WISE KING SOLOMON

Bible Verse: “Don’t be wise in your own eyes. Have respect for the Lord ...” —Proverbs 3:7, NIrV
Bible Point: God made Solomon a wise leader. God can make me wise, too.
Resource: The Story for Little Ones, Chapter 13: “Wise King Solomon”

STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Stand in the front of the room with a clipboard, paper, and pencil. Act deep in concentration as you look at your paper.

Say, “Hello! I am just working on my wish list for my birthday (or Christmas). It’s a list of gifts I would like to get from my family and friends. What are some things you would like to get as a gift? Maybe some toys or games? Raise your hand if you have an idea, and I’ll call on you.” Write answers on the chalkboard or whiteboard.

Say, “Wow! You have some great ideas. Today we are going to hear a story about a king in the Bible. God asked this king what gift he would like. What do you think he said? (various answers) I think we’ll all be surprised by what this king asked.”

STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

Say, “Does anyone remember who we talked about the last couple of weeks? He was a boy who fought a giant and won. Then he was a king who made wrong choices and sinned. But he asked God for forgiveness, and God forgave him. What was his name? (David) That’s right! We have been talking about David! David had a son. His son’s name was Solomon. Solomon became king after David. Let’s read about him today.”

Read aloud Chapter 13, “Wise King Solomon,” from The Story for Little Ones.

Follow the directions to present the following Bible story.

Divide the class in half. One half should be on your left and the other on your right. Assign one half as the “Solomon” side and the other side as the “God” side. Explain that both halves are going to help you tell the Bible story. The “Solomon” side will repeat what Solomon said. The “God” side will repeat what God said.

Say, “Once, there lived a king named Solomon. Solomon loved God a lot. God loved Solomon. King Solomon showed that he loved God by obeying his parents’ rules. God said, ‘Ask for anything.’ (Have the God side repeat.) He did this because he was pleased with Solomon.”
Solomon told God, “You were good to my father.” (Solomon side repeat.)

“My father was faithful to you.” (Solomon side repeat.)

“I want to know right from wrong.” (Solomon side repeat.)

“I want to be wise.” (Solomon side repeat.)

“I want to rule well.” (Solomon side repeat.)

Solomon’s words made God happy. God told Solomon, “You did not ask to live a long time.” (God side repeat.)

“You did not ask to be rich.” (God side repeat.)

“I will give you wisdom.” (God side repeat.)

“I will give you understanding.” (God side repeat.)

“I also will make you rich.” (God side repeat.)

Say, “God made Solomon wise. Solomon wrote down many of God’s wise sayings.”

Now, have both sides sit together in the middle, and have them repeat the following sentences together.

- Keep God’s rules.
- Always tell the truth.
- Avoid evil.
- Watch what you say.
- All wisdom comes from God.

Say, “When you follow God’s rules, you are wise. People came from far away to talk to Solomon. God made Solomon a wise leader. What does it mean to be wise? He knew lots of things about the world, like plants and animals. But he also knew how to tell right from wrong. That made him a very wise leader. People knew that if they brought Solomon their problems, he would be able to tell right from wrong. God can also help you know right from wrong. You just need to ask him for help.”

After the Bible story, ask:

- How did Solomon show God that he loved God? (Solomon showed God his love by obeying God’s rules.)
- What did God give Solomon? (God gave Solomon wisdom, understanding, and riches.)
- What is wisdom? Or, what does it mean to be wise? (being able to tell right from wrong)
Say, “We can ask God for wisdom like Solomon did. Let’s ask God together for his wisdom.”

Pray with the children that God will help them to know right from wrong, and that he will help them make wise choices.

**STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE**

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further.

**Option 1: Solomon’s Temple**

**Stuff you need:** large toy building bricks

Have children sit at tables. Give each a pile of blocks to build a house. Give them several minutes to build. With very young children, you can put them in groups of 3–4 and have them work on a house together with a teacher.

As children finish, let them tell you about their houses. Then place all of them near each other in the center of the table so the homes resemble a city.

Say, “In Bible times, a king named Solomon built a fancy house, called a temple, for God. The temple pleased God. It was an amazing gift that Solomon gave to God. For seven years, men cut logs, melted gold, and sculpted furniture. The temple was a huge, shiny place where people could worship God. God gave Solomon wisdom. Solomon honored God by making him a beautiful temple.”

**Option 2: Walking in Wisdom**

**Stuff you need:** washable finger paint, large paper plates, marker, wet wipes

For each child, coat the bottom of one foot in finger paint and press onto the paper plate, making a print of their very own special footprint. Immediately use the wet wipes to wipe off extra paint. Write at the top of each plate, “Let us walk in the ways of the Lord.”

Say, “God gave Solomon wisdom. God can give you wisdom, too. Let’s make a footprint to remind us to walk in God’s wisdom.”

**Option 3: A Place to Talk with God**

**Stuff you need:** A Place to Talk to God Activity Sheet, crayons

Give an activity sheet to each child.

Talk about the church you attend. Talk about what it looks like, the people and things they see, and the sounds they hear. Then have the children draw and color a picture of the church they attend.
**Option 4: “Is It Wise to ...?”**

Stuff you need: a beanbag

Stand in a circle with the children. Ask an “Is it wise …?” question and then toss the beanbag to a child. That child answers whether or not something is wise.

Examples:

Is it wise to make your mom a birthday card?
Is it wise to hit your sister?
Is it wise to hug your grandma?
Is it wise to call people mean names?
Is it wise to come to church?
Is it wise to be kind to your pet?

**Option 5: Wise Solomon’s Crown**

*Stuff you need:* yellow construction paper, tape, markers, sparkly stickers and stick-on gems and jewels

*Preparation:* Gather supplies and cut the sheets of construction paper in half the long way.

Give each child one strip of yellow paper. Have them color it and put on sparkly stickers, stick-on gems, and jewels however they’d like. When they have finished, attach the other strip of yellow paper. Place the crown on the child’s head and tape to fit.

**STEP 4: GOING HOME**

Before sending children home, give each a copy of *The Story Preschool Trading Card* 13. Say, “The front of this card will remind you that God made Solomon a wise leader. Show your parents the back and tell them that God can make you wise, too.” Have them practice saying this before they leave.

As you are waiting for parents to pick up their children, use *The Story for Little Ones* or *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review past stories and Bible points.

Make sure each child takes home a copy of the Trading Card, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents’ Page.