

Template 2: Main Lesson, Activity and Discussion Questions | Ages 5 to 11, Read Aloud Lesson, Scripture Centered, Apologetics Rich, Christ Centered

WEEK 29 | SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

Primary Scripture: 1 Kings 3

BIBLE TIMELINE PLACEMENT

David has died, and his son Solomon now sits on Israel's throne. Last week we saw David confess he still needed the LORD as his shepherd. This week young Solomon faces the weight of leading God's people and responds the same way, by turning to God instead of trusting himself.

BIG IDEA

True wisdom is a gift God gives generously to anyone who admits they need Him and asks for it.

1 OPENING BIBLE FOUNDATION

Before we begin, let's remember something wonderful. The Bible is not just one book. It is sixty six books, written by more than forty different people, across a very long time, in different places, facing different situations. And yet every single page tells one true story, God's story. Today we move from David's reign into the reign of his son Solomon, and even Solomon's story points us straight to Jesus.

2 MEMORY VERSE

Our memory verse this week comes from 1 Kings 3:9.

MEMORY VERSE
1 Kings 3:9
<i>Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil.</i>

That means Solomon knew the job of leading God's people was too big for him, so he asked God for help understanding right and wrong so he could lead well. Let's say it together. Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil. We are going to come back to this verse several times today, because it is the heartbeat of the whole lesson.

3 SETTING THE SCENE

Last week we heard David confess that even a king still needs the LORD as his shepherd. Now David has died, and his son Solomon is king in his place. Solomon travels to a place called Gibeon, where people worshiped God before the Temple was ever built, and offers a huge number of sacrifices there. That same night, while Solomon is sleeping, God appears to him in a dream with an offer no one could imagine.

4 MAIN LESSON NARRATIVE

Imagine waking up from a dream so real you can still feel it after you open your eyes. That is what happened to a young man named Solomon one night in a town called Gibeon. Solomon was not just any young man. He had just become king over all of Israel, and he was likely still a teenager, or maybe in his early twenties. Barely more than a kid himself, and now the whole nation was looking to him to lead them.

Do you remember what happened last week? David, the shepherd boy who became king, wrote a song about the LORD being his shepherd, and he admitted that even a king still needs God to take care of him. Well, David has died now, and his son Solomon sits on that same throne. Solomon is facing the exact same truth David once faced. He cannot do this job alone.

Solomon travels to Gibeon, an important place where people worshiped God before the Temple was ever built in Jerusalem. He offers a huge number of sacrifices there, a way of honoring God and asking for His blessing as a brand new king. That same night, while Solomon is sleeping, God appears to him in a dream. This was not a strange or made up kind of dream. In this part of the Bible, God really did speak to people this way sometimes, and what happens next is completely real.

In the dream, God says something incredible to Solomon. Ask what I shall give you. Think about that for a second. The God of the entire universe is offering to give Solomon anything he wants. Anything at all.

Now, if someone offered you anything you wanted, what do you think you might ask for? Maybe more toys, or unlimited treats, or never having to do chores again. Most kings in Solomon's world would have asked for one of three things. A long life. Piles of riches. Or victory over every enemy who ever threatened them.

Listen carefully to what Solomon says instead. First he thanks God for how good God had been to his father David. Then Solomon says something surprising. I am but a little child, I do not know how to go out or come in. Solomon, the king of all Israel, calls himself a little child. He is not being falsely humble. He genuinely feels how big this job is, and how small he feels next to it.

Our memory verse this week comes from what Solomon says next. Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil. Let's say that together. Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil. Solomon is asking for wisdom, the kind of wisdom a king needs to judge fairly and lead well. He is not asking to become rich or famous or safe. He is asking to be equipped for the job God already gave him.

Now, someone might wonder, is this really what happened, or is this just a nice old story someone made up? That is a fair question. The book of 1 Kings is one of the historical books of the Bible, and the rest of Scripture treats Solomon as a real king who really lived and really ruled Israel. Jesus Himself later talked about Solomon as a real historical person, not a made up character. God has given us a Word we can trust completely, even when the events inside it are extraordinary.

Here is something important to understand about being a king back then. A king's biggest daily job was not wearing a crown or living in a palace. It was being the highest judge in the land. When two people had a disagreement no one else could settle, they came to the king. So when Solomon asks for wisdom to discern between good and evil, he is asking for exactly what he will need every single day, the ability to know what is right and to judge fairly, even in the hardest, most confusing situations.

Let's listen to what God says back to Solomon. Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. God gives Solomon a wise and discerning mind, so wise that no one before him or after him would ever have wisdom like it. And then God adds something Solomon never even asked for. Riches and honor, more than any king in his whole lifetime. God even promises Solomon a long life if he keeps walking in God's ways.

Did you notice something important there? God gave Solomon so much more than he even asked for. Solomon asked for one thing, wisdom, because his heart was focused on serving God's people well, not on getting rich or famous. And because Solomon asked with that kind of heart, God poured out blessing on top of blessing.

Let's say our memory verse again, because this is exactly the kind of heart God is looking for. Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil. Solomon did not ask for himself. He asked to be equipped for what God had already called him to do.

Now here is where we get to see Solomon's wisdom in action, and it is one of the most famous stories in the whole Bible. Two women come to Solomon, both living in the same house, and both claiming the very same baby boy is theirs. One woman says her baby died in the night, and while the other one was sleeping, she quietly switched the babies. The other woman says the exact opposite. There are no witnesses. No way to prove either story with normal evidence.

So what does Solomon do? He says, bring me a sword. Everyone in the room probably gasped. Divide the living child in two, Solomon says, and give half to the one, and half to the other. Imagine standing in that room, hearing those words. Was Solomon really about to do that?

Of course not. Solomon never intended to hurt that baby for even one second. It was a test, and a brilliant one. The moment Solomon gave that order, the real mother's heart could not bear it. Please, she cried out, give her the living child, do not put him to death. She would rather lose the case, and lose her son to the other woman, than see him harmed even a little. The other woman, though, said to go ahead and divide him. That response revealed everything. Solomon immediately knew which woman was the true mother, because only real love responds that way.

All of Israel heard about this judgment, and they stood in awe of their new king, because they could see that the wisdom of God was in him. Not Solomon's own cleverness. The wisdom of God, working through him, exactly like Solomon had asked for.

Here is where we begin to see our need for Jesus, and this is the most beautiful part of this whole lesson. Solomon became the wisest man who had ever lived, wiser than anyone before him or after him. But even Solomon's story does not end perfectly. Later in his life, Solomon's heart wandered away from God in some very serious ways. All that wisdom could not keep Solomon faithful forever. Solomon received wisdom as a gift, but he was never wisdom itself.

Hundreds of years later, Jesus stood in front of a crowd and said something astonishing about Himself. Someone greater than Solomon is here. Jesus was not exaggerating. Jesus does not merely receive wisdom the way Solomon did. The Bible tells us Jesus Himself is the wisdom of God. Everything Solomon was given as a gift for a season, Jesus simply is, forever, without failing, without wandering, without ever letting His people down.

This whole account also helps us understand something wonderful about God. God the Father is the one who appeared to Solomon and offered him anything he wanted. Centuries later, that same God sent Jesus the Son, who is Himself the wisdom of God in human form. And the Holy Spirit is the one who helps God's people today, just like Solomon, know what is right and follow it faithfully. God is one God in three Persons, always at work, always generous, always giving good gifts to those who ask.

So what does this mean for you, this week? It means when you feel like something is too big for you, a hard test at school, a friendship problem you do not know how to solve, a decision you are not sure how to make, you can do exactly what Solomon did. You can admit you do not have all the answers, and you can ask God for wisdom. The Bible promises in James chapter one that if anyone lacks wisdom, they can ask God, and He gives generously to anyone who asks, without making them feel foolish for asking.

And here is the best part. You do not have to wonder whether you will get an answer like Solomon's, uncertain and only for a season. Jesus already is your wisdom, fully and forever, the moment you trust Him. You do not have to earn it. You do not have to be the smartest kid in class. You simply have to ask, the same way Solomon did, admitting you need help, and trusting the God who loves to give it.

Let's say our memory verse one final time, because now it means even more than when we started. Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil. Solomon asked, and God gave far more than he asked for. Jesus invites us to ask too, and He Himself is the wisdom we need, every single day.

Solomon's story began with a young king admitting he was not enough on his own. Our story can begin the exact same way. Whatever feels too big for you this week, you have a Savior who is wiser than Solomon, and He is not far away. He is right here, ready to help the moment you ask.

5 WHY WE CAN TRUST GOD'S WORD

The book of 1 Kings records real history about real kings who really lived, and the rest of the Bible, including Jesus Himself, treats Solomon's story as true. When the Bible tells us God spoke to Solomon in a dream and gave him wisdom, we can trust that fully. If you ever wonder whether something in the Bible actually happened, that is a good question, and it is always welcome here.

6 WHAT THIS SHOWS US ABOUT JESUS

Solomon's story shows us that every person needs wisdom greater than their own, and that even the wisest human being cannot stay faithful to God on his own strength forever. Solomon received wisdom as a gift for a season, but his heart eventually wandered. Centuries later, Jesus said someone greater than Solomon had come, Himself. Jesus lived a perfectly wise and faithful life, never once sinning, then died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin, and rose again on the third day. Anyone who trusts Him receives a wisdom, and a righteousness, that will never fail.

7 GOD REVEALED AS TRINITY

This account shows God the Father appearing to Solomon and offering him a good gift. The whole Bible helps us see that Jesus the Son is Himself the wisdom of God, greater than Solomon, and the Holy Spirit helps God's people today know what is right and follow it faithfully. God is one God in three Persons, always together, always generous, always at work.

8 LIFE APPLICATION

This week, when something feels too big to handle, a hard decision, a confusing friendship problem, a mistake you are not sure how to fix, remember Solomon's example. You do not have to pretend you already know the answer. You can simply ask God for wisdom, the same way Solomon did, and trust Him to give it generously.

9 DEFENDING THE TRUTH

What if a friend says asking God for wisdom sounds like just wishful thinking, not something that actually works?

Solomon really did receive wisdom that changed how he led an entire nation, and the Bible promises the same generous God still gives wisdom to anyone who asks Him today.

Scripture to remember, James 1:5. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

How to say it kindly. You could say, I get why that sounds uncertain, but I have seen God help me make good choices when I ask Him, and the Bible promises He will keep doing that.

10 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**Core Questions for All Ages****What did Solomon ask God for, and what did he not ask for?**

Solomon asked for an understanding mind to govern God's people well. He did not ask for long life, riches, or victory over his enemies.

Why did Solomon call himself a little child, even though he was king?

Solomon felt how big the job of leading God's people really was, and he knew he could not do it on his own strength or experience.

What did Solomon do to figure out which woman was the true mother?

He ordered the baby divided in two as a test. The true mother would rather give up her son than see him harmed, which revealed her identity.

Why was God pleased with Solomon's request?

Because Solomon asked to serve God's people well instead of asking for something just for himself.

Optional Deeper Questions**Who did Jesus say was greater than Solomon, and why does that matter?**

Jesus said He Himself is greater than Solomon. Unlike Solomon, who received wisdom for a season, Jesus is the wisdom of God, forever, without failing.

What happened later in Solomon's life, and why is that an important part of his story?

Solomon's heart eventually wandered away from God. It shows that even the wisest person still needs a Savior, since wisdom alone could not keep Solomon faithful.

What is something in your own life right now that feels too big for you to handle alone?

Personal reflection, no single right answer. Encourage honest sharing.

How does knowing God gives wisdom generously, without making us feel foolish for asking, change the way you might pray this week?

Personal reflection. Encourage children to express confidence in asking God for help.

11 HANDS ON ACTIVITY**Activity Name**

Ask for Wisdom Detective Case

Purpose

Help children practice discerning fairly with incomplete information, connecting to Solomon's wisdom and our need to ask God for help thinking clearly.

Supplies

Paper and pencils, or a whiteboard if available. No other supplies needed.

Time Needed

10 minutes.

Preparation Before Class

Prepare two or three simple, age appropriate who is telling the truth mini scenarios ahead of time, for example two children both claiming a toy is theirs.

Step by Step Instructions

Read a simple scenario aloud, such as two friends both claiming the same crayon is theirs, with no obvious proof either way. Ask the children what questions they would ask, or what clues might reveal the truth, before jumping to a decision. Discuss how Solomon looked for a clue that would reveal what was really in each woman's heart, not just her words. Remind children that true wisdom often means looking past what people say to what their actions reveal. Close by reminding children that we can ask God to help us see clearly in confusing situations, just like Solomon did.

Scripture Connection

1 Kings 3:9, Solomon asked for a mind that could discern between good and evil.

Debrief Questions

Was it easy or hard to figure out who was telling the truth? What helped you decide? How is that like asking God for wisdom when you are not sure what to do?

How to Adapt for Younger Children

Use a single, very simple scenario with a clear right answer, and focus on the idea of being kind and fair rather than a tricky puzzle.

How to Adapt for Older Children

Add a second, trickier scenario, and let children debate different possible answers before revealing the clue that settles it.

12 OPTIONAL REVIEW GAME**Game Name**

Wisdom or Not

Purpose

Reinforce the difference between wise and unwise choices in a fun, low supply way, tied to the lesson.

Supplies

None needed.

How to Play

Call out a short scenario, for example, a friend asks you to lie to a teacher, or a friend asks for help with homework. Children respond by saying wise or not wise, then briefly explain why. After a few rounds, ask a quick review question about the lesson before continuing.

Review Questions and Answers

What did Solomon ask God for? Wisdom, an understanding mind. What did Solomon do to test the two women? Ordered the baby divided in two. Who did Jesus say is greater than Solomon? Himself, Jesus. What does James 1:5 promise? That God gives wisdom generously to anyone who asks.

13 TEACHER CLOSING

Today we learned that Solomon, a young king facing an enormous responsibility, asked God for wisdom instead of riches or fame, and God gave him wisdom beyond anyone before or since. We also learned that Solomon's wisdom, however great, could not keep his own heart faithful forever. Jesus, who is greater than Solomon, is Himself the wisdom of God, and He never fails the people who trust Him. Jesus loves every single child in this room, exactly as you are, right now. If something feels too big for you this week, you can ask Jesus for wisdom exactly the way Solomon asked God, and trust Him to answer generously. Let's say our memory verse one more time together. Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil. Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank You for being wiser than Solomon and for never failing us. Help us come to You when we do not know what to do, and give us wisdom to make good choices this week. In Jesus' name, amen.

14 TAKEAWAY TRUTH

When I do not know what to do, I can ask Jesus, because He is wiser than Solomon and He never fails.