

# THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITED SOLOMON

1 KINGS 10



**KEY PASSAGE:** Proverbs 3:7

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

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** The queen of Sheba was amazed at the wisdom God had given King Solomon. The people who heard Jesus teach were amazed at His wisdom, authority, and power. Jesus has all wisdom, authority, and power because He is God's Son who came to live, die, and rise again.

**STORY POINT:** People were amazed by the wisdom God gave Solomon.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

### LEADER Bible Study

By 1 Kings 10, word had spread to the queen of Sheba about the amazing wisdom of King Solomon. She traveled to his courts with an entourage of great abundance—camels, spices, gold, and precious stones. Solomon's acclaim, however, served a greater purpose for the queen: blessing the Lord of Israel (1 Kings 10:9).

What did the queen of Sheba discover during her visit? How does the queen's amazement demonstrate the same amazement that the crowds experienced through the teachings of Jesus?

When the queen of Sheba surveyed the king's wisdom in conversation, as well as the splendor of life in his palace, it took her breath away. The rumors of his wisdom and prosperity didn't offer the full picture of what life in his kingdom was really like. She recognized the king's justice and righteousness. She acknowledged God's eternal love for His people and how happy Solomon's men were because of his wisdom. The queen recognized how a people who have a wise leader and a loving God are truly blessed.

Jesus is the all-wise and perfect Ruler, surpassing Solomon in all his wisdom. Just as the queen of Sheba was amazed at Solomon, the crowds Jesus spoke to were also amazed at His wisdom and authority. And yet, unlike the queen of Sheba who blessed the God of Israel, many refused to believe in Jesus. Jesus spoke about the wisdom of Solomon, but regarding Himself and His own wisdom said, "... something greater than Solomon is here" (Matthew 12:42). Jesus had come to lead people into true wisdom: faith in Him.

Lead boys and girls to see that Jesus is who He says He is: the mightiest King with the greatest wisdom, authority, and power. Pray that they would be amazed by King Jesus and trust in Him. Ask the Lord to show them how to walk by faith in His wisdom.



#### 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

- ☐ "Gather the Gifts" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ cardboard boxes, 2
- ☐ gift wrapping paper
- ☐ tape
- ☐ candies, 1 per kid



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ cups, 4 per group
- ☐ water
- ☐ raw eggs, 1 per group
- ☐ basil
- ☐ cumin
- ☐ cinnamon
- ☐ salt
- ☐ measuring spoons, 1 per group
- ☐ measuring cups, 1 per group

#### Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



### 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

- ☐ "The Queen of Sheba Visited Solomon" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

#### Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 12, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

#### Missions Moment

- ☐ "Orvil Reid Photos" printable
- ☐ printed copies of sombreros, 1 per kid

#### Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Fear the LORD (Proverbs 3:7)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ copies of the Key Passage Poster, 1 per group
- ☐ paper bags, 1 per group



## 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** “Have you ever been to another city, state, or country? What was it like?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Gather the Gifts” activity page.

| **SAY** “Today, we will see how the queen of Sheba came from another country to visit Solomon. She brought many gifts to honor King Solomon.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: QUICK QUESTIONS!



Ask the questions below to the kids, and consider adding more of your own. Lead kids to sit in a circle. Tell kids that if they know the answer, they should jump to their feet as quickly as they can. The first kid to stand up will have an opportunity to answer the question. If he gets it wrong, the next kid who stood will be able to answer. Play as time allows.

- How many legs does a spider have? (eight)
- How many colors are in a rainbow? (seven)
- Who was the first king of Israel? (Saul)
- What do bees make? (honey)
- What is the fifth book of the Bible? (Deuteronomy)
- How many days are in a year? (365/366)
- How many books are in the Bible? (66)

| **SAY** “When the queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon, she asked him many questions. But none were too hard for him. Solomon answered all of her questions. Today, we’ll learn how **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY THE WISDOM GOD GAVE SOLOMON.**”

#### ☐ OPTION 2: WACKY WRAPPING

Before the session, place candy in two cardboard boxes, and wrap the boxes with gift wrapping paper. Form kids into two teams. Provide each team with a gift and a roll of tape. They are to attempt unwrapping the gift without tearing the wrapping paper. Explain that if they tear the gift, they must stop and tape up the torn piece before continuing. Encourage teams to work together, allowing their friends to take turns helping. Whichever team unwraps their gift first wins. Invite kids to eat a piece of candy.

| **SAY** “As Solomon’s wisdom became known in other countries, the queen of Sheba came bringing Solomon gifts and lots of questions. She brought him unique gifts like spices. Did you know that God gave us a special gift? God gave us Jesus to save us from our sin. Let’s get ready to learn how Jesus is the best gift we could receive because He not only gives us wisdom but also forgiveness.”

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’m glad you are here to learn more about our great God through His Word. If you have a Bible with you, will you hold it up? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] God is so great that even a queen from another country recognized how He blessed Solomon with so much wisdom.

As we hear our story, we will see that **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY THE WISDOM GOD GAVE SOLOMON**. [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s take a moment to ask the Lord to give us hearts and minds that are ready to hear His truth: ‘God, thank You for the wisdom You give Your people through Your Son, Jesus. Help us trust in Him and seek Him for all wisdom. Amen.’ ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

**SAY** “Let’s have the boys ask our big picture question. [Allow boys to respond.] What does God know? Now girls, you say the answer. [Allow girls to respond.] **God knows everything about the past, present, and future.**

While we’ll learn how the people were amazed by Solomon’s wisdom, God was not. All of Solomon’s wisdom came from God because God knows everything. Solomon didn’t know everything about the past and present. He also didn’t know what would happen in the future. Even the queen of Sheba recognized that Solomon’s wisdom and all of his gifts came from God. **God knows everything about the past, present, and future.** ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

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

**SAY** “God gave Solomon great wisdom and made him king over His people. Solomon obeyed God and led the Israelites in building the temple, a place where God would dwell with His people and where they could worship Him. While Solomon was wise, he also learned that being wise isn’t thinking you know everything. To be wise we must fear God and follow Him. Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes to help people know that to be truly wise and live a life of purpose, they must trust in God and obey Him. Today, we will learn how the queen of Sheba heard about Solomon’s fame and came to visit him. ”



## LEARN the Bible Story

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

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 10:1-13. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Queen of Sheba Visited Solomon.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITED SOLOMON

“The queen of Sheba heard about King Solomon’s fame and how the Lord had given him great wisdom. So, she came to test Solomon with riddles. The queen of Sheba arrived in Jerusalem with a large group of people and camels carrying spices, gold, and precious stones.

The queen came and spoke to Solomon about everything that was on her mind. Solomon answered all of her questions; nothing was too difficult to explain to her. When the queen of Sheba observed all of Solomon’s wisdom, his impressive palace, the wonderful food he served, the houses of his servants, how well dressed and behaved his servants were, and the sacrifices made at the Lord’s temple, she was amazed.

The queen said to Solomon, “The report I heard in my own country about your wisdom is true. But I didn’t believe what I heard until I came and saw it with my own eyes. It turns out you have even more wisdom and wealth than I had heard about. Your people must be happy. Your servants are blessed to stand in your presence and hear your wisdom. May your God be blessed, for He delighted in you and put you on the throne of Israel, because He loves His people. He has made you king to carry out justice and righteousness.”

Then the queen gave King Solomon four and a half tons of gold, many spices, and precious stones. In addition, she gave him a large amount of wood which Solomon used to make steps for the Lord’s temple and Solomon’s palace. He also used the wood to make lyres and harps for the singers.

King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba everything she asked for. Then she and her servants returned to their own country.

Christ Connection: The queen of Sheba was amazed at the wisdom God had given King Solomon. The people who heard Jesus teach were amazed at His wisdom, authority, and power. Jesus has all wisdom, authority, and power because He is God’s Son who came to live, die, and rise again. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Act it out:** Assign kids different roles from the story. As you read, encourage them to act out the events that took place.

**Explain it:** Explain that no one knows the exact country the queen of Sheba was from, but most experts believe it was located somewhere around Arabia or Africa.



## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ King Solomon became famous for the wisdom the Lord had given him. Who heard of Solomon’s wisdom and came to visit him? **[Allow responses.]** The queen of Sheba came and tested Solomon with riddles and questions. She also brought many people, along with spices, gold, and precious stones. How was Solomon able to answer all of the queen’s questions? **[Allow responses.]** Solomon answered all the queen’s questions because of the great wisdom God gave Solomon. The queen paid attention to everything in Solomon’s kingdom. She was impressed by both Solomon’s wisdom and wealth.

What was the queen’s reaction to everything she saw in Solomon’s kingdom? **[Allow responses.]** She was amazed and knew that God’s people had been blessed by Solomon’s leadership and wisdom. The queen praised Israel’s God because He had loved and taken care of His people. Solomon used the wisdom God gave him to take care of the people.

**PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY THE WISDOM GOD GAVE SOLOMON.** While Jesus was on earth, people who heard Him teach were amazed at His wisdom, authority, and power. Jesus is greater than Solomon because Jesus has all wisdom, authority, and power. He is God’s Son who came to live, die, and rise again. ”

## 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** “ Solomon’s wisdom was great, but we have been given a greater wisdom. Jesus was not simply a wise teacher; He is the Son of God. Jesus is true Wisdom, and He died on the cross to save us from sin. When we repent and believe in Him, we are offered new life with Him forever. ”

(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 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why did people hate Jesus when all He did was teach, heal, and feed people?
2. Why do we need to believe in Jesus and not just be amazed at His power and wisdom?

## 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the “Orvil Reid Photos” as you tell kids about the missionary.

**SAY** “ Orvil Reid was a missionary to Mexico from 1938–1976. During his time in Mexico, Orvil wore many ministry ‘hats,’ such as performing strong-man feats, writing Christian literature, running Vacation Bible Schools, and planting churches. As a follower of Jesus, Orvil served the people of Mexico with meaning and purpose because he wanted them to trust in Jesus. ”

Play a traditional game of Mexico called, “Atrapa el Sombrero” or “Stealing the Sombrero.” Print copies of a paper sombrero for each kid. Using tape, attach a sombrero to each kid’s



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

back. Play some music, and direct kids to try and take another kid's sombrero without allowing theirs to be taken. Start and stop the music to signal the beginning and ending of each round. If kids lose their sombreros, they are out of the game. Play until only two kids remain in the game.

Close in prayer, thanking God for sending missionaries like Orvil Reid to tell the people of Mexico about Jesus. Ask God to help other missionaries follow His plan to make Jesus known throughout the world.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, print copies of the Key Passage Poster for each group of four kids. Then cut each poster into puzzle pieces, and place the pieces in a paper bag. Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Proverbs 3:7 together.

**SAY** “Our key passage reminds us that wisdom is not from ourselves; it is from God. Solomon used his wisdom to point the queen of Sheba and others to the one true God.”

Form kids into groups of four, and provide each group with a paper bag filled with the puzzle pieces. Challenge groups to work together to place the pieces together. Then invite kids to say the key passage aloud when their puzzle is complete.

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 that is found only in You. Help us turn away from sin and turn toward Your Son, Jesus. In everything that we do, may we point others to Jesus. 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 the table of contents. Guide kids to review the books of the Bible from Genesis to 1 Kings. Invite kids to say the books of the Bible in order from memory. Then guide kids to turn to 1 Kings 10 in their Bibles.

Consider pointing out Jerusalem (H5) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 10:8, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

**SAY** “ The people living in Jerusalem were happy because they had a good king who led them in wisdom. The queen of Sheba recognized how Solomon used his wisdom for the good of the people. He did what was right and fair. Solomon wanted the people to follow God.

When we follow Jesus, we become wise and happy too. Jesus is the greater King who always did what was right and good. Unlike Solomon, who did sin, Jesus never sinned. Even with all his wisdom, Solomon couldn’t take away the people’s sin. But Jesus can! People who trust in Him will be happy forever because all their sin will be forgiven. ”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “ How did Solomon’s wisdom bring glory to God? ”

Remind kids that the queen of Sheba praised God for Solomon’s wisdom and how the people in his kingdom were happy. Share how she recognized God’s love toward Solomon. When we remember that everything is from God and praise Him for how He cares for us, God receives the glory.

**SAY** “ Do we have to travel somewhere, like the queen of Sheba did, to find wisdom? Why not? ”

Share that true wisdom comes from God. Scripture reminds us that Jesus is the Word and through Him God has made Himself known to us (John 1:14). We don’t have to travel to find wisdom; it’s found in Jesus and God’s Word.

**SAY** “ Solomon’s wisdom led others to praise God. How can we point others to God? ”

Allow kids to think about how their lives can point others to God and His Son, Jesus. Prompt kids to remember that we can be wise like Solomon by faith in Jesus. Help kids understand that God gives each of us unique gifts that we can use to serve other people, encourage them, and share the gospel. Tell kids that when we obey God and His Word, we shine like stars in a dark world, pointing others to Jesus.

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





LIVE

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### ☐ OPTION 1: EGG-STRAVAGANZA!



Form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each group with four cups, each filled with 1 cup of water. Then distribute an egg, dried basil, cumin, cinnamon, salt, a measuring spoon, and a measuring cup to each group. Instruct the kids to place their egg in the first cup, and add 1 tablespoon of basil to the cup. Prompt them to observe what happens (the egg will sink). Repeat with the cumin and cinnamon, placing the egg in a new cup each time. All of the eggs should sink. Now, guide kids to place the egg in the last cup of water. Direct kids to add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of salt to the water. The egg will slowly start to float. Prompt kids to consider why the other eggs did not float, while the one with salt did. (The egg will float in the salt water because the water's density becomes greater than that of the egg.)

**SAY** “Only one spice made the egg rise to the surface. Only Jesus is the way to find true wisdom and forgiveness of sins. Jesus has all wisdom, authority, and power because He is God’s Son who came to live, die, and rise again so that we can live forever with Him.”

##### ☐ OPTION 2: CIRCLE SURVEY



Invite the kids to stand in a circle. Select one kid to be in the middle. The kid will close her eyes, hold her arm out, and turn slowly clockwise. The rest of the circle will move counterclockwise. When the kid in the middle says “stop,” the group will stop moving. Whomever her arm is pointing to will begin describing himself. The kid in the middle will then attempt to guess who is speaking based on his voice and description. The kid who described himself will now be in the middle. Play this until all the kids have taken a turn in the middle.

**SAY** “When you heard your friends speak and describe themselves, you recognized them! The queen of Sheba had been told about Solomon’s wisdom, but when she heard him speak, she was amazed. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY THE WISDOM GOD GAVE SOLOMON.** God has spoken to us through Jesus and the Bible. When we read the Bible, we learn more about God and can grow in wisdom by following Jesus and obeying Him. Trusting in Jesus as your Savior is the first step to become wise.”

#### 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.