

WEEK 5 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God helps us
do big things.

BIBLE

The Queen of Sheba Visits: 2 Chronicles
9:1–12; Psalm 124

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Building on your own can take years and years, but that's why we have construction crews to help us. This week, we'll hear the story of the time when the Queen of Sheba saw God through Solomon's wisdom. Solomon knew his wisdom and kingdom weren't from his own efforts, and his generosity towards the queen shows us how **God helps us do big things.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

Wow, we've been *under construction* for a long time! We have been learning about how to follow God's directions, make requests to God, take time to worship God, and ask for God's true wisdom along the way. Today is the final day of construction, and that means something big. Let's see what it is!

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Bridge Building

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need to give each team an assortment of materials, like plastic cups, straws, pipe-cleaners, and craft sticks. If you have a large group, have kids get into teams of three to eight each. To play, have teams use their materials to build a bridge that will hold the most weight. Here is an [example](#).
- ✳ **PRETEEN HACK:** Challenge preteens to use materials like string, clothespins, sticks or straws, and paper to make a [suspension bridge](#) instead.
- Today, we're talking about doing big things with God's help. Speaking of big things, let's imagine your construction company has been contracted to build a bridge that can hold and transport a car.
- Think big! When we work together, think about solutions, and apply wisdom, we are able to do some challenging and big things.

ACTIVITY | Construction Caravan

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need to give each team a bucket of "gems" (bouncy balls like [these](#)), an empty bucket, and a [shovel](#). Place all buckets of gems at a starting line and the empty buckets at the other end. To play this relay race, have teams line up at the starting line. The first person in line must take out a gem using the [shovel](#), carry it to the other side to deposit it into the bucket, and pass the shovel to the next player. Keep going until the one team transports all their gems or count whoever has the most gems in their bucket at the end of an allotted amount of time.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Consider giving multiple shovels to each team and adjust the play as follows to make this more challenging for preteens. Have preteens pass the "gems" from their shovel to their teammate's shovel, all the way down to the bucket without losing as many "gems" as possible.

✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Have kids dig the "gems" out of kinetic sand using their hands or sand shovels.

- Thank you for digging up and transporting all those precious gems! In today's Bible story, we'll find out that a queen from a faraway land took a caravan of precious treasures to meet King Solomon.
- **What type of gift would you bring if you were to meet a king?**

POLL | Big, Bigger, Biggest

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Indicate three spots on the floor, like with tape, far apart from each other that indicate "big," "bigger," and "biggest." When you read off one of the challenges below, ask kids to move to whether they think it's a big thing (but doable), a bigger thing (so they'd need help), or the biggest thing (seemingly impossible).

✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** To include kids with mobility impairments who may prefer to stay in one place, show them how to use their fingers or arms to indicate whether something will be a big, bigger, or the biggest challenge. Be considerate of their feelings if you choose to name a challenge that has to do with a physical skill.

- **How big do you think the following challenges are?**
 - Washing the dishes.
 - Getting a perfect score on a math test.
 - Becoming famous on YouTube.
 - Learning how to do a cartwheel.
 - Memorizing five phone numbers.
 - Eating all your vegetables (including mushrooms, cauliflower, and brussel sprouts!).
 - Getting along with someone who annoys you.
 - Having no screen time for a month.
 - Learning a new language.
- Think about something you're really good at right now. Were you always good at it? It probably felt like a really big thing at first but over time and with practice, it got easier and didn't feel as big and daunting as it once did.
- Today's Bible story will remind us that God is leading us to do big things as we grow, but we have to always remember it's God who helps us achieve them because it is **God who helps us do big things!**

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | 2 Chronicles 9:1–12 (The Queen of Sheba Visits)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have a [sound bite](#) of construction noise playing in the background. Wear a construction hat and anything else to add to the construction vibe. Have your space decorated with items like caution tape, construction signs, blueprints, traffic cones, and more.
- Well, crew, our construction is just about complete! We've worked really hard all month, and all that hard work is going to pay off big. The best part of a construction job well done is that lots of people can come to enjoy the fruit of our labors!
 - King Solomon was no stranger to construction. He hired expert builders and imported all the finest materials for God's temple and his palace.
 - Once all that building was complete, his kingdom was a wonder to behold ... so much so that rumors of Solomon's splendor spread to neighboring lands and beyond.

- **Let's read 2 Chronicles 9:1.**

- At this time in history, there were no cell phones, Google, or social media. Someone couldn't go on the internet to look up pictures or chat online. If you wanted FaceTime, you'd have to travel and meet with someone face-to-face.
- So the Queen of Sheba traveled somewhere between 1,200 to 1,500 miles to meet Solomon. She even brought a caravan of people carrying spices, gold, and precious gems.
- **What would inspire someone to travel all that distance?**

- **Let's read 2 Chronicles 9:2–4.**

- Not only had the queen heard about Solomon's riches, but she had also heard of his great wisdom. When she asked all her questions, even the most difficult ones she could think of, Solomon did not disappoint. He was able to answer all of them with ease.
- **If you were the queen, what kinds of questions would you have asked?**
- The queen was amazed and overwhelmed by all of the big things she encountered ... Solomon's wisdom, the grand palace he had constructed, the food he had laid out for meals, the clothes he and his servants wore, and the massive burnt offerings he gave in the temple. She was impressed with Solomon ... but even she knew that someone else deserved all the credit!

- **Let's read 2 Chronicles 9:5–8.**

- The Queen of Sheba told Solomon that what she saw with her own eyes was far greater than what she had heard.
- But she knew that all of this came from God—she praised God for placing Solomon on the throne and helping him rule over the people well. This was no small feat Solomon had accomplished, and it was only possible because of God!

- **Let's read 2 Chronicles 9:9–12.**

- What an exchange. The Queen of Sheba brought many riches with her to give to King Solomon, but what she got in return was far greater than what she came with.
- He was able to be so generous because God had been more than generous in blessing him and his kingdom.

- God was with King Solomon, and because of that, Solomon was able to do some incredibly big things!

BIG IDEA | God helps us do big things.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the words of the Big Idea on pieces of large painter's tape and attach them to one side of large cardboard building blocks (like [these](#) or make your own using tissue boxes). Stack them up so that the words are on the back. Create a "wrecking ball" by attaching a beach ball or indoor [sensory ball](#) to the ceiling or high fixture using string and duct tape. Allow kids to swing the ball to knock down the blocks (you can also have kids simply throw the ball). Have kids help you restack the blocks in order of the Big Idea.
- What a build-up to the Big Idea! Let's say the Big Idea together: **God helps us do big things.**

VIDEO | A Clip Of Completing A Big Construction Project

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, so how this [clip](#), or something like it, about how a construction worker cataloged the hard work he and his crew put into rebuilding an interstate in record time. We always suggest viewing the clip before hand to make sure you think it's a video that will be a good fit for your context! For more information on legally using copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
 - ✖ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** The "big things" for kids with disabilities might not be intuitive to their able-bodied peers. Encourage kids to be curious and empathetic about those things they do not quite understand while focusing on the truth that God helps us do big things.
- Fixing a damaged part of a road that a lot of people travel on is different from putting up a new building. There is pressure from everyone to finish the job quickly. That's why a construction crew sometimes works

through the night so that the job can get done quickly and people can use the road again.

- In the video we saw, people were being "haters" and saying that the crew wouldn't be able to get it done in time. But the crew pressed on and completed a big construction project in eight short days.
- There will be times in our lives when we will be asked to do something big. When that happens, there might be people who tell us we can't do it. But if God is with us, that's not something we have to worry about because we know that God helps us do big things!

ACTIVITY | Ten Questions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need to prepare a list of words from the Bible story (queen, Solomon, camels, gems, questions, palace, spices, gold). Feel free to include words from previous weeks to level it up. To play, pick one word and have kids take turns asking you "yes or no" questions until someone in the group guesses the correct word. If the group can't guess the correct word after the tenth question, have everyone make a silly sound or dance together!*
- Wow, you all asked some really good questions! I bet they were as intelligent as the ones the queen asked Solomon in today's Bible story. Even the toughest question was a piece of cake for Solomon because God gave him wisdom.
 - **But who remembers how Solomon got that wisdom?** That's right, he asked God!
 - He knew he would need wisdom when he became the new king, so that's what he asked for instead of riches and power. But because Solomon had made such a noble request, God gave him those things anyway.
- Our memory verse for the month reminds us that we can always ask God for wisdom. We can ask God anything. God won't limit us to only ten questions. **God helps us do big things**, and one way that God helps is by allowing us to ask as many questions as we want!

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 124

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids close their eyes and listen as you read these verses to them.*
- **In the first part of this Scripture, what is the psalmist saying would have happened without God?** The author keeps saying, "If the Lord had not been on our side." They wouldn't have survived without God helping them to do such big things.
- God helps us when we are in trouble. God helps us when we don't know what to do or where to turn. When we feel trapped, God helps us find a way out. Verse 8 says that our help comes from the very God who created all things. It's not just anyone who helps us do big things. **God helps us do big things!**
- Not only does God help us, but God does big things all the time. **What are some big things God has done in the Bible?**
- God did the biggest thing for us by sending Jesus. And God helped Jesus do the big thing he needed to do—dying on the cross and coming back to life. Because of Jesus, we can talk to God anytime, anywhere, and ask for help and guidance!

VIDEO | *Under Construction*, Episode 5

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

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Construction Break!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ring a bell or play an alarm on your phone to pretend you are taking a construction break! Invite kids to sit casually around the room and provide a snack if you'd like! For today's sharing and reflection*

time, use the [image provided](#) of a "Workers Ahead" sign as you talk with kids.

- It's time for a construction break! We built up our knowledge of God's words today with the story of how the Queen of Sheba traveled a far distance to see if the rumors about Solomon's wisdom and wealth were true. They were! It was a sign of God's favor and blessing that Solomon was doing all these big things!
- Signs play a big role in a construction zone. Take the "Workers Ahead" sign, for example. Construction usually requires heavy machinery and vehicles, but the most important element is the construction crew—actual people who are working at the site. These signs help cars know to slow down and watch out for construction workers who might be by the side of the road.
 - **In what ways might Solomon have worked to bring about his success and fame?**
 - **How do we know that it was God who helped him achieve all these big things?**
- King Solomon worked hard on everything he built for his kingdom. But he was only able to do all those great and mighty things because of God. God still does big things, and **God helps us do big things**, too.
 - **What are some big things God does today?**

RESPONSE | I Can Do Big Things

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use hard hats like [these](#). Give everyone one hat and a permanent marker. You can have kids write directly on their hard hats or write on blank labels or pieces of tape and attach them.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Print a picture of a simple construction hat like [this](#). Have kids draw examples of big things they can do for the people around them. Help them brainstorm ideas if they need help.
- **God helps us do big things, but what counts as a big thing?** Sometimes the biggest thing to someone can actually be really small, like a hug, encouraging words, or someone to just tell you everything is going to be okay. Sometimes these seemingly small things make the biggest impact. That makes it a big thing!
- **What are some big things you could do ...**
 - **For a family member?**
 - **For a friend?**
 - **For your teacher?**
 - **To help your community?**
- Write your ideas on your hats and then put on your hats. It's time to get to work, everyone! We've got big things to do!

MEMORY VERSE | James 1:5 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Give preteens a "big" job to do such as an opportunity to teach the verse to the rest of the group!
- **"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."**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for all the big things you do! Help us to go to you when we have big things of our own to do. We know that we are always lovingly under construction by you, and we'll forever put our trust in your guidance and wisdom. Amen.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DISCUSSION

● SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- **Why did the Queen of Sheba make the journey to come and visit Solomon?** *To see for herself if everything she had heard about Solomon was true.*
- **How did the Queen of Sheba know that Solomon had great wisdom?** *He was able to answer all the difficult questions she asked him.*
- **Who did the Queen of Sheba give credit to for everything Solomon has been able to do?** *God.*
- **Read Psalm 124:8. Where can we look for help in anything we do?** *God, the maker of heaven and earth.*

● APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **What are some big things you want to do for God?**
- **How will others see God through the big things you want to do?**
- **What can we do when we need help doing big things? Who can we go to? Who are some people who can help us with our tasks?**

ACTIVITY | Big Idea Toolbox

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need to give each kid a [blank gift box](#). You may need to help them assemble the boxes. To make this toolbox, have kids write today's Big Idea (or all the ones from this series) then draw pictures of construction tools or vehicles to decorate. You can print out copies of the series graphic for kids to cut and paste and provide [construction stickers](#).*
- As we went *under construction* this month, we learned a lot through the story of Solomon:
 - **God gives us directions to follow.**
 - **God listens to our requests.**
 - **God is worthy of our worship.**
 - **God gives us true wisdom.**
 - **God helps us do big things.**
- It's wonderful to have all of these amazing truths to carry with us in our toolbox for life!