



I Love You  
Prayers



(Adoration)



I'm  
*Thankful*  
Prayers

(Thanksgiving)



I'm **SORRY**  
Prayers



(Confession)



Please  
Prayers

(Supplication)







## K-1st Lesson

### Review

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We've been learning about David, who was anointed by Samuel to become the next king of Israel after Saul. But many things have happened since then.

David faced the giant Goliath and won the fight with a sling and a stone. Then David began working for King Saul as a musician and armor-bearer. God helped David do well in all he did, and Saul became jealous. He tried to kill David twice with a spear, but God protected David. David also became friends with Saul's son Jonathan.

David finally had to run away from Saul, who continued to chase him all over the country. There were times when David could have killed Saul, in a cave and while Saul was asleep in his camp, but David would not take revenge. He was willing to wait and trust in God to make him king at the right time.

- ? Waiting is hard for us, like it was for David. See this fruit? *Show unripe fruit.*
- ? Does it look ready to be eaten? *Allow a student to touch or test it if it's a fruit that softens. No, it isn't ripe yet.*
- ? Who would like to try a bite now? *Choose one or more volunteers to try the unripe fruit (cut up in sections).*
- ? How did it taste? *Allow answers.*
- ? Show ripe fruit. What about this fruit? Does it look ready to eat? *Yes. Allow a student to touch or test it if it's a fruit that softens. Give a sample to one or more students to taste and let them describe it.*

? Compare unripe and ripe fruit. So, what's the difference between these two? *One is ripe (ready to eat) and one is not.*

? What has to happen for the unripe fruit to become ready to eat? *Time must pass. We have to wait.*

Time has to pass for the fruit to ripen. But if we're patient, we can enjoy the fruit when it's ripe and tastes best.

Refer to unripe fruit. This fruit is kind of like God's promise to David that he would become king of Israel. But David had to wait many years before the time was right.

Refer to ripe fruit. Today we'll see how God made this happen—at just the right time.

### David Lives in Ziklag

Because Saul had tried to kill him, David left the land of Israel to hide. He went back to Achish, the king of Gath. Remember, Gath was a city in the land of the Philistines, who were enemies of Israel. The last time David went there, he had to act crazy so they wouldn't kill David since he was the one who killed their champion, Goliath.

King Achish liked David and let him stay and work for him. He even gave David the city of Ziklag for him and his men and their families to live in.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Here is David dressed for battle. David and his men went out and secretly attacked the enemies of Israel. But when they showed the king all the things they brought back, he thought they had taken it all from the Israelites. This made Achish think David was on his side now. The king trusted David and wanted him to fight against King Saul and the Israelite army!

? Uh oh! Do you think David wanted to fight against his own people? *Allow discussion.*

David loved the Israelites, and he respected Saul as their king. So he was probably glad when the Philistine army commanders told him to go home. God got him out of there just in time!

When David and his men went back to Ziklag, they discovered something terrible had

happened! Another enemy, the Amalekites, had stolen everything! They captured all the women and children and burned down the city.

David's men were really upset and blamed David for what happened. They even wanted to throw stones at him to kill him!

### 1 Samuel 30:6

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. David was in trouble! Let's find out what he did in 1 Samuel chapter 30. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read 1 Samuel 30:6.

? David was really upset because his family had been captured, and now his men wanted to kill him. So what did David do? Where did he find the strength to take care of this problem? *David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.*

David asked God what he should do. God told him to take his men and go after the Amalekites. And that's what they did! They attacked the Amalekite camp and found all their wives and children! They took them home along with all the animals and things that had been stolen.

### Saul and Jonathan Die in Battle

So God helped David and his men fight the Amalekites and save their families. But while that was happening to David, the Philistines were fighting the Israelites. King Saul was terrified when he saw the huge Philistine army. Sadly, when Saul stopped trusting and obeying God, he lost his faith and courage.

### 1 Samuel 31:7

Let's read how this battle turned out in 1 Samuel 31:7. *Read the verse.*

Three of King Saul's sons, including Jonathan, David's best friend, were fighting against the Philistines.

? What happened to Saul and his three sons? *They all died.*

This was a terrible battle. Many of the Israelite soldiers died, too. The rest of them ran away from the enemy.

Refer to David mourning on the Flip Chart. When David heard the bad news of the battle, he

wasn't happy about it. He didn't say, "Yay! I can be the king now." No. David was so sad that he tore his clothes, mourned, cried, and fasted.

Back in Bible times, tearing your clothes, crying, and not eating (fasting) were ways people showed how sorry and sad they were. David respected Saul as the first king of Israel. He even wrote a song the people would learn and sing to remember King Saul and David's best friend, Jonathan.

### David Becomes King of Judah and Israel

Refer to David as king of Judah on the Flip Chart. After King Saul died, God told David to go back to the land of Israel. All the people of the tribe of Judah made David their king. But this was only a small part of Israel.

One of Saul's sons, named Ish-bosheth, became king over the rest of Israel, and there was a long war to see who would be king over the whole country of Israel. In the end, Ish-bosheth was killed.

? So who would become king over ALL Israel? Can you guess? *Allow guesses.*

### 2 Samuel 5:3-4

Let's find out in 2 Samuel 5. *Read verse 3.*

? Who came to David at Hebron? *All the elders of Israel.*

? All the elders from all the tribes of Israel came to see David. What did they do to David? *Anointed him as king over Israel.*

Wow! David became king over all Israel, just as God promised would happen. Let's find out more. Listen to the next verse. *Read verse 4.*

? How old was David? *30.*

? How many years does it say he reigned as king? *40.*

Refer to David as king of Israel on the Flip Chart. God rewarded David for his faith and patience to wait for God to make this happen. Now David was king over all the tribes of Israel, and God would help him lead and protect them. David chose Jerusalem to be his new capital city. It would become an important city in the history of Israel—and also the world!



# David waited for God.

2

*He was sad  
when King Saul  
and Jonathan died.*



*He became  
king of Judah.*

3



4

*He became  
king over Israel.*

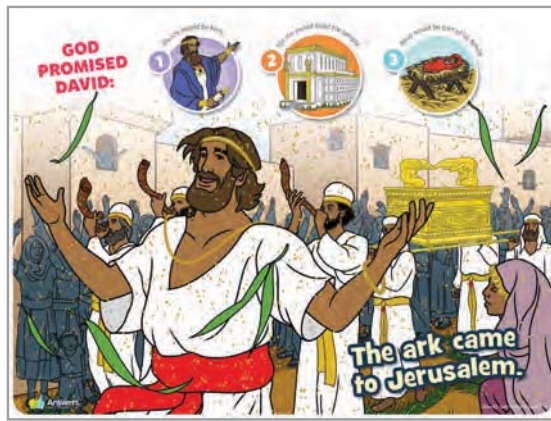


*He worked for  
King Achish.*

1







## K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### Review

Before class, prepare three or more objects in a bag or box so students can't see them. Bring dish towels or scarves for blindfolds.

Refer to Lesson 81 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we learned how David and his men worked for the Philistine king Achish. When David's city of Ziklag was attacked by the Amalekites, David prayed to God for strength. God helped David and his men rescue all their wives and children and everything that had been stolen.

While that was happening to David, King Saul and the Israelites were fighting against the Philistines—and they lost the battle. Saul and his three sons were killed, and David was very sad that Saul and his friend Jonathan had died.

David went back to the land of Israel, and his family's tribe, called Judah, crowned him as their king. One of Saul's sons, Ish-bosheth, became king over the other part of Israel. But after Ish-bosheth was killed, David became king over all Israel. He chose Jerusalem as his capital city.

To start today's lesson, I need several volunteers to help with an experiment! Choose several volunteers based on the number of items you brought. Have volunteers stand up front and tie blindfolds over their eyes.

I have some things in this box/bag. These volunteers will try to guess what they are only by touching them. Don't tell them or give any hints. One at a time, hand each volunteer an object from the bag/box. Let them feel the object and try to guess what it is. Remove the blindfold and let them see the item. Continue until all items are guessed. Have volunteers return to seats.

Our volunteers did a great job! It's hard to know what things are when we can't see them. God gave us an amazing sense of touch! We know when something is hot, cold, prickly, or smooth. In our lesson, we'll hear about someone who reaches out to touch something that he shouldn't—and it ends in disaster!

### The Ark Comes to Jerusalem

David was finally the king over Israel just as God had promised he would be. David loved God with all his heart, but he knew something was missing. He wanted to bring the ark of the covenant to his city, Jerusalem.

Show Illustration #1. The ark of the covenant was a wooden box covered in gold with two cherubim angels on top. It was made during the time of Moses after God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. This ark was holy and was to be treated with great respect because it reminded the people that God was with them. Wherever the ark was, that's where the Israelites worshipped and offered sacrifices to the Lord—except when the ark was captured by the enemy Philistines.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline at the time of Samuel in Judges. Many years before David became king, the Philistines captured the ark and took it back to their city. But God caused the Philistines to get sick, and they became afraid of the ark. They didn't want it anymore, so they put it on a cart and sent it back to Israel. Now, David wanted the ark to be in Jerusalem where the people could come and worship God together.

Show Illustration #2. So, David decided to move the ark. He and the people got a brand-new cart and placed the ark on it. This was so exciting—the ark was coming to Jerusalem! But then something terrible happened along the way. A man named Uzzah was driving the cart, and some oxen were pulling it. But the oxen stumbled, the cart rocked, and Uzzah reached out to keep the ark from falling off the cart.

- Can you guess what happened when Uzzah touched the ark of the covenant? Allow guesses.

When Uzzah touched the ark—he died! God struck Uzzah down because he touched the holy ark of God.

Show Illustration #3. Wow! This was serious! When the ark was first built, God gave Moses special instructions for the right way to move it. The Levites were supposed to walk with it, using poles to carry it. And no one was supposed to touch the ark because it was holy.

Uzzah did not show proper fear and respect for God when he reached out to steady the ark the way he would for any regular thing. God punished Uzzah to teach the Israelites to obey his commands and respect his holiness.

David was so upset that Uzzah died, he was afraid to move the ark anymore. So, he left it at a house nearby. But after three months, it was time to try again. This time, David followed God's instructions exactly.

### 2 Samuel 6:14–15

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out how it all turned out this time. We'll read from 2 Samuel. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read 2 Samuel 6:14–15.

- What did David do before the Lord? *Danced with all his might.*
- What else did the people do as they brought the ark to Jerusalem? *Shouted and blew horns.*

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. This was a great celebration with music and singing! God helped David and the people bring the ark to Jerusalem because they were careful to follow God's directions this time.

After they set the ark inside a tent, David offered sacrifices to God. Then he blessed the people and gave them all gifts of bread, meat, and raisin cakes to eat.

### God's Promise to David

It wasn't long before David got another idea! He told his friend Nathan the prophet about it. "I live in a beautiful house," David explained, "but why should I get to live in such a wonderful home while the ark of God is still in just a tent? I want to build a temple for the ark where people can come and worship God together."

Nathan said, "That's a great idea. Go ahead and do it."

Refer to the Flip Chart. But God had other plans. That night, God gave Nathan a message for

David. He said David would not be the one to build his temple. Instead, God would bless David with a special promise. First, God promised that David's son would be the next king—and this son would do something special.

### 2 Samuel 7:13

Let's find out what this son would do from 2 Samuel 7:13. Read the verse.

- What would David's son build? Remember, God was speaking in this verse. *A house for my (God's) name.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. David's son would be the one to build a house, called a temple, where God's name would be worshipped and honored.

But wait. Let's take a closer look at this verse. This isn't just talking about David's own son. Listen to verse 13 again. Reread 2 Samuel 7:13 emphasizing "forever."

- This says God would establish, or set up, the throne of this kingdom for how long? *Forever.*
- So, would David's son be a king that lived forever? Is he still alive today? *No.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. No, this is talking about someone else. You see, there are three parts to God's promise here. First, David's son would be king after him. Second, this son would build the temple for the ark of God. But the third part of God's promise was even better! God said someone from David's family would be a king forever!

- Who could this promise be talking about? Who has come to earth and built a kingdom that will never end? *Jesus.*

This special person from David's own family is Jesus Christ. God promised that the kingdom he set up with David would be passed to David's son. And after many years, Jesus would be born into David's family and be the King of kings forever!

David was overjoyed by this promise! He praised and thanked the Lord. David believed what God said because God is faithful to always keep his promises.



# GOD PROMISED DAVID:



**The ark came to Jerusalem.**





## K-1st Lesson

### Review

Refer to Lesson 82 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we talked some more about David. When he became king, David made Jerusalem his capital city.

- ? What did David want to bring to Jerusalem? *The ark of God, ark of the covenant.*
- ? What terrible thing happened the first time David and the people tried to move the ark on a cart? *A man touched the ark and died.*

But the second time, David followed God's instructions and brought the ark safely to Jerusalem.

Then David decided he wanted to build a beautiful temple for the ark of God.

- ? What did God say about that? Who would build the temple? *David would not build it, but one of his sons would.*

God also gave David a special promise that Jesus would come from his family and be King of kings forever.

Things seemed to be going well for David as the king of Israel. He built a palace and his family grew. David loved and worshipped God. But even men like David can fall into sin. In today's lesson, we'll see how David sinned and made the mistake of trying to cover it up.

- ? How many of you have ever done something wrong then tried to cover it up? *Show of hands.*

### David's Sin

It all started in springtime, a time when kings went to war and fought battles. But when David's army went to fight the enemies of Israel, David didn't go. He wasn't sick, so he

should have been leading his army—but he chose to stay home instead.

- ? Was David doing what he was supposed to do? *No!*

Uh oh! It can lead to trouble when we choose not to do what we know we should do. While David was at home, he saw a beautiful woman named Bathsheba. She was married to one of David's fighting men named Uriah. David decided he wanted Bathsheba for his own wife.

David knew this was against God's laws, but he didn't care—sin had gripped his heart, and all he could think about was Bathsheba. David tried to cover up his sin, but nothing was working. Finally, David came up with a terrible plan to get rid of Bathsheba's husband, Uriah.

David sent a letter to his commander Joab who was out fighting. In the letter, he told Joab to put Uriah up front in the worst part of the battle so he would be killed by the enemy. Joab obeyed David's command, and Uriah was killed.

When David heard that Uriah died in battle, he brought Bathsheba into the palace to become his wife. But David's sin was great. He stole a man's wife and killed the man!

Let's do an experiment to help us understand what happened to David. *Fill the glass halfway with water if you haven't already done so. This glass is like David. We'll say the water is his heart, the part of us where we think about what we should do or shouldn't do. David first sinned when he wanted Bathsheba as his wife even though he knew she was already married. Add a few drops of food coloring to the water.*

This is called coveting when we want something very badly that belongs to someone else, and that's sin. *Add more drops.* Then David kept trying to cover up his sin, and he finally had Uriah killed by the enemy. *Add more drops.*

- ? Eww! How does David's heart look now? Dirty or clean? *Dirty.*

David chose to ignore his sin, and he tried to cover it up by killing Uriah. *Place a towel over the glass so it's hidden from the class.* Now Bathsheba was David's wife, and she was expecting a

baby. David got what he wanted and thought he could pretend nothing had happened.

- ? Do you think that will work for David to pretend his sin is hidden? *No!*

### Nathan's Parable

Let's find out if that worked. David's disobedience did not please God at all. So God sent Nathan the prophet to speak to David.

#### 2 Samuel 12:1-4

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. I'm going to read what Nathan told David. It's in 2 Samuel 12. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-4.

- ? Show the Lesson Flip Chart. What did the rich man have? *Verse 2. Many flocks and herds.*
- ? What did the poor man have? *Verse 3. Nothing but one little ewe lamb.*
- ? How did the poor man feel about his one lamb? *He loved the lamb; it was like a daughter to him.*
- ? Who came to visit the rich man? *Verse 4. A traveler.*

Yes. A hungry traveler came to stay with the rich man. When the rich man wanted to feed the traveler, he didn't want to kill any of his own lambs for their dinner.

- ? So what did this rich man do? *Verse 4. He took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man.*

What?! The rich man, who had lots of lambs, didn't want to use one of his own. So he killed the poor man's lamb and served it for dinner! How terrible!

- ? What do you think King David thought when he heard this? *Allow guesses.*

#### 2 Samuel 12:5

Let's find out in the next verse! Read 2 Samuel 12:5.

- ? How did King David feel? *He was angry.*
- ? What punishment did King David say the rich man deserved? *He deserved to die.*

David got very angry when he heard about this. He said the rich man deserved to die.

Then Nathan told David, "You are the man!"

- ? What did Nathan mean? Did David kill someone's lamb? *No. He didn't.*

Nathan told a story called a parable to help David understand his sin. He said David was the rich man.

- ? Who do you think the poor man in the story was? *Uriah.*
- ? And who was the little lamb? *Bathsheba.*

That's right. The rich man in the story had everything he needed—just like David! The rich man took what he wanted from someone else. David did the same thing; he took Uriah's wife and had Uriah killed in battle.

David could not hide his sin; God knew all about it. God always knows our hearts and sees everything we do. God knew exactly what David did. When Nathan told David this story, it was like God removed the towel from the glass so David could see what was in his own heart. *Remove the towel from the glass.*

### David's Repentance

- ? What do you think David should do now? *Allow discussion.*

David asked God to cleanse him from his sin and forgive him—and God did! *Stir bleach into the colored water until the color begins to disappear. Continue with the lesson as the bleach continues to work.*

But even though God forgave him, David still had to be punished so he would learn not to sin. Nathan said that David would have trouble in his family, and his baby with Bathsheba would die. This was very sad news! But David understood that there would be consequences for what he had done.

When we sin, we are disobeying God. We end up hurting ourselves and others. And because God is holy and just, he must punish sin. But the good news is that God has promised to forgive us when we are truly sorry and confess our sin to him.

- ? Look at the water now. What happened to the color of sin? *It disappeared. It's gone.*

That's what God does for us, too! Because Jesus died on the cross and rose again, we can be cleansed from our sins and forgiven.



# NATHAN TOLD DAVID A STORY:

1

A rich man  
had many  
sheep.



2

A poor man  
loved his lamb.



YOU ARE THE MAN!



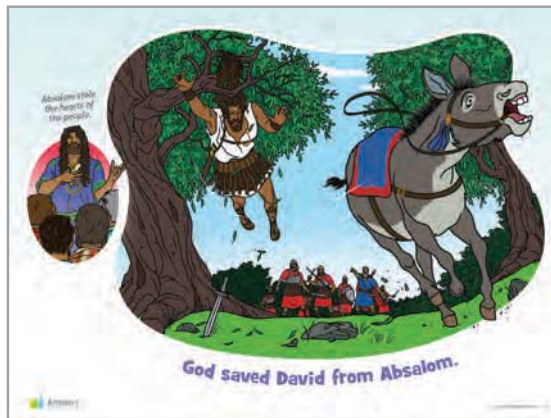
A rich man stole the  
poor man's lamb.

3



David asked God to forgive him.





## K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### Review

Refer to Lesson 83 Flip Chart. In the last lesson, we learned how David sinned when he wanted Bathsheba for his wife. She was already married to one of his soldiers named Uriah. David had Uriah killed to cover up his sin. God was very displeased with David and sent Nathan the prophet to tell David a parable.

- What was the parable, or story, that Nathan told? A rich man with many flocks took and killed the pet lamb of a poor man to feed a traveler.

Nathan told David, “You are the man!” David understood that he had sinned just like the rich man in the story. He confessed his sin and begged God to forgive him and cleanse his heart.

God forgave David, but David still faced consequences for what he did. David and Bathsheba’s baby son died. But God told David that he would also have troubles in his family. Today we’ll see how some of those troubles came through David’s son Absalom.

### Absalom’s Rebellion

Absalom was David’s third son, and his mother was a princess, the daughter of the king of another country. When Absalom was a young man, he became angry at his oldest brother, Amnon, for hurting his sister. Absalom decided to punish his brother by having him killed.

Absalom committed the same sin as his father, who killed Uriah. But remember how David was very sorry for his sins and asked God to forgive him? Well, not Absalom. He didn’t seem sorry at all. Let’s find out a little more about him.

### 2 Samuel 14:25

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. I’m going to read what Absalom looked like from 2 Samuel

chapter 14. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read 2 Samuel 14:25.

- How did Absalom look? Was he handsome? Yes. He was handsome.

### Absalom Interview Skit

**Absalom:** (Enter.) Are you talking about me? It’s true, I am the most good-looking man in all Israel. (Strike a modeling pose.)

**Teacher:** Oh! Hello, Prince Absalom. I’ve heard it said that you’re perfect from your head to your feet.

**Absalom:** (Smile proudly.) That’s me—handsome from head to toe.

**Teacher:** Is it true that you only cut your hair once a year?

**Absalom:** (Adjust lines for long-hair wig or no wig.) Yes. Actually, I (will be cutting or have just cut) my hair (tomorrow or yesterday). (Ask proudly.) Did you know that when I cut it, it weighs 5 pounds? (Toss head with wig or run fingers through hair without wig.)

**Teacher:** That’s a lot of hair to weigh that much!

**Absalom:** Yes. I’m proud of my hair and good looks. In fact, I think I’m so great—I should be king of Israel.

**Teacher:** But your father, David, is king.

**Absalom:** (Act annoyed.) Yes. I know he is. But I’m working on that.

**Teacher:** What do you mean?

**Absalom:** Well, for one thing, I make sure everyone notices me when I go out. I ride in my own chariot and have 50 men run in front of me to clear the way.

**Teacher:** I guess everyone knows when you’re coming, don’t they?

**Absalom:** Of course. Not only that, but I’m making friends with as many people as possible, including these fine young people. (Shake hands with a few students.)

**Teacher:** So you’re being kind to the people of Israel?

**Absalom:** Sort of. I tell them that I am their friend and greet them like I would greet my own family.

**Teacher:** That must make them feel good.

**Absalom:** Yes. It makes them *think* I like them. (Laugh in a not-so-friendly manner.)

**Teacher:** You mean you’re tricking them?

**Absalom:** Why, yes, I guess you could say that. I tell them that if I were king, I would do a much better job than my father, David.

**Teacher:** So you really are trying to take the throne from your father?

**Absalom:** Yes. That’s what this is all about. (Rub hands together gleefully.) I must go now. I shall steal the hearts of the people of Israel and rule over them all! (Exit with a flourish.)

### End of Skit

- Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Point out picture of Absalom in upper corner. It sounds like Absalom sure let people know he was a royal prince. What does this show us about the kind of man Absalom was? Does he seem proud of himself or humble and kind? Allow discussion.

Absalom was up to something. And it wasn’t something good! Absalom acted very friendly to the people until many of them started thinking that maybe Absalom really was better than King David. The Bible tells us that Absalom “stole the hearts of the people” from David.

Finally, it was time to make his move against his father. Absalom wanted to steal the throne from David so he could be the king!

When David heard what was happening, he took his family and his fighting men and left the city of Jerusalem. This was a sad and scary time for David. He was forced to leave his home. He and all those with him cried as they left. David knew Absalom and his men would chase him and try to kill them all!

- But who do you think David turned to for help during this terrible time? God.

Yes! David prayed for help, and God protected David and those with him as they escaped.

### Absalom’s Defeat

Some of David’s friends stayed in Jerusalem as spies. God used these men to help David by sending him messages as Absalom got ready to fight against his father.

Meanwhile, David also gathered an army. He had a lot of strong soldiers who had fought

with him for many years. These men were known as “mighty men,” and David trusted them.

When it was time for battle against Absalom and his army, David’s commanders wouldn’t let him go with them. They didn’t want David to get hurt or killed. So David’s three commanders led their men out against Absalom and his army. The battle had begun!

- Who thinks Absalom and his men will win the battle? Show of hands.
- Who thinks David’s men will win? Show of hands.

### 2 Samuel 18:6–9

Let’s see who’s right! Listen to 2 Samuel 18. I’ll read verses 6 through 8. Read only verses 6–8.

- Where did they fight the battle? Verse 6. In the forest of Ephraim.

David’s men won the battle. Absalom’s army lost.

- What does this say killed, or devoured, more people: the sword or the forest? Verse 8. The forest.

Some men were killed by other soldiers with swords. But the forest was so thick with trees that more men died just trying to run through this forest!

- But what about Absalom? Listen to what happened to him. Read verse 9. He was riding on his mule, and his head got caught in an oak tree.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Remember, we talked about how Absalom only cut his hair once a year. Well, his long hair (or maybe his neck) got caught in the branches of a great oak tree, but his mule kept running, leaving Absalom hanging there helplessly! Commander Joab hurried to the tree with some of his men, and they killed Absalom. The battle for the kingdom was over. David was still the king.

God saved David from Absalom’s evil plans and gave his men a great victory. David was extremely sad that his son had to die. But God told David he would have trouble in his family as a consequence of his sin.

Absalom had sinned, too. But he didn’t turn from his sin or ask God for forgiveness like David did. Instead, he let sins like coveting, pride, and hatred grow in his heart until, finally, God used this battle to punish his sin.



Absalom stole  
the hearts of  
the people.



**God saved David from Absalom.**





## K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

Before class begins, write the following lines on the board:

O \_\_\_\_\_.

I praise you because you are \_\_\_\_\_.

You have made the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

When I am \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, I know I can trust you.

You are so \_\_\_\_\_.

### Review

- Refer to Lesson 84 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, what did David's son Absalom try to do? *Steal the throne. Become king.*

- What happened to Absalom in the battle? *Absalom was caught in a tree. Joab and his men killed Absalom.*

Absalom was a proud man. He did not show that he was sorry for his sin or ask God to forgive him. Instead, he let sins grow in his heart until God used this battle to punish him. Although David was very sad that his son had died, he went back to Jerusalem to rule as king.

Show the Illustration. We've learned a lot about David. He started out as a shepherd, became a warrior, and ruled as the king of Israel. But do you remember something else David did? He played an instrument called the lyre. David was a musician, and he wrote songs that we have in the Bible. They are called psalms.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. The book of Psalms is in the middle of the Bible. It's a book of prayers and songs that helps us think about our mighty God. The psalms teach us how to worship God with our words. The Israelite people used these psalms as their songbook for praising and worshipping God. There are even some worship songs we sing today that came from these psalms!

Refer to the fill-in-the-blank psalm on the board. Let's start by putting together our own psalm of praise. You can help me.

- What is a name for God? (Lord, Father, Jesus, God.) Fill in the first blank.

- What is God like? (Big, awesome, great, mighty, etc.) Fill in the second blank.

- What are two things God has made? (Any created thing.) Fill in the third and fourth blanks.

- What are two different ways we can feel? (Two different emotions.) Fill in the fifth and sixth blanks.

- What is another word that tells us what God is like? (Loving, faithful, amazing, wonderful, etc.) Fill in the seventh blank.

We just wrote a psalm of praise! Let's read our psalm now. Listen to this. Read the psalm with enthusiasm.

- Who are we praising in this psalm we wrote? God.

That's right. When you praise someone, you are saying good things about them.

### Psalms of Praise

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. A psalm of praise is the first kind of psalm we'll look at today.

#### Psalm 117:1-2

Let's read Psalm 117. It's the shortest chapter in the whole Bible. It only has two verses! Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Psalm 117.

- Who does this psalm tell us to praise? *The Lord.*
- What did this psalm say everyone of all nations should do? *Praise the Lord.*
- Why does this psalm say we should praise the Lord? Because of his steadfast what? *Love.*
- We should also praise him because his faithfulness endures for how long? *Forever.*
- What kind of psalm is this? What did it start with and end with? *Praise.*

This is definitely a psalm of praise—a psalm for worshipping the Lord.

#### Psalm 150:1-6

Let's read another one together. Listen for a word that is repeated. Read the verses.

- What word did you hear the most? *Praise.*
- What would you say the writer of this psalm is trying to do—and trying to get us to do? Praise who? *Praise the Lord.*

- How was God praised in this psalm? What instruments are mentioned in it? Reread verses 3-5. *Trumpet, lute, harp, tambourine, strings, pipes, and cymbals.*

- That's a long list of instruments! How many of you want to or already are learning to play an instrument? Show of hands or allow answers.

You can praise the Lord with your instrument! We can also praise God with singing. Remember, these psalms were used like a songbook by the Israelites. Psalms of praise remind us to worship and praise God through music, singing, and prayer.

- At the very end of the psalm, who does it say should praise the Lord? *Everything that has breath.*

That means you and me! If we're breathing, we should praise the Lord!

### Psalms of Thanksgiving

Let's look at another kind of psalm now. This kind is called a psalm of thanksgiving.

#### Psalm 136:1-3

Listen to the first three verses of Psalm 136. Read verses 1-3.

- What does the writer of this psalm say we should do? Give what? *Give thanks.*
- Who does this say we should give thanks to? *The Lord.*
- This is a psalm of thanksgiving. It was written to give God thanks.
- Why does this psalm say we should give thanks to God? What does God have that endures forever? *His steadfast love.*

Yes. This writer was thankful that God's strong love lasts forever. In the rest of the psalm, the writer thanks God for many great things he has done and worships him.

Refer to the Flip Chart. When we take time to remember the things God has done for us in the past, it helps us have a thankful heart. Sometimes we forget that God blesses and helps us every day, so psalms of thanksgiving remind us to think about what God has done and thank him for it.

### Psalms of Lament

Refer to the Flip Chart. There are many psalms that remind us to thank the Lord, but another type of psalm is a psalm of lament. To lament means

to cry out and ask why something is happening. Many writers of the psalms cried out to God when they had troubles. Did you know that David wrote a psalm during the trouble with Absalom?

#### Psalm 3:1 & 4

We'll look at that psalm. It's Psalm 3. It was a scary time when Absalom was coming to fight for the throne. David had to run away from Jerusalem with his family and his fighting men. This psalm tells us how David felt about what was happening. Listen to the first verse. Read verse 1.

- Who was rising up against David? *His foes.*

Foes is another word for enemies. David had to run from his own son and many others who joined Absalom. So David really did have a lot of enemies trying to get him!

Listen to verse 4 now. Read verse 4.

- Who did David cry out to for help? *The Lord.*
- What did the Lord do for David? *Answered David.*

Psalms of lament remind us that God is always the one we should turn to in times of trouble and that he will answer us when we pray to him.

### Writers of the Psalms

We know that God is the author of the psalms in the Bible, but he inspired different men to write the words down over hundreds of years. Some psalms have a little note at the beginning that tells us who wrote it.

Refer to the Flip Chart. From studying these notes, we know that there were many writers.

Point to David on the Flip Chart. Do you remember who this writer was? *David.*

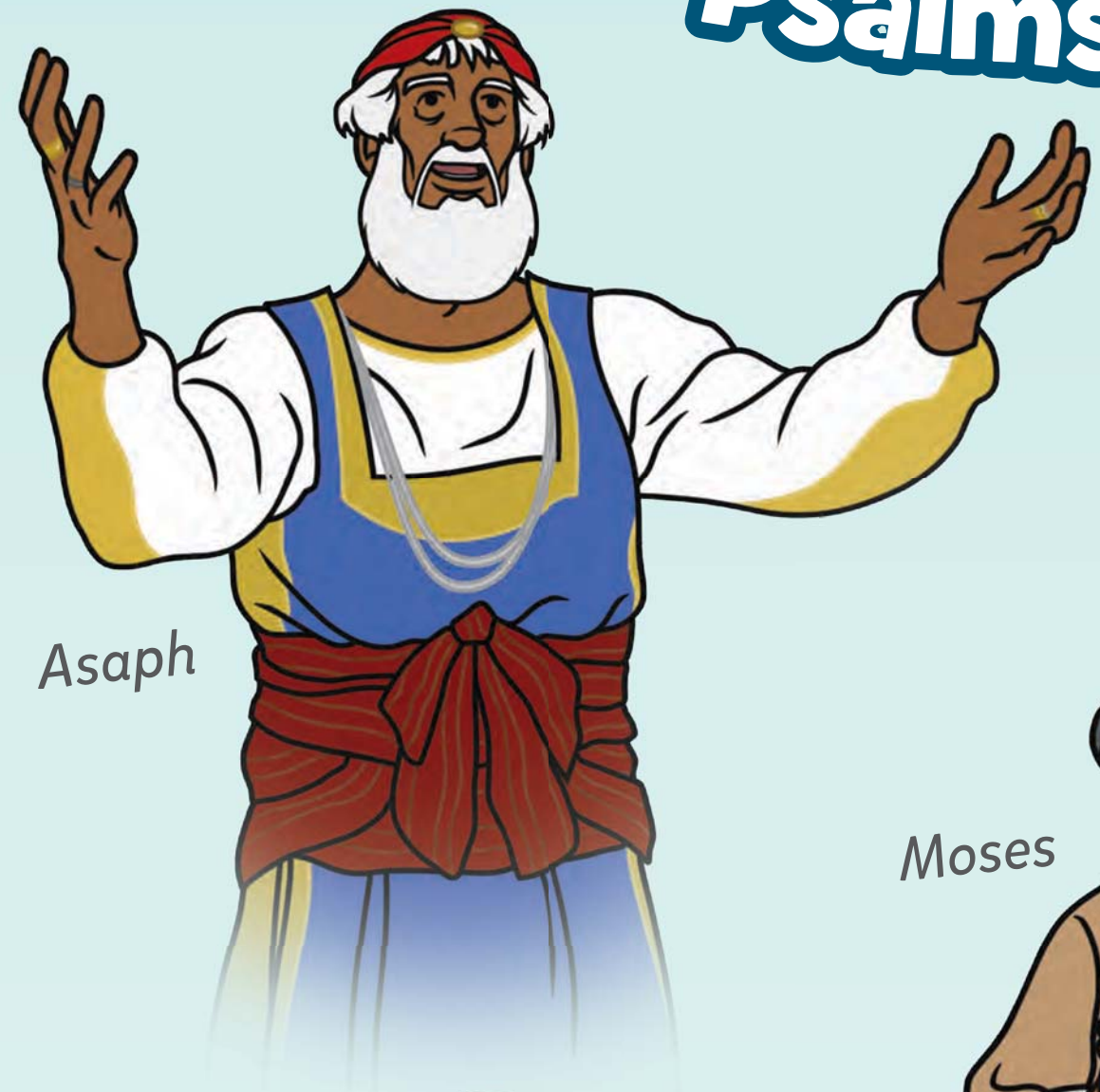
Right. There are 150 psalms, and David wrote at least 73 of them!

Remember Moses who led the Israelites out of Egypt to the promised land? He wrote a psalm. There was also a man named Asaph, as well as one of King David's sons named Solomon. Sometimes several writers worked together like we did when we wrote our psalm at the beginning of our lesson. We don't have the names of all the writers God inspired to compose these songs, but we know about seven of them.

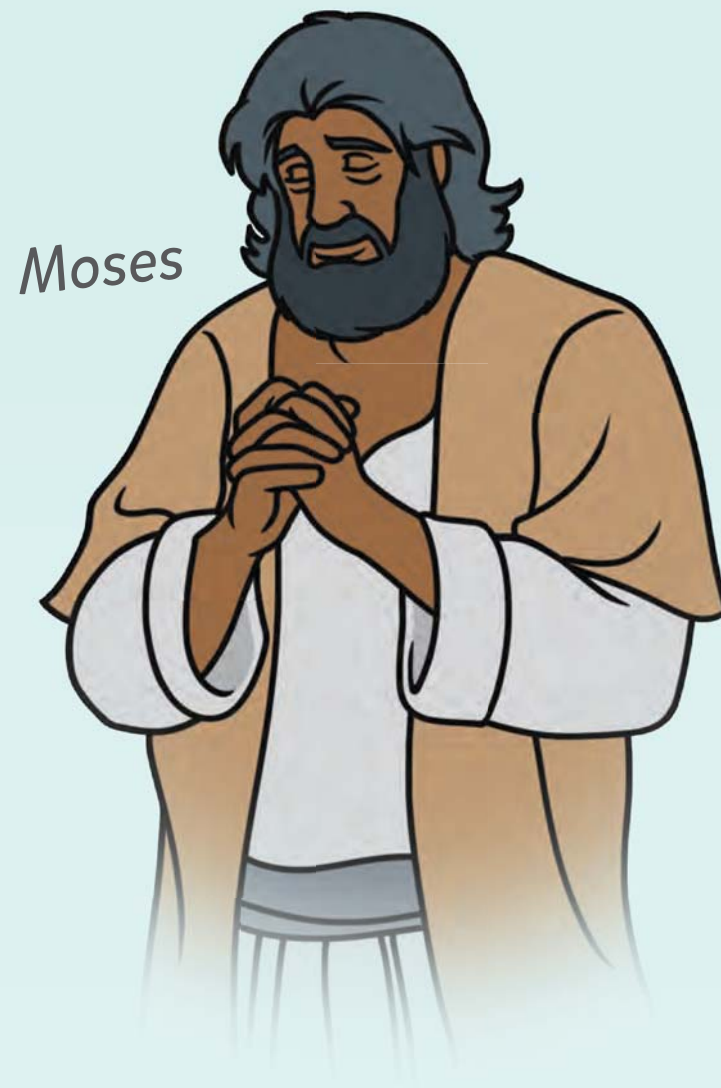
Think about this: the book of Psalms is the largest book in the Bible, so praising, thanking, and worshipping God must be important to him. It should be important to us, too!



# Psalms help us worship God.



Asaph



Moses



David



**PRAISE**



**Thanks**



**Lament**





## K-1st Lesson

### Review

Refer to Lesson 85 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we looked at the book of Psalms. God inspired many writers, including King David, to write songs and prayers that we can use to help us praise and worship God.

- ? Think of the three kinds of psalms we talked about. What kind of psalm praises God because he is so great? *Psalm of praise.*
- ? What kind of psalm gives thanks to God for all he's done for us? *Psalm of thanksgiving.*
- ? What kind of psalm is like talking to God when we're sad and asking him why things are happening? *Psalm of lament.*

Today we're going to talk about the wisest man that ever lived. He was one of King David's sons named Solomon.

- ? What does it mean to be wise? *Allow discussion.*  
When someone is wise, that means they know what is right and wrong, and they choose to do the right thing. We say a wise person has wisdom. Let's think about wisdom. *Write each student's name on a strip of paper and place them into a container. Follow the instructions for the Wisdom Examples then continue with the lesson.*

The Bible is like an instruction book that shows us wisdom from God. It teaches us the wise way to do things so we can please God.

Let's go back to David's son Solomon. He had more wisdom than anyone else ever had! Let's find out how he got so wise.

### Solomon Requests Wisdom

When David was very old, his son Solomon was crowned as the next king of Israel.

Solomon loved the Lord, and God made his kingdom strong and peaceful.

One night, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, "Whatever you ask for, I will give to you."

- ? Can you imagine if God came to you and said he would give you anything you asked for? What would you ask for? *Allow answers.*

Many books and movies tell stories of people who get to ask for wishes. Usually they ask for money, fancy things, or to be a prince or princess.

### 1 Kings 3:9-10

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. But this time, it wasn't just a story. God really said he would give Solomon whatever he asked. Let's see what Solomon said in 1 Kings 3:9-10. *Have the student bring up the Bible and turn to the sticky note. Read the verses.*

Solomon knew he had a very big job ahead of him as king. He knew he wasn't as old as or knew as much as his father, David. But he wanted to rule God's people well.

- ? What did Solomon ask God for? He wanted an understanding what? *Mind.*
- ? Right. He wanted to be able to discern between what and what? *Good and evil.*

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Solomon could have asked God for anything, but he asked for an understanding mind—for wisdom to know right and wrong and be able to make good decisions.

- ? What did God think of Solomon's request? *He was pleased that Solomon would ask this.*

### 1 Kings 3:12-13

God was very pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom when he could have asked for a long life or riches or revenge on his enemies. So what did God do because he was so pleased with Solomon? Listen to this. *Read 1 Kings 3:12.*

God said he would give Solomon more wisdom than anyone else ever had. There would never be another man as wise as Solomon!

- ? But God also said he'd give him two things he didn't ask for. What were they? Listen to the next verse. *Read verse 13. Riches and honor.*

God gave Solomon wisdom and gave him riches and honor, too. And he even said that if Solomon was careful to obey all of God's commands, God would also give him long life. Wow! What great gifts.

Solomon asked God to give him wisdom so he could rule the people well. God is the only one who can give us wisdom because he is wise. That means God does everything perfectly, without mistakes.

### Solomon Shows Wisdom

As the king, Solomon had many jobs, and one job was to be a judge. When people had arguments or troubles and could not figure out how to solve the problem, they could come before the king. Solomon would listen to them and be the judge of who was right and who was wrong. One day, two women came to Solomon with a big argument. Solomon used his God-given wisdom to judge the tough problem between them.

You see, these two women lived in the same house, and each had newborn baby boys. But one of the women woke up in the night and found that her baby had died. So she sneaked over to the other mother's bed and traded her dead baby for the live baby while his mother slept.

In the morning, the mother next to the dead baby could tell he wasn't her son. She knew the babies had been switched, but the other woman wouldn't give her baby back.

Refer to the Flip Chart. So, the two women came before King Solomon so he could decide what to do with the baby that was still alive. Whose baby was he?

One mother said, "That woman's baby is dead! This is my baby!" But the other mother argued saying, "No. He's mine!"

Solomon raised his hand to hush the women then said, "Both of you say this baby is yours and the other mother had a baby who died."

The mothers agreed; they both wanted the live baby. Then King Solomon turned to his guard and said something very surprising, "Bring me a sword." The guard came before the king with a sword in his hand.

Solomon commanded his guard, "Divide this living child in two with the sword and give half to each mother."

What?! The guard walked toward the baby to obey the king's command. But as he came near, one mother begged the king, "Wait! Give the baby to the other woman. Please don't kill him!"

But the other mother said, "Go ahead, divide him! Then neither of us will have a baby."

- ? What a terrible problem! Can you figure out which woman was really the baby's mother? *Allow guesses.*

### 1 Kings 3:27

Let's find out if you're right. Listen to what happened next. *Read 1 Kings 3:27.*

- ? Did Solomon really put the baby to death? *No.*  
No, he didn't. Solomon was testing the women. When he threatened to kill the baby, he could tell which one truly cared about the child. Solomon told the guard to give the baby to the woman who had begged the king not to kill him. She was the baby's mother.

All the people of Israel heard about how Solomon judged between these two women and figured out who the real mother was. They were in awe at the wisdom of their king and knew that kind of wisdom could only come from God.

Solomon used his wisdom in many different ways. Besides judging the people, he also wrote poetry and music. Did you know he wrote over 1,000 songs?! Solomon studied God's creation—plants and animals, fish, lizards, and birds! God helped Solomon understand all these things and made him wiser than anyone else. People came from all over the world to listen to Solomon's great wisdom from God.



# God made Solomon wise.

"Please give me wisdom."







## K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### Review

In our last lesson, we read about David's son who became the next king of Israel.

- ? What was his name? *King Solomon.*
- ? God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him he'd give him whatever he asked for. What did Solomon want? *Wisdom.*

Wisdom helps us know what's right and wrong. God's wisdom shows us the best way to do things so we can obey God.

Refer to Lesson 86 Flip Chart. God was pleased that Solomon asked for something that would help him be a good king. God made him the wisest man who ever lived and blessed him with riches and honor. Solomon used his wisdom to judge the people. We saw this in the case of the two women who were fighting over a baby. Solomon figured out which woman was the real mother.

Refer to Lesson 82 Flip Chart. Now let's think back to what we learned about the promises God gave to King David. God said David's son would be king and that he would build a temple. Besides becoming a king with great wisdom, Solomon also built the first temple for God in Jerusalem.

We're going to talk about that building project today. Since the Bible tells us a lot about it, we can figure out what this temple looked like. We know it was very beautiful.

I have some pictures of beautiful buildings I want to show you. *Show pictures of buildings and discuss what makes them beautiful.*

### The Temple and the Tabernacle

God has given people creativity to be able to make things that look beautiful, and the temple did turn out to be a very lovely place. The temple would be God's house, a permanent building where people could come to worship God and offer sacrifices to him.

- ? What does it mean to be permanent? *Allow discussion.*

Permanent means something that will last for a long time. The temple was built with stone and wood. It was a big building that was meant to stand strong for years and years.

This temple would help the people remember God. It would be a permanent place in Jerusalem where people could come and offer sacrifices to God and take time to worship him.

- ? Before the temple was built, where did the Israelites go to worship God? Do you know? *The tabernacle.*

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. When God rescued the Israelites from Egypt, he led the people through the wilderness to the promised land. But while they were traveling, the Israelites couldn't stop and build a building for worship, so God told them to make the tabernacle.

The main part of the tabernacle was a tent that could be taken down and set up wherever the Israelites camped. It was made of materials like goat skins, fabric, and wooden poles. It had beautiful furnishings inside, like a golden lampstand, an altar for sweet-smelling spices, and a golden table for the priests' bread. It was a special place that reminded the people that God was with them.

But many years later, David thought God deserved much more than a tent, so he began to collect things for his son Solomon to use to build a temple for God.

Show jewelry. These are pieces of jewelry made from gold and silver. Some of them have pretty stones. David collected huge amounts of gold, silver, and lovely stones to help make the temple beautiful for the Lord.

Refer to Flip Chart. God told David what the temple should look like, and then David passed the instructions on to his son. Some of the

things that were in the tabernacle had special meanings, so God also wanted them in the temple. There were two special rooms called the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Inside these rooms were the ark of the covenant, the altar of incense, and not just one, but 10 lampstands and 10 tables for bread.

Outside the temple, God wanted a bronze basin where the priests would wash, only this one was much bigger than the basin in the tabernacle. It was so big they called it "The Sea." It was like a huge round bowl that could hold about 12,000 gallons of water!

Show gallon bucket or milk container. This bucket/milk container holds one gallon of water/milk. Imagine if we had 12,000 of these! That's how much water was in this basin called "The Sea."

Show cedar wood. Have students smell it if it's fragrant. Inside the temple, the walls were made from wood called cedar. Cedar can have a pretty red color and often has a sweet smell. The doors and walls were decorated with carvings of angels, palm trees, and flowers. But that's not all—just about everything was covered in shiny gold!

- ? How long do you think it took Solomon and his servants to build this beautiful building and all the special things in it? *Allow guesses.*

It took seven years to finish building the temple. Now the people had a permanent place to worship the Lord.

### The Temple and God's Presence

It's important to worship God because he is our Creator and our Savior, and he deserves our praise. But God didn't want the people to just come to the temple once in a while then go home and forget about him.

#### 1 Kings 6:11–13

Let's read what God told Solomon. Listen carefully to these verses in 1 Kings 6:11–13. Have the student bring up the Bible and turn to the sticky note. Read the verses.

- ? Who was talking to Solomon? *Verse 11. The Lord.*
- ? The Lord said Solomon and the people needed to keep all of God's what? *Verse 12. Commandments.*

- ? Who would dwell in the temple with the people of Israel? Look at verse 13. *The Lord.*

God said that if the people would obey his commandments and walk in his ways, like David did, then God would stay with them and would not leave them.

Refer to the Flip Chart. When the temple was finally finished, the priests brought the ark of the covenant and placed it in the room called the Most Holy Place. Outside, the people praised and worshipped God and offered many sacrifices to the Lord—so many that they couldn't be counted!

- ? How many of you think God was pleased with Solomon and all the work the people did? *Show of hands.*

#### 1 Kings 8:10–11

Let's see what God did next. Listen to 1 Kings 8:10–11. Read the verses.

- ? What filled the house of the Lord, the temple? *A cloud.*

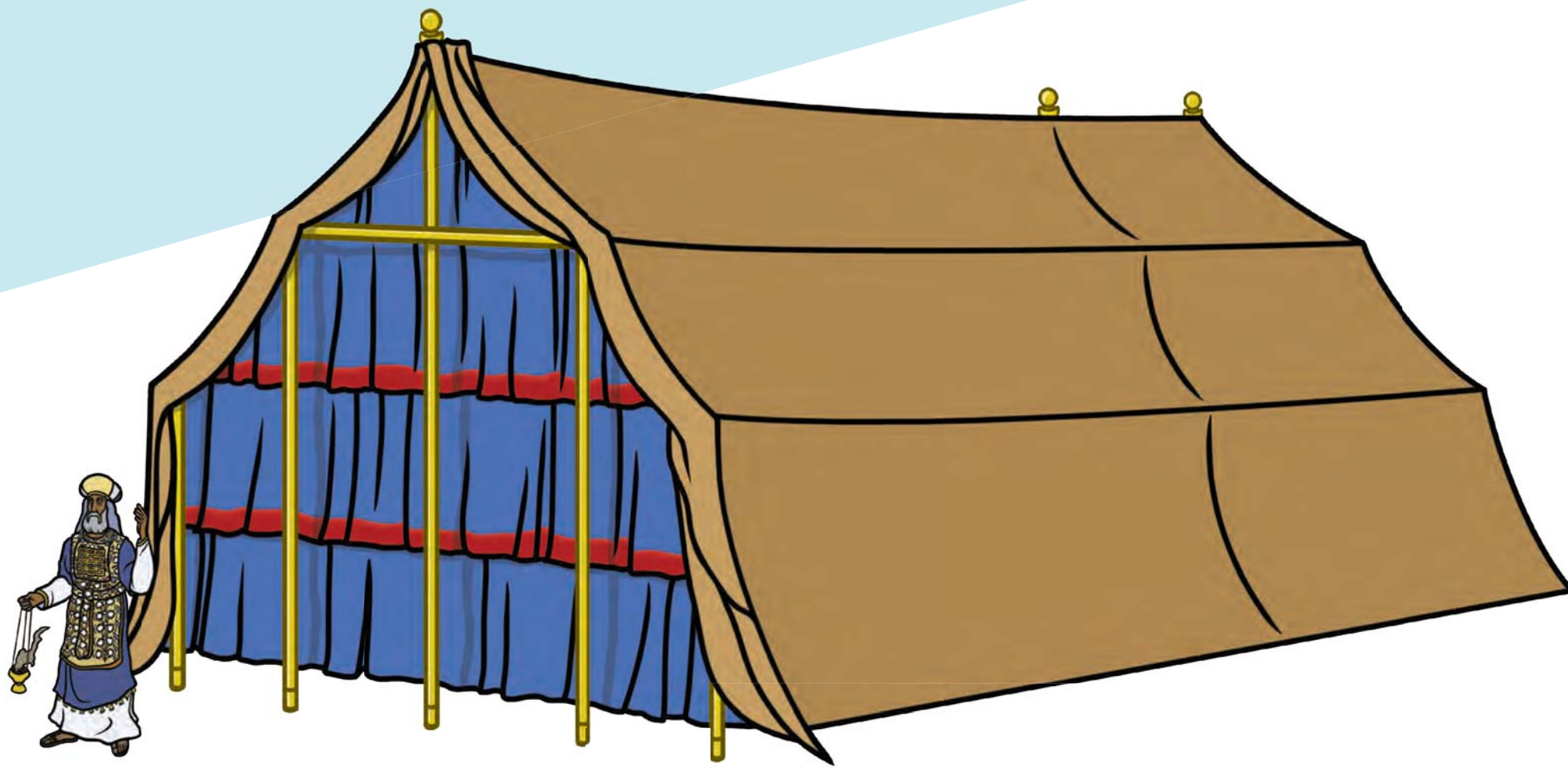
- ? The priests couldn't do their work inside because of the cloud. What did this cloud mean? It was the what of the Lord? *It was the glory of the Lord.*

The Lord used a cloud to show that he was pleased with the temple and that he would stay there with his people. The Israelites could now come to this place to praise and worship God.

Refer to the Flip Chart. God also used the temple and all the specially made furnishings as a picture of things that would happen later. For example, the bronze altar wasn't as beautiful as some of the other things, but it was very important. That's where the priests offered animal sacrifices to cover the sins of the people. God used these sacrifices to point to Jesus.

You see, the priests had to offer sacrifices over and over again for the people's sin. But when Jesus died on the cross, he was the perfect sacrifice to God. He only had to die one time to cover all sin. Now all who believe in Jesus, turn from their sins, and put their trust in him will be saved.





Basin



Table of Showbread



Altar of Incense



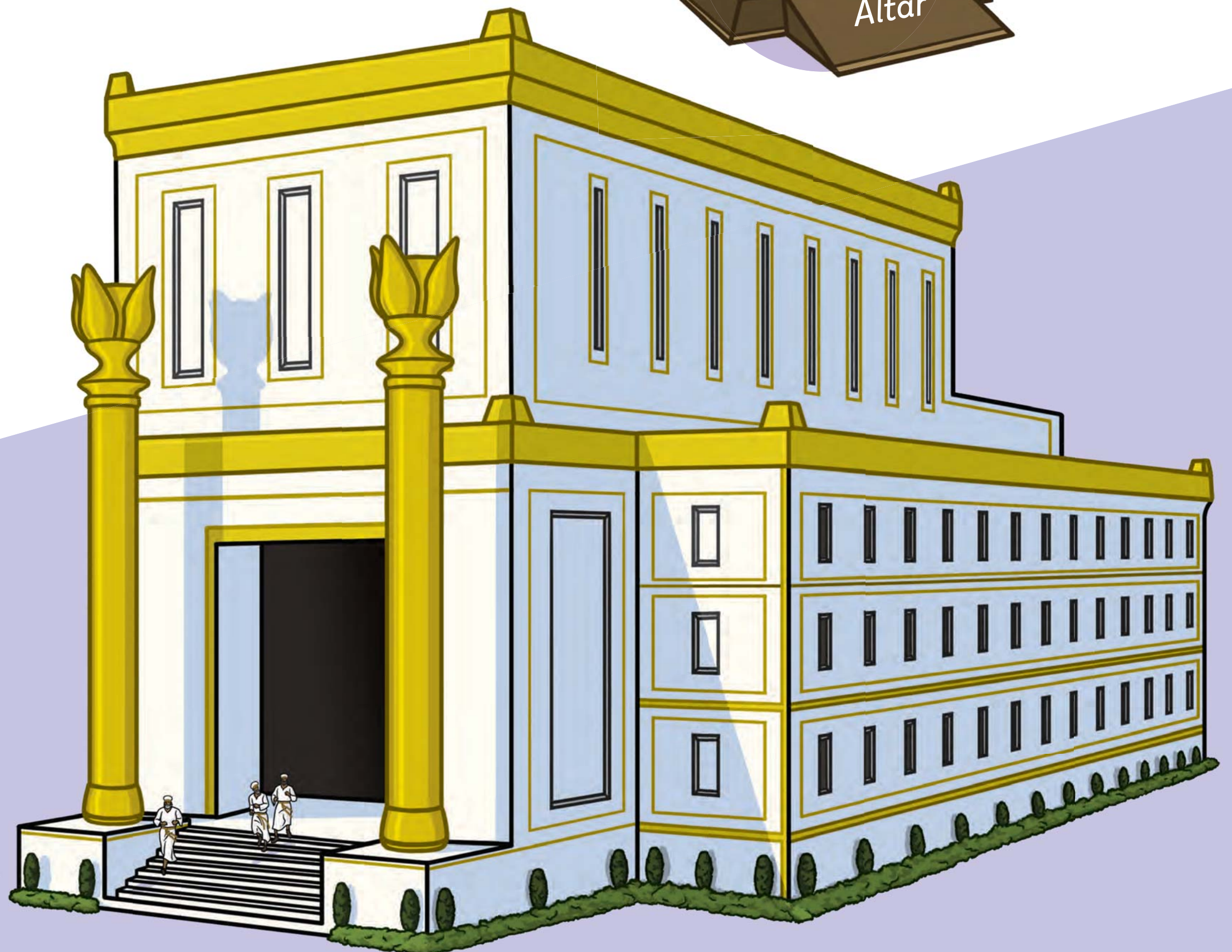
Altar



Ark of the Covenant



Golden Lampstand



**A place to  
worship God**





## K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### Review

- Refer to Lesson 87 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, what building did we talk about that was a special place for people to come and worship God? *The temple.*
- Who built the temple? *King Solomon.*

Refer to Lesson 86 Flip Chart. Right. Solomon was the next king after his father, David, and he built the temple in Jerusalem.

When Solomon first became king, he asked God for wisdom so he could lead the people well. Solomon judged the case of the two women and the baby, using wisdom to figure out which woman was the real mother. People were amazed at the great wisdom God had given to Solomon. He was the wisest man who ever lived, and he wrote down some of the wisdom God gave him in the book of Proverbs.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. The book of Proverbs is in the Bible. It is one of the books of poetry in the Old Testament and comes right after Psalms.

A proverb is a short saying that reminds us of how things usually happen in everyday life. Many people have made up their own proverbs. Listen to these and see if you can tell me what they mean.

- What does it mean when I say, “better safe than sorry”? *Allow discussion. It's better to follow*

*the rules to be safe. When we break rules, we might get hurt.*

- How about this one? “Practice makes perfect.” *Allow discussion. If we want to be good at something and do it perfectly, we have to practice it many times.*
- What does this mean? “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.” *Allow discussion. Eating good things like apples will help us stay healthy, so we won't get sick as much and need a doctor.*

These are proverbs, or sayings, that people have made up. But the proverbs in the Bible are different because they are from God. We know that God is wise. He knows right from wrong and does everything without mistakes. God's proverbs don't just explain things to us, they also give us wisdom so we can make good choices that please God. This is called godly wisdom.

### Seeking Wisdom

King Solomon wrote most of the book of Proverbs to teach his son how to have godly wisdom. When we read these proverbs, we can learn how to have wisdom, too.

### Proverbs 2:4–5

Listen to what Solomon said about wisdom in Proverbs chapter 2. *Have the student bring up the Bible and turn to the sticky note. Read Proverbs 2:4–5.*

- How should we seek for wisdom? *Seek for it like silver.*
- How should we search for wisdom? *Search for it like hidden treasures.*
- That's right! If we knew there was treasure like silver or gold hidden nearby, would we ignore it or search really hard until we found it? *Search really hard.*

Yes! Most of us would search pretty hard for treasure like that. We just read in God's Word that we should search just as hard for wisdom. But how can we do that?

- Show the Lesson Flip Chart. See the path here to the treasure? What is the boy using to help him find the treasure of wisdom? *The Bible.*

The Bible is God's Word; it can help us stay on the right path.

- What does staying on the path of wisdom help the boy keep away from? What are all these things you see? *Vulture, skull, snake, scorpion, etc.*
- Are they good or bad things? *Bad things.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Right! These pictures remind us of bad things that we all do, sins like unkindness, or being mean to others, getting angry, and disobeying. But when we obey what the Bible says, it helps us stay away from sin, and that's being wise.

### Proverbs 2:6

So, we know that God's Word can help us stay on the path to true wisdom. But some things in the Bible are hard to understand. Who is the one that helps us understand it? Let's see what the next verse says. *Read the verse.*

- Who gives true wisdom and knowledge and helps us understand it? *The Lord.*
- Our memory verse talks about that. Let's say it together. *Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page and recite the verse together.*
- Wisdom doesn't come from me or you. Who should we ask for wisdom? *God.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. The Lord God is the only one who has true wisdom. That's why learning about him is so important. Solomon said wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord. That means we need to start by believing what God says and show him respect and honor. When we do that, we'll be on the right path to the treasure of wisdom, which will help us make good choices that please God.

### Wisdom from Proverbs

The whole Bible is full of God's truth and wisdom, but the book of Proverbs is like a

treasure chest of wise sayings that help us make good choices. Proverbs talks about choosing good friends, listening to our parents, working hard, being careful of our words, and much more!

### Treasure Hunt

We're going to go on a treasure hunt to look for wisdom that comes from the book of Proverbs. Follow the Treasure Hunt instructions, reading and discussing the proverbs as you find each card. Lead students to the final treat at the end then continue with the lesson.

Great job hunting for treasure! Remember, these are only a few of the many proverbs found in the Bible. But they are all wise sayings because they are from God's Word. They can help us understand how God wants us to live each day.

Refer to the Flip Chart. As we read God's Word and grow in wisdom, we can find a lot of great advice in the book of Proverbs. Following this advice and doing what it says can help us keep away from sins like unkindness, anger, and disobedience. We can learn to be a good friend, honor our parents, be kind, and much more.

- But here's an important question to think about. If we obey the commands in Proverbs and do these good things, does that mean we'll automatically go to heaven when we die? *Allow discussion, reminding the students that good works do not save us, only faith in Christ saves us.*

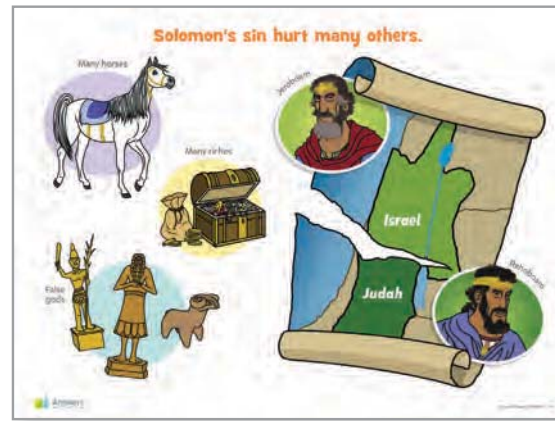
We must remember that we are saved by God, not by what we do. Only Jesus can save us by his grace when we turn from our sins and trust in him. When we do this, we become a child of God, and we'll want to obey him and do what his Word says. God gave us a treasure of wisdom in his Word so we can love and obey him by making good choices every day.





Search for wisdom like treasure.





## K-1st Lesson

Before class on a table up front, set up dominoes in a pyramid shape with each one set on its side so that when you tip over the one at the top of the pyramid, the other dominoes will fall.

### Review

- Refer to Lessons 86–88 Flip Chart pages. When Solomon first became king, what did he ask God to give him? *Wisdom.*

God gave Solomon wisdom to rule the people of Israel well.

- What did Solomon build as a place to worship God? *The temple.*

Right! God was pleased with the beautiful temple where people could come together to worship.

- Solomon wrote most of a book in the Bible to teach his son about wisdom. Which book of the Bible is that? *Proverbs.*

The book of Proverbs tells us that seeking for wisdom is like searching for hidden treasure. When we read God's Word and use what we learn from it, that's being wise. Wisdom will help us stay close to God and keep away from sins that can hurt us and those around us.

That's what we're going to talk about today, how one person's sin can hurt, or affect, others.

Think back to the first kings of Israel, King Saul and King David. They both sinned, and the decisions they made affected not only them but also their families and the people they ruled.

God knew that any man who was crowned king would still have a sinful heart. So he warned the people that the kings must always obey him. What about Solomon? He

was the wisest king to ever live; does that mean he didn't sin? Let's find out how he did.

### Solomon's Disobedience

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. In the book of Deuteronomy, God gave special commands for the kings to follow.

#### Deuteronomy 17:16–17

We'll read Deuteronomy 17:16–17 where God lists some things the kings should not do. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.

- There were certain things God clearly said he did NOT want the kings to acquire, or collect, for themselves. What were the things the kings should not acquire? *Many horses, many wives, excessive silver and gold.*

- Why would it be wrong for a king to have many horses? *Allow discussion.*

Horses back then were mostly used for battle. The more horses a king had, the stronger his army would be. And soon, the king would start relying on his army to take care of his problems rather than trusting in God. But God wanted the kings to trust him—not their armies.

- God explained why he said not to take many wives. What could happen to the king's heart? *Reread verse 17. The king's heart could turn away.*

- What do you think that means? Turn away from what? *Allow discussion.*

Wives from other countries would bring their false gods with them, so it would be very easy for the king to start worshipping his wives' false gods, causing his heart to turn away from God. Also, God's design for marriage has always been one man and one woman for life. So, taking many wives was disobeying God's plan.

- What does it mean that the king should not acquire excessive silver and gold? *Allow discussion.*

This means that the kings should not collect lots of riches like gold and silver for themselves. God knew that kings could start to love their riches more than they loved God.

So, this was what God told the kings to be careful not to do. Did King Solomon obey?

His kingdom started out great. God blessed him with wisdom, honor, and riches. He built the temple and ruled the people well. But Solomon was a sinner just like all people.

Refer to the Flip Chart. He collected many horses along with huge amounts of silver and gold and jewels. He became the richest king on earth! Solomon broke two commands for the kings to follow.

What about the other command not to take many wives? Sadly, Solomon did not obey God's command about marriage either.

The Bible tells us that King Solomon loved many foreign women. These women were from foreign countries. But God had told his people NOT to marry women from these countries. Yet Solomon disobeyed God and did what he wanted to do.

- Can you guess how many wives Solomon had? *Write guesses on the board.*

Write "700" on the board. Solomon had 700 wives! And what made it worse is that many of them did not believe in the true God. They taught Solomon how to worship their false gods, and soon Solomon's heart turned away from the Lord. Isn't that sad? Solomon disobeyed God's commands, and he did not care about God the way he used to.

### God's Punishment

- What does God think about anyone who disobeys him? *Allow discussion.*

God is holy and perfect. He does not like disobedience. Because God is just, he must punish sin.

#### 1 Kings 11:11 & 13

God was angry with Solomon for breaking his commandments. Let's read what God said to Solomon in 1 Kings 11:11. Read the verse.

- What was the Lord going to tear away from Solomon because he disobeyed God? *His kingdom.*

- Who would God give the kingdom to? *One of Solomon's servants.*

Usually, the oldest son would become the next king. But God told Solomon his servant would become the next king over Israel instead.

God promised to still give something to Solomon's son. Listen to this. Read 1 Kings 11:13.

- How many tribes did God say he would give to Solomon's son? *One tribe.*

God said that one of Solomon's servants would become king over most of Israel. But because he made a promise to David a long time ago, God would allow Solomon's son to be the king over one tribe of Israel.

When King Solomon died, his son Rehoboam took over the throne. The people hoped King Rehoboam would be kinder and treat them better than Solomon had. But Rehoboam had an unkind heart. He said he'd make them work harder and punish them worse than his father did!

The people got very upset. It wasn't long before they chose one of Solomon's servants, named Jeroboam, to be their king. But the tribe of Judah chose to follow King Rehoboam.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Now the nation of Israel was torn apart into two kingdoms. One kingdom was in the north, called Israel, and one was in the south, called Judah. This is exactly what God had told Solomon would happen because of Solomon's sin.

- Did Solomon's sin affect only him? *No.*

- Who else would it affect or hurt? *His son, his kingdom/people.*

Let's use dominoes to show how our sin affects others. God knew the people would follow their leaders and do the same things the king would do, which is why God gave so many commands for the kings of Israel to obey. But when the king chose to disobey God and worship false gods (pick up the domino at the tip of the pyramid to represent the king then set it back down), the people followed what the king did (tip over the "king" domino at the peak of the pyramid and watch the other dominoes fall). Soon, many in the kingdom were disobeying God, too.

Solomon's sin affected him and those around him. It turned his heart away from God and caused his son to lose most of the kingdom. Now the people of Israel were no longer together as one—they were split up into two countries with two different kings.



# Solomon's sin hurt many others.

Many horses



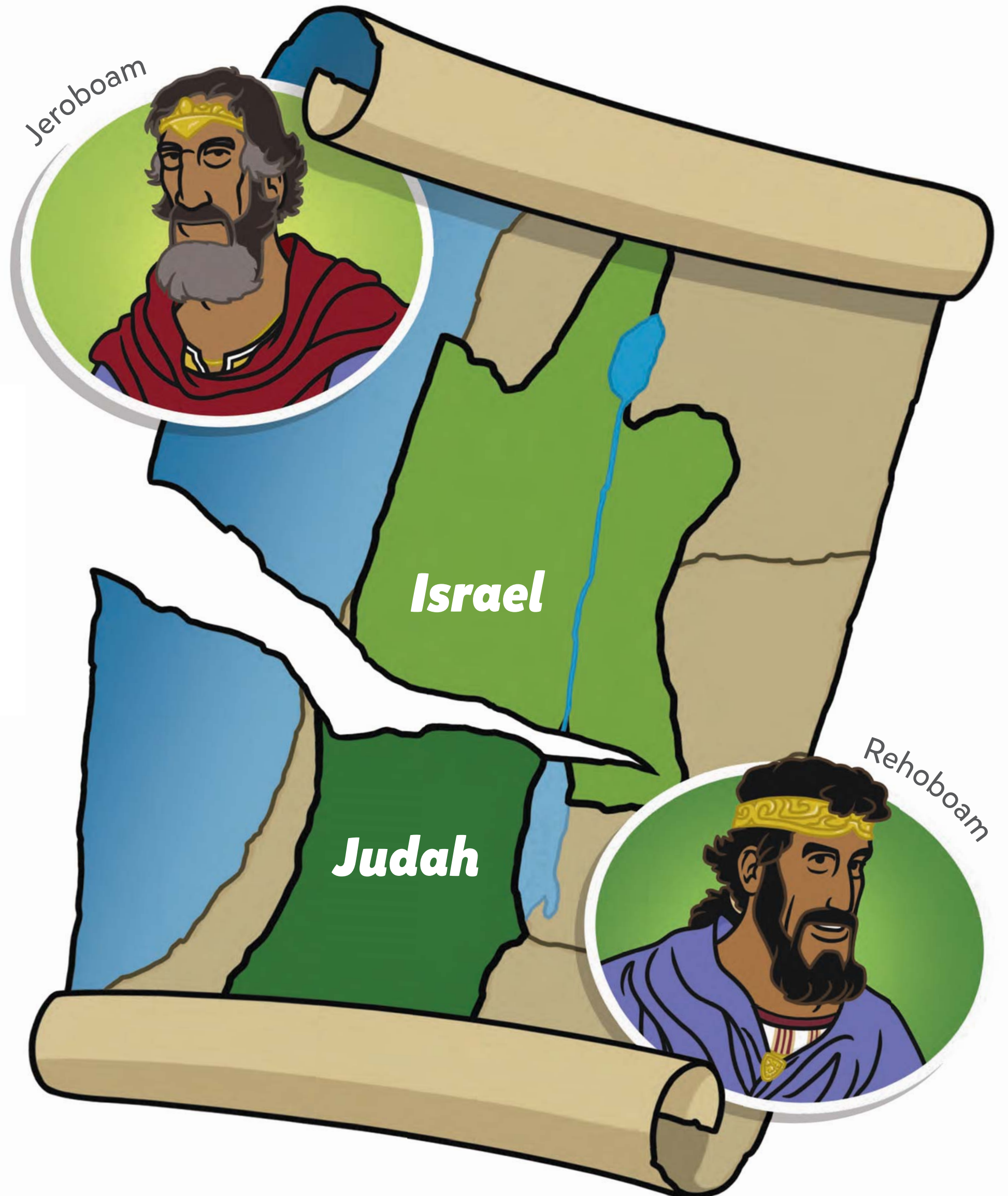
Many riches



False gods



Jeroboam



Rehoboam



If any of **U** lacks



*wisdom*

let him



*ask*



**hoo!**

*who*



*gives*

generously

**2**



*all*



without



*reproach*

and it will

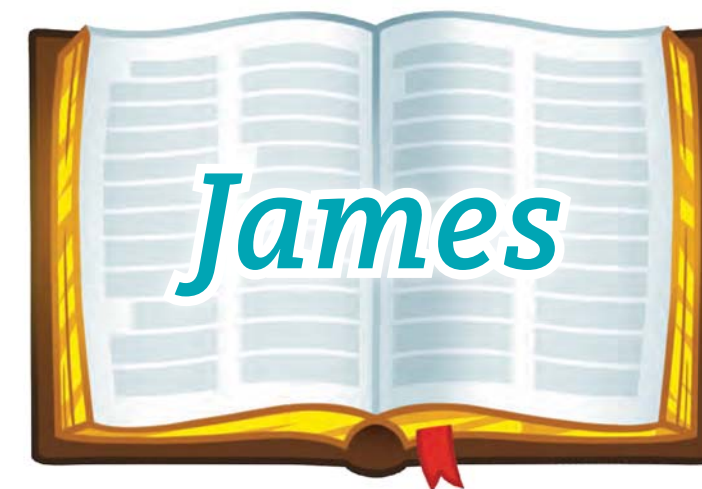


*be*



*given*

him.



1:5



# Song Time Lyrics



## 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—  
and it will be given him.  
James chapter 1 verse 5!

(repeat)



## Worthy of All Praise

Verse 1

Who is bigger than our God? No one, no one!  
Who is stronger than our God? No one, no one!  
He has done amazing things a thousand years ago.  
He has done amazing things right inside my home.  
Who is bigger than our God?  
Who is stronger than our God?

Chorus

We can praise him with our hands.  
We can praise him with our feet.  
We can praise him with our voice.  
He is    worthy    OF ALL PRAISE!  
(stomp 2x)    (clap 2x)    (shout)  
He is    worthy    OF ALL PRAISE!  
(stomp 2x)    (clap 2x)    (shout)

Verse 2

Who is kinder than our God? No one, no one!  
Who is closer than our God? No one, no one!  
He will help us when we're sad or when we feel afraid.  
He is glad to help all those who call upon his name.  
Who is kinder than our God?  
Who is closer than our God?

Chorus

Bridge

Only God is worthy!  
Only God is worthy.  
Thank the Lord, clap your hands.  
Sing and shout because . . .  
Only God is worthy!  
Only God is worthy.  
No one else—no one else  
Can do the things he does.

(repeat)

Chorus 2x

## God Wants Me to Worship Him!

God wants me to worship him,  
Worship him, worship him.  
God wants me to worship him,  
Worship him alone!

God wants me to obey him,  
Obey him, obey him.  
God wants me to obey him.  
Obey him alone!

Our God is an AWESOME God!  
AWESOME God! AWESOME God!  
Our God is an AWESOME God!  
Worship him alone!

Let's worship him alone!  
Let's worship him alone!

