

WEEK 2 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God listens
to our requests.

BIBLE

Solomon Asks For Wisdom: 1 Kings
3:1–15; Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23

ABOUT THIS WEEK

The thing about construction sites is that they are so loud it can be hard to know if anyone hears what you're saying. This week, we'll take a look at the time Solomon asked God to give him something every person in leadership needs— wisdom. Solomon's story reminds us that no matter how loud things get in our lives, **God listens to our requests.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

Good morning, crew! Ready to continue on our building project? We are still building around the story of King Solomon. Last time, his throne was nearly stolen by his brother Adonijah. Now that he's the king of Israel, what plans might God have for him? Let's *dig* into the Bible and see how Solomon wanted to be built by God.

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Stable Structures

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need raw spaghetti noodles and marshmallows of various sizes. Feel free to add in more materials like toothpicks or gumdrops. To play, have kids work in groups of five to twelve. Set a time limit of three to five minutes. Have kids attempt to build the tallest structure possible. When time is up, let everyone see each other's creations. Use a plastic table cloth on the ground for each group to make clean up easy and protect your floors.*
 - ✦ **PRETEEN HACK:** *To level up this activity for preteens, have them try to copy a famous structure like the Eiffel Tower, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Statue of Liberty, Arc de Triomphe, or Louvre Museum. You can also incorporate the earthquake test, and see if their structure can withstand the shakes.*
- **What part of your structure helps it be stable?** Yes, the foundation.
- It doesn't matter what else you build on top—if the foundation is weak, there's a chance the whole thing could topple over.
- Today, we'll see what Solomon thought would be the foundation of being a good king!

ACTIVITY | Slow Or Stop

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a [Stop Slow double-sided sign](#) (or make your own using paper plates and a paint stirrer stick). Play construction site sound effects ([like this](#)), turning up the volume so that it'll be challenging to talk over the noise. To play, have kids roam around the room, shake hands with everyone,*

and try to talk to each other. When the sign is on "slow," kids have to move in slow motion. When the sign is on "stop," they have to freeze in their last position. The first person you spot moving is the new sign holder. Keep passing on the sign to the next person who gets out first. Keep playing until only one or a few remain.

✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Provide earplugs or noise-cancelling headphones for kids with auditory sensitivities.

- CONSTRUCTION SITES ARE VERY LOUD! There are jackhammers drilling, dump trucks reversing, and all sorts of machinery whirring. A lot of construction workers wear ear muffs to drown out the noise, but even without them, it would be hard to hear each other anyway. That's why when you're on a construction site, it's important to pay attention to signs!
- In today's story, we see that Solomon wanted to listen to God's voice more than anyone else's as he started out as king. The great news is ... God wanted to listen to Solomon, too!

QUESTION | What would you ask for if you could get anything?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the questions below, and let kids share what they would ask for. You could also have kids write or draw their responses on sticky notes and have everyone come to the front and post them on a wall or board.
- **If someone said they would give you anything you asked for, what would you ask for?**
- **After hearing everyone's ideas, would you change your answer to a different one? Why?**
- You all had some creative answers! I can see why getting those things might be fun or helpful. In today's Bible story, we'll learn that God asked Solomon this question, and his answer was quite unexpected!

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

SCRIPTURE | 1 Kings 3:1–15 (Solomon Asks for Wisdom)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have a [sound bite](#) of construction noise playing as background noise. 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, or traffic cones.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Preteens may engage more if given technology to use. For modules that involve reading Scripture, allow preteens to use their phones for Bibles.
- Welcome back to *Under Construction*! As you can see, we are still under construction. And yes, it does seem even noisier than last week! So many people are on this site to get the job done, and everyone has an opinion of how it should be done. And they don't always agree.
 - That kind of reminds me of what Solomon might have been going through when he became king. His road to the throne was a little shaky, what with his brother trying to steal it from him and all, but eventually, all went according to God's plan. Solomon became the next king of Israel and Judah.
 - Solomon was young when he became king. It was a huge responsibility to run an entire kingdom. But he knew, as his dad David had taught him, that all he had to do was love God and follow all God's directions.
- **Let's read 1 Kings 3:4–5.**
 - After Solomon gave an offering, God appeared to him in a dream during the night. God told Solomon, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."
 - **What do you think a ruler needs most to run a kingdom? Do you think Solomon asked for those things?**
- **Let's find out in 1 Kings 3:7–9.**
 - We don't know Solomon's exact age, but by his own description, he was very young. He wanted to make sure that he could lead and serve God's people well.

- **If you became a ruler right now, who might be coming to tell you how to run the kingdom?**
- Solomon may have had a lot of people around him making a lot of noise. All those people giving their opinions to Solomon must have made it confusing and difficult for him to make the right decisions. Above all, he wanted to follow God and do what was right and good.
- That's how he knew exactly what to ask for. He asked for wisdom, a heart that was able to make good decisions for God's people. He knew that if he had God's wisdom, everything else would fall into place.
- **How do you think God responded?**
- **Let's read 1 Kings 3:10–15.**
 - Solomon's request for great wisdom was pleasing to God. God granted Solomon just what he asked for. But because of Solomon's selfless request, God also gave him great riches and honor.
 - God let Solomon know having wisdom and riches wouldn't be enough, and Solomon would also need to continue following God. If he kept God's commands, he was guaranteed a good, long life! After this incredible dream, Solomon woke up and praised God with more offerings.
- Solomon's request was selfless and lined up with God's plans. Like Solomon, we can take our plans, ideas, and requests to the architect, God, who oversees the blueprints for our lives. We know God wants what is best for us and will always listen.

BIG IDEA | God listens to our requests.

- **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 listens to our requests.**

VIDEO | A Clip Of Construction Sounds

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, show this [clip](#) (or something similar) that shows different sounds in a construction zone. We always suggest viewing the clip beforehand 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!](#)
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** There are some activities involving identifying construction sounds. For kids from the Deaf or Hard of Hearing community, use word clues instead of sound effects and turn on closed captioning for all videos.
- **What were some of the sounds that could be heard on a construction site?**
- **Do you think it would be easy or difficult for people to talk to each other in such a zone?**
- I would imagine that all of us around the world praying to God with our requests would sound like a construction zone! Is it even possible that God could hear me from all the voices that are being lifted up to God every day?
- You know what? It is possible!
- God is always listening to you no matter what noises are around you. It can never be too noisy for God to hear you. God wants to hear from you. Despite all the noise of our lives, we can be confident that **God listens to our requests.**

OBJECT LESSON | Scaffolding

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this object lesson, you'll need to duct tape two or three pool noodles together so it's wide enough to walk on. You can invite kids to help with this! During the activity, show an image of scaffolding

([like this](#)) to provide context.

- Scaffolding is a structure built to support a construction crew and all their tools. The scaffolding helps them reach all the areas they need to work on and be safe.
- Imagine these pool noodles were scaffolding. **Who would like to walk on it?**
- Now, as you're walking on it, imagine you are outside a ten-story building! The only thing holding you up is the scaffolding. Construction workers have to trust the scaffolding to hold them up.
- God is our support and holds us up when we feel we have nothing else. You can always count on God to be there for you. The best part is ... God isn't just there. God loves us, God hears us, and **God listens to our requests.**

SCRIPTURE | Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids close their eyes and listen as you read these verses to them.
 - ✦ **PRETEEN HACK:** Make this activity more interactive for preteens. Split kids into groups and assign each group two of the verses to read. Within their groups, have them discuss how those verses demonstrate the wisdom God gave Solomon. Invite a kid from each group to share their summary.
- The verses we just read come from the book of Proverbs, a collection of wise sayings. Can you guess who wrote these words? You guessed it ... Solomon!
- If you remember why Solomon asked God for wisdom in today's Bible story, he said it was because he wanted to know right from wrong. He wanted to be a king that would rule God's people well. So, God gave Solomon great wisdom. If we examine Solomon's words in Proverbs, we can see God gave him the wisdom he requested!
- **What are some of the wise things Solomon said in this collection of proverbs we just read?** We can summarize them this way:
 - There are things more valuable than riches.
 - God loves everyone equally.
 - People who mistreat others will not succeed for long.
 - People who give to others will receive blessings.
 - God helps those in need and wants us to do the same.
- It's only because of the wisdom God gave Solomon that he could understand and share these truths with others. And Solomon got his wisdom because he made his request known to God, and God listened!
- God always does. Jesus came to earth as an answer to the people's requests thousands of years ago. God's people had been waiting for a savior for a long time, and then one day, God sent Jesus!
- Aren't you glad **God listens to our requests?**

VIDEO | *Under Construction*, Episode 2

- **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 "Construction Zone" 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 Solomon asked God for wisdom. All signs point to God being happy with Solomon's request!

- Signs play a big role in a construction zone. Take the "Construction Zone" sign, for example. Even though you could see all the construction vehicles and materials beyond the fence, the sign lets people know for sure that only authorized construction people can enter and that it's not a safe place to play or even walk through.
 - **How do you know Solomon knew he was "still under construction," meaning he still had a lot to learn?**
 - **What do you think would have happened if Solomon asked for something other than wisdom?**
 - **Have you ever asked God for something that you thought you needed more than anything? What happened?**
 - **Does God listen to all of our requests? Why do you think that?**
- God offered to give Solomon anything he could ever want, and Solomon chose the most valuable thing to ask for. Solomon knew that in order to be a good king, he needed God's wisdom more than anything. So God listened to his request, just like we know that **God listens to our requests.**

RESPONSE | Make Your Requests

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids sit in groups of two or three. Let kids know we will take some time to talk to God by praying. Give them a few moments to get their wiggles out. If you have a group struggling to sit still, help them slow down by taking a few slow, deep breaths. Conclude this time by praying for the whole group.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Provide calming sensory toys for kids to engage with as you invite them to share what they would ask God for or simply talk about what it means to have God listen to them, whether their requests are spoken out loud or quietly in their hearts.*
- Let's practice taking our requests to God. God is listening to us right now, just like God always is. You can talk to God about anything, but let's try a few together. I will start with something to talk to God about, and in your groups, you can each take a turn talking to God about your own requests!
- **What request do you have for God about ...**
 - **Your school?**
 - **Your church?**
 - **Your family?**
 - **Your world?**
- God knows what we need before we even ask. Asking God shows that we know everything we need can only come from God. And when we ask God, **God listens to our requests.**

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!*
- **"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, it is so wonderful that you listen to our requests. Help us to have full confidence that you can and want to answer us. Thank you so much for providing what we need and more. Amen.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **What did Solomon ask God for?** *Wisdom.*

- **Why did Solomon ask for wisdom instead of other things like riches and honor?** *He wanted to serve God's people well, he knew he was young and needed help governing the people.*
- **What was God's response to Solomon's request?** *God was pleased with Solomon. God gave him great wisdom and even blessed him with more than he asked for.*
- **Read Proverbs 22:1–2. How do these words written by Solomon show that God listened to his request for wisdom?**
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **What are some things that we can ask God for?**
 - **What do you think it means if God doesn't give us something we request?**
 - **How can we be sure God always listens to us?**

ACTIVITY | Wisdom Cones

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need to give each kid an empty toilet paper or paper towel roll that has been cut in half, orange construction paper, a blank label, white tape, and a precut circle of orange construction paper roughly four to five inches in diameter. To make this, have kids cut their orange paper to size so it covers their tube then glue or tape it down to look like a traffic cone. Have kids add white tape [like this](#) to create the stripes on their cone. Have them write the Big Idea on the blank labels and stick it on one of the stripes. Then, have kids tape the orange circle to the bottom side of the cone. See a worked example [here](#).*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *To simplify this activity, provide precut pieces of orange paper to cover the cardboard tubes. Additionally, instead of handling tape for the stripes on the cone, precut strips of white paper that kids can glue on.*
- **What is the purpose of a construction cone?** Yes, it alerts people that there is construction work up ahead.
- Solomon knew he was a work in progress so he humbly asked for God's help. So can we!
- Our cones can remind us that we will never be perfect and know all things. Even though we may forever be under construction, God's working with us and we can know that **God listens to our requests!**