if Christians die on this earth, they have the hope of eternal life in His presence.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

God helped Orvil share his faith in Jesus and gave Orvil wisdom to do ministry. When we place our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in us and helps us share the gospel. ”

Pray that missionaries around the world would depend on the power and wisdom of God to continue sharing the good news about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write each word of the key passage on individual plastic cups. Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Proverbs 3:7 together.

SAY “ Solomon understood that He was not wise in his own power. When we fear the Lord, we are able to turn away from evil. Let’s explore this truth more in our key passage. ”

Line up the cups in random order. Invite kids to line up in front of the cups. Challenge kids to take turns rolling a ball, trying to knock down the cups in the correct order of the key passage. If they knock down the wrong cup, stand it up and let them try again. Repeat as time allows, making sure every kid has a turn.

Lead kids to sing “Fear the LORD (Proverbs 3:7).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ God, thank You for the wisdom You give Your people. Help us to love You and follow Jesus. Help us turn away from evil and do good to others. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 3. Tell kids that the books of 1 and 2 Kings were originally written as one large book. Share how these books are named after the kings who ruled over God's people.

Consider pointing out Jerusalem (H5) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 3:7 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “ When Solomon became king, he was still very young and didn’t have much experience leading others. Did being young stop God from giving Solomon wisdom? [Allow responses.] No, God was happy to give Solomon wisdom. Even though you are young, God can give you wisdom too. The Bible tells us that when we follow Jesus, we become wise because Jesus is Wisdom. Part of being wise is understanding that we need help to know the right way to live. Following Jesus and obeying His commands guides us to live for God and His glory. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why was Solomon’s request greater than riches or honor? ”

Share that riches and honor might be fun for a moment, but they don’t lead us to salvation (Matthew 19:23-24). Remind kids that Jesus is wisdom, and He leads those who trust in Him to eternal life. By asking for wisdom, Solomon showed that he did not want the glory; instead He wanted to honor God.

SAY “ How can we tell the difference between right and wrong like Solomon? ”

Remind kids that God is Creator and King. He determines what is right and wrong. Explain that God teaches us the difference between right and wrong in His Word (Psalm 119:105). When we are unsure or have questions, we can go to the Bible. Jesus always did what is right. When we learn about Jesus, trust in Him, and follow His ways, we can know what is right.

SAY “ Why was Solomon’s wisdom a gift from God? ”

Discuss how God came to Solomon and offered to give Solomon anything. God didn’t have to give Solomon wisdom, or riches, or honor. Solomon hadn’t done anything to deserve them. But God is generous, and He loves to give good gifts. God gave Jesus, who became wisdom for us. Salvation is a gift of God because we didn’t earn it. When we trust in Jesus, we receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of new life.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: CRAFT A CROWN

Provide the kids with a yellow piece of cardstock. Explain that they will be making crowns like a king would have worn. Lead kids to draw the face of a crown on the bottom portion of the cardstock. The crown should be long enough to cover the forehead of each kid. Invite kids to color gems on the crown, add stickers, or even glue down gold foil. Then assist kids in making the band for the crown to attach to. Use cardstock to measure the length of the band for each kid. The ends of the band will be stapled to the edges of the crown. Cut out the band, and staple the crown to the band. Invite kids to wear their crown.

SAY “ Take these crowns home as a reminder that Solomon ruled over Israel as a wise king. But his wisdom did not come from himself. **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.** When we trust in Jesus and follow Him, He leads us in wisdom too! ”

☐ OPTION 2: TURN AWAY



Write the words Fear the Lord on a piece of paper. Write the words Turn away from evil on another piece of paper. Lead kids to line up at one end of the room. Tell kids that if you hold up the paper that says Fear the Lord they can take a step toward you. When you hold up the paper that says Turn away from evil, kids must turn around and run back to the start line. Kids who do not follow the directions will be out. Turn your back to the kids, choose the paper you will hold up, and quickly turn toward them. Play several rounds holding up each paper in random order. Consider inviting kids to hold up the papers as well.

SAY “ Our key passage reminds us that we can be wise by fearing God and turning away from evil. Those who are truly wise will turn away from their sin and turn to Jesus. We call this repentance. When we turn to Jesus and trust in Him, God will forgive us of our sin. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

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

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.