

WEEK 29 | SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

Bible Passage: 1 Kings 3

BIG IDEA

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

WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD REMEMBER

Solomon, a young new king, asked God for wisdom instead of riches or fame, and God gave him wisdom beyond anyone before or since. Jesus is greater than Solomon, and He never fails us the way Solomon eventually did.

1 MEMORY VERSE

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1 Kings 3:9

Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil.

What This Means for Children

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.

How to Practice It at Home

Break the verse into two halves, Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, and that I may discern between good and evil. Say the first half, have your child repeat it, then the second. A few run throughs at dinner this week will settle it in.

Ask

Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom instead of riches?

Suggested Answer

Because Solomon cared more about serving God's people well than about getting rich or famous.

Parent Tip

This verse gives your child permission to admit they do not have all the answers. That admission is not weakness, it is exactly where Solomon started, and exactly where wisdom begins.

2 TODAY YOUR CHILD LEARNED

Today your child learned about Solomon, David's son, who became king of Israel while still very young, likely a teenager or in his early twenties. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and offered to give him anything he asked for. Instead of asking for long life, riches, or victory over his enemies, Solomon asked for wisdom, an understanding mind to lead God's people well. God was so pleased with this request that He gave Solomon wisdom beyond any king before or since, plus riches and honor Solomon never even asked for. Your child also heard the famous story of the two women and the baby, where Solomon's God given wisdom settled a dispute no one else could solve. And your child learned that Jesus is greater than Solomon, because where Solomon's wisdom and heart eventually failed later in his life, Jesus never fails.

3 WHY THIS LESSON MATTERS

This lesson protects your child from two common misunderstandings. First, that wisdom just means being naturally smart or good at school. Solomon's wisdom was a gift from God for a specific job, not a personality trait or a talent some kids have and others do not. Second, that asking unselfishly is a formula for getting what you want from God. Solomon was not using a clever trick. He was genuinely admitting he could not do the job in front of him without God's help, and that honest dependence is what God responded to.

A Simple Way to Explain It to Your Child

You can say, wisdom is not about being the smartest person in the room, it is about asking God to help you know what is right, and trusting Him enough to actually do it.

4 HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND BIBLICAL WISDOM

Simple explanation

Biblical wisdom is not the same as being clever or getting good grades. It means knowing what is right and choosing to do it, and the Bible says that kind of wisdom starts with trusting God rather than ourselves.

What to emphasize

Wisdom is something we ask God for, not something we either have or do not have on our own.

What not to overcomplicate

You do not need to explain the difference between wisdom and knowledge in detail, just that wisdom is asking God to help us make right choices.

What to avoid saying

Avoid praising your child only for being smart or clever. Praise honesty, asking for help, and good choices, since those are closer to what this passage actually calls wisdom.

5 DEFENDING THE TRUTH AT HOME

A Question Children Often Ask

If Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived, why did he still make serious mistakes later in his life?

A Simple Biblical Answer

Wisdom and faithfulness are not the same thing. God gave Solomon real wisdom, but Solomon still had to choose every day to keep following God, and later in life he stopped making that choice.

Scripture to Read Together

1 Kings 3:12. God saying He gave Solomon a wise and discerning mind, so that none like him had been before him, and none like him would arise after him.

A Parent Friendly Explanation

This is actually a comforting truth, not a discouraging one. It shows that no human being, no matter how gifted, can save us or keep us faithful on their own. That is exactly why we need Jesus, not just a gifted example to imitate.

How to Say It Kindly

You might say, even the wisest man ever still needed a Savior, and so do we, which is exactly why Jesus matters more than Solomon ever could.

6 TALK ABOUT IT AT HOME

Use one or two of these questions during dinner, bedtime, or in the car. You do not have to ask all of them at once.

What did Solomon ask God for when given the chance to ask for anything?

An understanding mind to lead God's people well, not riches or a long life.

How did Solomon figure out which of the two women was the real mother?

He tested them with a hard choice, and the real mother's love for her son revealed the truth.

Who did Jesus say was greater than Solomon?

Jesus said He Himself is greater than Solomon.

Does being wise mean you will never make mistakes?

No, even Solomon, the wisest man ever, made serious mistakes later in life.

What is a decision you are facing this week where you could ask God for wisdom?

Personal reflection, encourage your child to share honestly, then pray about it together.

7 TRY THIS AS A FAMILY

This week, before a family decision, even something small like what to make for dinner or how to spend a Saturday, pause together and say out loud, let's ask God for wisdom about this. It does not need to be a long prayer. Modeling this small habit teaches your child that wisdom is something we ask for in ordinary moments, not just big ones.

Sentence to repeat

When I do not know what to do, I can ask God.

8 WHEN YOUR CHILD DOES NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO

Real Life Situation

Your child is stuck on a decision, a disagreement with a friend, a choice at school, something with no easy answer.

Parent Friendly Response

Resist jumping straight to telling them the answer. Ask what they think is right first, then pray together for wisdom before deciding together.

Words to Say

This is a hard one, and that is okay. Let's ask God to help us think clearly about it, the same way Solomon did.

Gospel Connection

We do not have to pretend we already know everything. Jesus, who is wiser than Solomon, invites us to bring Him our confusion and trust Him for the answer.

9 PRAYER TO PRAY TOGETHER

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. Give us wisdom to make good choices this week, and help us trust You instead of ourselves. In Jesus' name, amen.

10 A FINAL THOUGHT FOR PARENTS

You do not have to have every parenting answer figured out this week. Solomon did not either, and he was the king. What God honored was not Solomon's confidence, it was his honesty about needing help. The same is true for you. Ask God for wisdom in the hard moments of raising your child, and trust that He gives it generously, without making you feel foolish for asking.