

Lesson 86

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

Solomon asked God for wisdom to rule his people.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of confession and tell God we're sorry.

I'll start. Dear God, I'm sorry for . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Who is in control of all things, even when we have to wait a long time? God.
What word means God is in control of everything? Sovereign.
When we know we've sinned, what should we do? Confess our sins.
What is the beginning of wisdom? The fear of the Lord.

Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K 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.

Do you remember 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.

Have Wisdom Examples and name strips ready. 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."

Wow! What would you ask for if this happened to you? Allow answers.
1 Kings 3:9–10

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's see what Solomon asked for 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 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.

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

1 Kings 3:13

But God also said he'd give him two things he didn't ask for. Listen to the next verse to find out what these things were. Read verse 13.

What else did God give to Solomon? Riches and honor.

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

Solomon asked God to give him wisdom so he could be a good king. 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.

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!"

The mothers both wanted the live baby. After listening to the women, King Solomon turned to his guard and said something very surprising, "Bring me a sword!" The guard came forward with a sword. Solomon commanded his guard, "Divide this living child in two with the sword and give half to each mother."

As the guard came near, one mother begged the king, "Wait! Give the baby to the other woman. But 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.

Solomon didn't really hurt the baby. He was testing the women. He wanted to see which one truly cared about the child. Solomon told the guard to give the baby to the woman who had begged him not to kill him; she was the baby's mother.

All the people of Israel heard about how Solomon figured out who the real mother was. They were amazed 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. Along with judging the people, he wrote poetry and music—over 1,000 songs! Solomon

also studied plants, animals, fish, lizards, and birds! God helped Solomon understand all these things, and people came from all over the world to listen to Solomon's great wisdom given to him from God. Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

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.

Have Wisdom Examples and name strips ready.

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.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- Two beanbags
- Three laundry baskets or boxes
- Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- Three chairs set out for bases

Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)

Game Board

Dice, numbered cards, or spinner

Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Six to ten empty water bottles
Softball or other small playground ball
Masking tape
Optional: dried corn or beans

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
Rolled up socks
Masking tape
Ten sheets of paper
Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and

continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
White board or chalkboard
Markers/chalk
Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.),
tape/poster putty

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards

One beanbag
Masking tape
Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

Limited License to Reproduce

A limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable, nonsublicensable license is hereby granted to a single local church or organization to print copies of the PDF materials in the Teacher Digital Resources if 1) you are the original purchaser; 2) you are using the copies for noncommercial purposes (such as for teaching in class) exclusively within your single local church or organization (multi-campus churches, and national/regional denominations are not covered under this license); and 3) you follow the instructions provided in the curriculum pertaining to the printable materials.

This license is for the specific purchaser of the product and does not include affiliated groups or organizations, or other churches or groups in the same denomination as the purchaser, not identified as the actual purchaser. There is no limit to the number of printed copies for use within the single local church or organization which is the actual purchaser. None of the material in this curriculum may be reproduced for any commercial promotion, advertising, or sale of a product or service, or to share with any other persons, churches, groups, or organizations.

The media (audio/video) portions are copyrighted and duplication is prohibited. This license is for materials in the Teacher Digital Resources only and does NOT include reproduction rights for pre-printed teacher books, student guides, student take home sheets, or posters, except on an emergency basis when purchased quantities are not sufficient for a given week.

Bible Version

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.