



K-Ist 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.

