

WEEK 4 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives us
true wisdom.

BIBLE

Solomon's Wise Ruling:
1 Kings 3:19–28

ABOUT THIS WEEK

From knowing which crews to hire to the best type of tool to use, construction sites are places where important decisions are made. This week, we'll hear about how Solom used wisdom and compassion to make a decision to settle a dispute between two women. Solomon had a unique response to his situation, which helps us to see how **God gives us true wisdom**.

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Which To Pick?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, clear an open space and gather the kids in the middle. Have kids pick between two things and run to one side or the other. Make sure you clearly point to which side pertains to each answer choice. Have them run back to the middle before asking the next question.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers might get confused about these choices if they won't be getting these items. Instead, you could help them choose what they want to play with right now or choose between two types of stickers.
- We are going to play a game where you get to pick what you like. Run to the corner I point to that matches your answer.
 - **Pizza or chicken nuggets?**
 - **Books or puzzles?**
 - **Ice cream or cookies?**
 - **Purple or green?**
 - **Milk or juice?**
 - **Stuffies or cars?**
- In our Bible story today, we will hear about how King Solomon had to pick between two hard choices. Let's see what King Solomon chooses.

ACTIVITY | Follow The Baby

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play follow the leader, but instead of following you, the kids will follow the movements of a baby doll that you will move around to match the actions listed below.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Point out the baby doll's features and ask toddlers to show you their eyes, nose, mouth, ears, and hands.
- Let's play a silly game of follow the leader. Today, we are going to play follow the baby! It's so silly!
- **Can you follow the baby and ...**
 - **Hop?**

- Sit?
- Go to sleep?
- Stand up?
- Wiggle?
- Wave hi?
- Do tummy time?
- **Why did we follow the baby?** Our Bible story will have a baby in it. Let's listen to hear about what happened to the baby in the Bible story.

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | 1 Kings 3:19–28 (Solomon's Wise Ruling)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below! Additionally, have a sound bite of [construction noise](#) playing in the background and decorate your space with items like caution tape, construction signs, and blueprints. As you tell the Bible story, there will be fun directions for the kids to follow. Hold your Bible in your lap as you tell the Bible story.
- Decisions, decisions, decisions! When you build something, you have to pick what color you will make the walls and how many windows you will have. There are lots of things to decide when you are building. You have to use lots of wisdom.
 - **Who can tell me the name of the king that had lots of wisdom?** You got it! King Solomon!
 - **How did Solomon get this incredible amount of wisdom?** Solomon asked God for wisdom, and God said yes!
- God's wisdom helps us make good decisions and choose to do the right thing. Today, we are going to learn about a really big decision King Solomon had to make.
 - When people in the land needed to figure something out, they would come to King Solomon. They knew that Solomon was wise and would help them pick the right thing to do.
 - **Say, "Can you help us, King Solomon?"** Yes, he can!
- Two women came to Solomon. They lived in the same house.
 - One night, one woman's baby died. It was very sad. But then, she took away the other woman's baby!
 - **Can you shout, "That's not her baby!" with me?**
- So now the two women were fighting over the one baby. They both told the king that it was their baby. But only one woman was the real mother.
 - **Hold up both of your hands by your shoulders and say, "What do we do?"**
 - How could Solomon pick? If he got this wrong, a mom and her baby would be separated forever. So King Solomon used the wisdom given to him by God.
 - **Put your hands together, look up to heaven, and let's ask God to help King Solomon.**
- King Solomon had a wacky idea. He had someone bring him a sword. He didn't hurt anyone. But he said that nobody would get the baby if they could not agree on who the baby belonged to.
 - That's when one of the women cried out. She begged King Solomon not to harm the baby. She said the other woman could take the baby as long as the baby would not be hurt.
 - **Stand up and put your arm out and say, "Please stop!"**
 - This is how King Solomon knew who the real mother was. He gave the baby to her and the problem was solved right away!
 - **Wipe your forehead and say, "Phew!"**
- When it looked like there was no way out, Solomon used God's wisdom and came up with the answer. It shows that the wisdom Solomon had was true. It came from God!

BIG IDEA | God gives us true wisdom.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the session, put the poster of the Big Idea (available in the Graphics folder) at the bottom of a sheet pan and cover the poster with dried black beans. Let the kids use toy construction vehicles to push the beans off the "road" to see the poster underneath.
- **Our Big Idea today is God gives us true wisdom.**
 - **God** (point both hands to the sky)
 - **gives us** (pretend to give someone a gift with both hands)
 - **true wisdom.** (point to your head)

VIDEO | Under Construction, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Match The Babies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the printable on cardstock paper and cut each page in half. Lay out the cards face down in the middle of the room and have kids sit in a circle around it. Invite one kid to flip two cards over. If it is a match, remove the cards from the circle. If not, they have to turn them face down again. Encourage kids to help the person flipping the cards to locate the correct matches.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Lay all the cards facing up. Point to the mother or the baby animal and have the toddlers find the matching card. Remove the cards from the pile and line them up on the side. Then go over each animal pairing and make animal noises together!
- We have some mommies here and some babies. **Are we wise enough to figure out which babies go with which mommies?**
- **Who was the king in our story who helped match the baby to his real mother?** That's right, King Solomon!
- King Solomon used the wisdom God gave him to make the best choice. **God gives us true wisdom**, too!

PRAYER

- God, we love you. You give us food. You give us families. You give us true wisdom. Help us to make good choices. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | You Choose!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prior to the session, prepare two drink options (like water and lemonade) and two snack options (like crackers and chips).
- Just like King Solomon had to pick which mom the baby belonged to, you will pick for yourself what snack and what drink you want.
- **Why did you choose that snack and drink?**
- God helps us make good choices every day. When we don't know what to do, we can always ask God because **God gives us true wisdom.**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prior to the session, get some tiny baby figures like [these](#). Sit in a circle together. Hide a baby figure in one hand and hold out both fists. Give each kid a turn to guess which hand the baby figure is in. If they guess correctly, ask them a question from the Bible story.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Small items like tiny baby figures will pose a choking hazard to toddlers. Instead, pass around a baby doll they can hold. Count to five together and have them pass it to their friend.

- **Who was the wise king?** *King Solomon.*
- **Where did Solomon get his wisdom?** *God.*
- **How many women asked for the king's help to decide who the baby belonged to?** *Two.*
- **How did King Solomon know who the real mother was?** *She was the one who did not want the baby to get hurt.*
- **Who gives us true wisdom?** *God.*

ACTIVITY | Baby Blanket Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prior to the session, cut fabric or scrapbook paper into one-inch squares for kids to glue on paper to make a baby blanket. Preschoolers may not be able to put the squares in neat rows or patterns but will enjoy choosing their own colors and layout.*
- You get to make a baby blanket like the baby from the Bible story might have used. Pick what colors you want for your baby blanket.
- I am glad that King Solomon was wise enough to find the baby's real mom. **God gives us true wisdom.**

MEMORY VERSE | James 1:5 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.*
- **"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."**

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute [this coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.*
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Remember, toddlers will learn the truths of the Bible and who God is from the words you say to them. Be sure to repeat the Big Idea and the basics of the Bible story over and over throughout the session.*

ACTIVITY | Baby Care Center

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Put blankets and baby dolls into small boxes to set up a pretend nursery or daycare. Add baby wipes, bottles, and baby toys to the area.*

ACTIVITY | Construction Zone

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fill a kiddie pool with playground sand or shredded tan paper and bury small or toy items like plastic cones, construction vehicles, construction hats, shovels, and buckets. Feel free to save this for later weeks.*