

SHARE GOD'S WISDOM

CORE PASSAGE: 1 KINGS 10:1-10

CONTEXT

When the Lord gave Solomon the opportunity to ask for anything of Him, Solomon humbly requested wisdom. This pleased the Lord, who also blessed Solomon with great wealth and honor. News of Solomon's wealth, renown, and especially his wisdom spread among the nations surrounding Israel, and emissaries were sent from those nations to listen to and learn from Solomon's great wisdom. The queen of Sheba—modern-day Ethiopia or Yemen—was one who came to Jerusalem to see for herself if what she had heard about King Solomon was true.

KEY CONCEPT

Sharing God's wisdom points people to Him.

As you read 1 Kings 10:1-10:

- Consider that as believers, we always have opportunities to share godly wisdom with others.
- Recognize that as we live out our faith, God's love should be seen by others who don't yet know Him.



TIMELINE

Solomon Becomes King upon David's Death (1 Kings 1–2)

Solomon Wrote Numerous Proverbs
and Songs (1 Kings 4)

SESSION STUDY: The Queen of Sheba Visits
Solomon to Observe His Wisdom (1 Kings 10)

Solomon Asks the Lord for Wisdom
(1 Kings 3)

Solomon Builds the Temple
and His Palace (1 Kings 5–9)

Solomon's Foolish Idolatry Divides the Kingdom (1 Kings 11–12)

Daily Readings

☐ **Day 1:** 1 Kings 9:10-28

☐ **Day 2:** 2 Chronicles 8:1-18

☐ **Day 3:** 1 Kings 10:1-13

☐ **Day 4:** 1 Kings 10:14-29

☐ **Day 5:** 2 Chronicles 9:1-28

☐ **Day 6:** Psalm 67



Scan this QR code to access
this session's Scripture passages.

GOD GIVES US WISDOM TO SHARE WITH OTHERS TO POINT TO HIMSELF (1 KINGS 10:1-7).

Underline the queen of Sheba's purpose and conclusion in this passage.

1 The queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's fame connected with the name of the LORD and came to test him with difficult questions. **2** She came to Jerusalem with a very large entourage, with camels bearing spices, gold in great abundance, and precious stones. She came to Solomon and spoke to him about everything that was on her mind. **3** So Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too difficult for the king to explain to her. **4** When the queen of Sheba observed all of Solomon's wisdom, the palace he had built, **5** the food at his table, his servants' residence, his attendants' service and their attire, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he offered at the LORD's temple, it took her breath away. **6** She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your words and about your wisdom is true. **7** But I didn't believe the reports until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, I was not even told half. Your wisdom and prosperity far exceed the report I heard."

The nation of Sheba likely was a polytheistic kingdom that worshiped multiple gods with dominions over specific parts of life or locations. Yet the queen of Sheba heard of the Lord's name in Israel because of Solomon's fame, and this intrigued her and drew her to visit Solomon in Jerusalem. She probably didn't come to worship the Lord, if she even believed in His existence, but she came to "test" Solomon, and that would reveal the truth of the Lord.

The queen, like all humanity, had access to general revelation, God's self-disclosure to all people through creation and human conscience (Rom. 1:18-25). But as with all humanity, our sinful nature twists this creation revelation into something we worship in place of the Creator. Therefore, all humanity stands before the Lord without excuse for their rejection of Him. But the Lord has also provided special revelation, His self-disclosure through His Word to all readers, which culminates in the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, for our forgiveness and salvation from sin (Rom. 10:9-15). Solomon's wisdom served as a special revelation of God to Israel and the nations, including the queen of Sheba.

LEADER NOTE: "Preach the gospel, and use words when necessary" is a quote used among believers and often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, but it's never recorded that he said this. He did, in fact, preach the gospel with words, as is necessary and commanded in Scripture (Matt. 28:18-20). It is true that our actions should reflect Christ's life and teachings, but we can't leave our gospel proclamation there because that would be no more effective than general revelation. We must verbally proclaim Jesus as Savior and Lord.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

EVANGELISM: It is the duty and privilege of every Christian and of every church of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations. The new birth by the Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort thus rests upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in Christ's teaching. Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle.

What are some ways you can incorporate the good news of Jesus in your everyday conversations?

For the queen of Sheba, the clear evidence of God's favor in Solomon's life "took her breath away" (1 Kings 10:5). This was significant considering how wealthy she and her kingdom were based on her entourage and presentation upon arriving in Jerusalem (v. 2). But keeping in mind that she came to test Solomon, the wisdom the king showed in answering her questions was as breathtaking or more so than the evidence of his wealth (vv. 1-7).

Imagine having a friend or professional counselor who could explain and answer everything on your mind. What would your response be? Awe, respect, maybe even willing submission to whatever they say. But above all, we would wonder at the source of their wisdom. How could we not, for such wisdom cannot have an earthly origin. God's wisdom gifted to Solomon amazed the queen of Sheba. But God had an even greater gift in store for the world.

LEADER NOTE: The queen's experience with Solomon far exceeded what she had been told about him (vv. 6-7). Not every interaction with nonbelievers will generate the same result, but we should make it our aim that everyone will see and hear of the wisdom of God in Christ through their interactions with us (1 Cor. 1:18-31).

How can you grow in your understanding of godly wisdom to help point others to Jesus?

OUR JOY AND BLESSINGS SHOULD LEAD OTHERS TO KNOW OF GOD (1 KINGS 10:8-10).

Underline the reasons the queen of Sheba blessed the Lord.

8 “How happy are your men. How happy are these servants of yours, who always stand in your presence hearing your wisdom. **9** Blessed be the LORD your God! He delighted in you and put you on the throne of Israel, because of the LORD’s eternal love for Israel. He has made you king to carry out justice and righteousness.” **10** Then she gave the king four and a half tons of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones. Never again did such a quantity of spices arrive as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

Our joy as followers of Christ should be contagious and point others to God. Solomon’s wisdom and wealth led the queen of Sheba to acknowledge God’s faithfulness to him, but the benefits of God’s favor toward Solomon also trickled down to his household. Solomon’s wisdom and joy in the Lord were so contagious to those around him that the queen marveled at the results. Solomon’s servants benefited from the physical comforts of his great wealth (vv. 4-5), but the queen recognized that they were joyful because they stood in the presence of Solomon’s godly wisdom each day (v. 8).

LEADER NOTE: We may be tempted to think that Solomon’s joy and security, and that of his subjects, were a result of his wealth. But the queen of Sheba concluded correctly that Solomon’s God-given wisdom was the superior value. Scripture calls us to ask the Lord for His generous wisdom (Jas. 1:5) and to be content with praying for our daily bread from the Lord (Matt. 6:11). God may reward or discipline His children with material gain or loss, but how we view our money and resources reveals where our hearts truly lie. Wealth is not a reflection of how “good” we are in God’s eyes. Our relationship with God isn’t transactional. Material or physical abundance is not God’s ultimate concern for our lives—holiness is. God’s gift of wisdom helps us to recognize and live out the blessings of a holy life.

The queen, who had come to Israel with a great entourage and a magnificent display of her own wealth (1 Kings 10:2), was so moved by her encounter with Solomon that she felt compelled to contribute to his blessings. In addition to gold and stones, she presented Solomon with the largest gift of spices in Israel’s history (v. 10). Even through those like the queen of Sheba who didn’t exclusively worship the one true God, the Lord continued to bless Solomon.

Why might we be tempted to prioritize wealth over the gift of God’s wisdom?

When Solomon dedicated the temple, he understood that the greatness of God's name and His glory would reach the ears of foreigners from distant lands, who would then come to the temple in Jerusalem to worship. Solomon said, "[M]ay you hear in heaven, your dwelling place, and do according to all the foreigner asks. Then all peoples of earth will know your name, to fear you as your people Israel do" (8:43). The queen of Sheba came to pick Solomon's brain and determine if he was as wise as everyone said he was. Based on her conclusion, she blessed "the LORD"—notably, not Solomon—recognizing that Solomon's wisdom was for the benefit of all of God's people (10:9).

Sadly, a time came when Solomon forsook the Lord and His wisdom to pursue other gods and idols (1 Kings 11). This came with steep consequences for Solomon and Israel, but this sinful turn for the king ultimately revealed that Solomon was not the eternal king promised to David. Someone greater than Solomon, for all his wisdom, was needed (Matt. 12:42). That someone is the perfect Son of David, the embodiment of the wisdom of God so that we might know the Lord fully, and His name is Jesus.

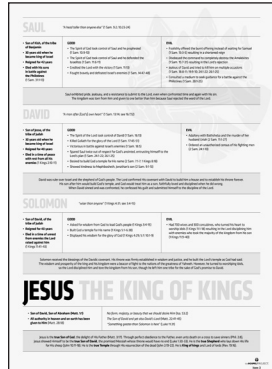
LEADER NOTE: In the New Testament, the Pharisees—the most stringent followers of the Mosaic law—prided themselves on their knowledge of God's Word, yet they missed the Messiah, Jesus Christ. When they demanded a sign from Jesus, He replied: "The queen of the south will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and look—something greater than Solomon is here" (Matt. 12:42). Solomon's wisdom drew a pagan queen to Jerusalem to bless the Lord. Jesus prophesied: "I tell you that many will come from east and west to share the banquet with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 8:11). When we share God's Word and let His wisdom reign in our lives, the world will take notice.

How has the Lord blessed you so that you can make the name of Jesus known in the world?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Sharing godly wisdom should lead to sharing about God and ultimately Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came to save the world.

Notes



ARRIVAL

ASK: Invite the group to share what news broadcasts, podcasts, or influencers they regularly listen to and why. Point out that gathering information in a complex world with a host of influencers ready to share their expertise also means that we sometimes receive bad counsel.

CONTEXT

EXPLAIN: Call attention to **Pack Item 3: The King of Kings** and briefly review the reigns of Saul and David. Remind the group that God had promised to bestow both wisdom and wealth on Solomon in response to his request for wisdom to rule faithfully over Israel. With God's gift, the king's reputation as a sage was growing throughout the region. Consequently, Solomon rose to the prominence of becoming an influencer in his time, not only for the counsel of the people in his own nation but also for his peers in other nations as well.

TRANSITION: This session will help us focus on seeing ourselves as godly influencers rather than ones being influenced by the world.

RECAP

RECOUNT: Invite the group to outline the steps the queen of Sheba took before, during, and after her meeting with King Solomon, and record these on a board. Then encourage the group to outline the steps King Solomon took in response, both explicit and implied. Point out that the result of the meeting was not just the opportunity to pick someone's brain or trade notes, one ruler to another, but to point the queen of Sheba to God as the source of wisdom. Suggest that in opening the queen's eyes to this, Solomon very likely recognized the potential for influencing an entire kingdom to turn toward the one true God of Israel.

TRANSITION: Recognizing the potential to share God's wisdom requires paying attention to opportunities that come our way. Looking at today's passage will help us to be mindful for opportunities to point people to Christ.



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GROUP ACTIVITY

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CHART: Direct the group to page 120 in the Personal Study Guide (PSG) for the chart titled "What the Queen Discovered" that will serve as the group activity for this session. Reproduce the chart on a board so you can record the group's findings as they interact with the Scripture text.

What the Queen Discovered	
PRE-MEETING	POST-MEETING
QUEEN OF SHEBA	
KING SOLOMON	

READ: Call on a volunteer to read 1 Kings 10:1-7 aloud.

CONTEMPLATE: Form two (or more) smaller groups to consider what the queen of Sheba and Solomon might have thought about the other before setting up a meeting. One group should consider factors the queen may have processed before seeking out an audience with Solomon. The other group should consider the reasons Solomon, in his wisdom, agreed to the meeting, despite any reservations he may have privately harbored. After a few moments, invite the groups to share all the factors they considered for each person, and guide the group to record their notes in the chart in their PSG. Ask: "How might you have seen these factors play a part in your own conversations with others?"

READ: Call on a volunteer to read 1 Kings 10:8-10.

IDENTIFY: Invite the smaller groups once again to add to their charts the positive outcomes for both the queen of Sheba and King Solomon. Assign

Notes

each group one person to focus on. After a few moments, call for responses from the small groups for the large group to record in their PSG. As necessary, emphasize that the queen received wisdom for her concerns and questions and she received a demonstration of the kind of wisdom the one true God provides. King Solomon received extravagant gifts from the queen's vast reserves of wealth, but we may assume his true reward was spiritual, as the queen was compelled to bless the Lord after having met with Solomon.

CONCLUDE: Refer to Ephesians 1:15-19 as a prayer for wisdom to sustain your group in the ministry of sharing what we know about God and Jesus with others.

DEBRIEF

How did the queen's understanding of God as the source of Solomon's success result from their meeting? When you influence or mentor someone else, how can you point them to the Lord as the source of your wisdom?

(PSG p. 120) Whenever you are solicited for advice, a reference, a donation, or hospitality, how can you use it as an opportunity to point someone to Christ?

SUMMARIZE

Because the queen of Sheba and King Solomon held positions of influence in this passage, at first glance these verses may seem to have little bearing on the lives of ordinary people. (*Display Pack Item 14: The Greater Solomon.*) In truth, however, Christians from all walks of life find themselves in positions to share the wisdom garnered from studying the Bible and to point others to Christ as the source of that wisdom. Solomon was a big deal in his day for his God-given wisdom, but Jesus Himself is the greater wisdom for all eternity. Being ready to share the good news about Jesus means recognizing opportunities when they come our way and then being generous with our time and knowledge.

HEAD, HEART, HANDS

Walk the group through the Head, Heart, Hands section in the PSG (p. 121). If running short on time, specifically highlight the **Hands** section in this week's study, inviting volunteers to share their responses to the question in this section.



HEAD: Prosperity teachings, "name it and claim it" theology, and the materialism of our surrounding culture can invade the church and our thinking. Even well-meaning, biblically faithful believers must fight the temptation to think of God's blessing only in material or physical terms. If we aren't diligent in communion with the Spirit and His people, we will risk hoarding our blessings or flaunting them for all to see.

Why do we often prefer material blessings over spiritual ones?





HEART: Instead of holding on to God's gifts with a closed fist, we're called to allow them to turn our hearts toward the Lord and therefore bless others. When we remember God's goodness, we ought to offer His blessings back to Him as a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

How should we respond when the Lord blesses us in any way?



HANDS: When our eyes, ears, and hearts are open with faith, we will see that opportunities abound to share godly wisdom with others. God's Word and wisdom is useful and relevant to all people and should point them to Christ regardless of the conversation. The more familiar we are with the whole counsel of Scripture and the more faithful to pray for open doors to spiritual conversations, the more we will see the abundance of opportunities around us.

What opportunities do you see ahead of you this week to share godly wisdom or have spiritual conversations with others?

NEXT STEPS

Challenge the group to consider these actions as responses to this session.

- Make a list of ways, both formal and informal, that you may influence others through positions you hold, and rate how well you share God in each. Keep in mind that it was not just Solomon's words but also the state of Solomon's servants that the queen cited as evidence.
- Consider the blessings and strengths the Lord has given you, and record ways these may open up opportunities to share the gospel with others.
- Set up an opportunity to share the joys and blessings of your life and point others to Christ by inviting someone else to share some practical advice with you. Consider the example of Jesus, who asked the Samaritan woman to give Him a drink of water so He could give her living water (John 4).

Invite volunteers to share prayer needs for this week. Encourage them to record these in the space on page 121 in their PSG so they can pray for others throughout the week.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

CLOSE: Pray through Psalm 67:1-2, thanking God for His blessings as a way of pointing others to Him.

