

UNIT 12 | SESSION 1

SOLOMON BECAME KING

1 KINGS 2-3



CHRIST CONNECTION: Solomon asked God for wisdom to know right and wrong. Jesus had perfect wisdom, and He never did anything wrong. Jesus is the best King. He lived a perfect life to rescue sinners by dying on the cross and rising again.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 3:7

STORY POINT: God gave Solomon wisdom.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

As King David neared the end of his life, he desired for his son, Solomon, to walk in God's ways, obey His commands, and honor the Lord as he continued their family line on Israel's throne. Though Solomon would not be a perfect king over Israel, he was able to lead the people with the wisdom he received from God. In the wisdom of King Solomon, we see a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, the true embodiment of godly wisdom in human form.

What was the significance of Solomon asking for wisdom? How is Jesus greater than Solomon?

Perhaps it was David's last words to his son, which prompted Solomon to ask for wisdom. After all, when God spoke to Solomon in the dream, Solomon responded by recalling how his father walked in God's ways. In any case, Solomon told God that he was inexperienced and just a youth. Solomon's humble request for wisdom pleased God, and He generously bestowed Solomon with wisdom, wealth, and honor. Solomon's request for wisdom revealed a heart that desired to esteem God by governing His people and discerning between good and evil.

Still, the wisdom of Solomon pales in comparison to the wisdom of Christ. Jesus fully embodied wisdom by perfectly fearing and obeying the Lord. Infinitely greater than Solomon is the wisdom of God's Son, who formed the world, rules the world, and sustains the world. 1 Corinthians 1:30 tells us that Jesus, "became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." Only through Jesus can we receive the wisdom to walk in God's ways with hearts that desire to glorify Him. When we know Jesus, we know wisdom.

Reflect on the wisdom of God offered to us through Jesus Christ. Consider His gift of wisdom in your own life as you have matured in your faith. Pray for the Lord to open children's hearts to their need for not only wisdom, but the salvation that grows our wisdom as we continue to walk in the Lord's ways.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, Allergy Alert, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, tape, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map, snacks, paper cups, napkins.



WELCOME

Welcome

- "Turn, Turn, Turn (Proverbs 3:7)" song

Activity Page

- "Solomon Prayed" Activity Page, 1 per child

Design money

- heavyweight paper

Transition

- countdown video (optional)



LOVE

Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

Make choices

- large coin
- basket
- individually wrapped fruit snacks, 1 per child



LEARN

Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- "Solomon Became King" video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

Review the Bible story

- beanbag

Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- "Turn, Turn, Turn (Proverbs 3:7)" song

Learn the Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Missions moment

- "Orvil Reid" missions video



LIVE

Make a pillow

- "Pillow" printable, one per child
- decorative tape
- polyester fiberfill or cotton balls

Paint with crown shapes

- tablecloth
- smocks
- sponges
- paper plates
- washable paint
- wet wipes

Sort jewels

- bowl
- plastic crafting jewels

Transition

- coloring page, 1 per child
- "Turn, Turn, Turn (Proverbs 3:7)" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an Allergy Alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "Solomon Prayed" on the Activity Page.

SAY 🗨️ What are some things smart people know how to do? **[Allow responses.]** I know lots of smart people, but even smart people don't always make right choices. There's a difference between being smart and having wisdom. Today we will hear that King Solomon asked God to give him wisdom. Wisdom comes from God. 🗨️

2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

PLAY JOB CHARADES



Invite a child to play out a job or occupation. Whisper suggestions to the player like a cook, a bus driver, a musician, a baseball player, a ballet dancer, or a king or queen. Remind the child that she should not speak or make noise; she should only use her body to play out the clue. Lead the remaining children to guess the occupation. Choose a different child, repeating the game until each child who wants to play gets a turn.

SAY 🗨️ It was easy to guess the dancer and the baseball player. Which ones were harder to guess? **[Allow responses.]** I liked how you acted like a king. In today's Bible story, after King David died, his son, Solomon, became the new king. 🗨️

DESIGN MONEY

Cut paper into rectangles about the size of a dollar bill. Offer washable markers or crayons to children, and suggest they design money. Cut heavyweight paper into circles and debit card-sized rectangles, and lead preschoolers to draw faces on coins and decorate a debit card. Talk about some of the things a person could buy if they had a lot of money.

SAY 🗨️ Solomon was the king and the richest person in the land. One night, God talked to Solomon in a dream and said that He would give Solomon whatever he asked for. Instead of asking for jewels and riches, Solomon asked for something else. He asked God to make him wise. 🗨️

3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to balance a book on their heads and walk like a king or queen to the Bible study area as they transition to Learn.

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Pose this question to preschoolers: If you could ask God for anything, what would it be? Guide the conversation as preschoolers talk, being mindful of the children's family situations. Name some particular requests, and invite children to raise their hands to see whether boys and girls would ask for it.

SAY “ In today’s Bible story, God said He would give Solomon anything he asked for. King Solomon did not ask for land or a bigger kingdom. He asked God for wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to know what is right and wrong. Wisdom comes from God. ”

2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at 1 Kings 2 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY “ Today’s Bible story is in the Old Testament part of the Bible. The Old Testament tells about the things that happened before Jesus was born. Today we will be reading from the book of 1 Kings. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

SOLOMON BECAME KING

“ King David knew he was getting very old. So, he called for his son Solomon and told him, “Remember to be brave and keep your promises to God. If you do what God says, you will do well and our family will be blessed.”

When David died, Solomon became the new king of Israel.

One night, God came to Solomon in a dream. God said, “Ask me anything, and I will give it to you.”

Solomon said, “You were very kind to my father, David. You made him king, and now I am king after him. But I’m not sure how to be a good king. Please, help me be wise and know what’s right and wrong.”

God was happy with Solomon’s request. He said, “You could have asked for anything, like a long life or lots of money. But you asked for wisdom, so I will give you that. You will be the wisest person ever! And I will give you riches and honor too, as long as you do what I say.”

When Solomon woke up, he realized God has spoken to him in a dream. He went to Jerusalem



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

| and stood before the ark of the Lord. Then Solomon made offerings to God there. ” |

4 CHRIST CONNECTION

| SAY “ Solomon asked God for wisdom to know right and wrong. Jesus had perfect wisdom, and He never did anything wrong. Jesus is the best King. He lived a perfect life to rescue sinners by dying on the cross and rising again. ”

5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Gather four different-colored pieces of construction paper. Write Who?, What?, When?, and Why? on each paper. Lay the four papers on the floor, and choose a preschooler to toss a bean bag on one of the papers. Ask one of the corresponding questions: “Who appeared to Solomon in a dream?”; “What did Solomon ask God for?”; “When Solomon asked for wisdom, how did God respond?”; “Why do you think Solomon wanted to be wise?”

| SAY “ Wisdom is knowing what is right and what is wrong. GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM. Jesus had perfect wisdom. He lived a perfect life so He could rescue sinners by dying on the cross and rising again. ”

6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the Key Passage Marker at Proverbs 3:7. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

| SAY “ The first word in our key passage is the word fear. Do you think that means we should be afraid of God? [Allow responses.] God loves us. He doesn’t want us to be afraid of Him. When we fear the Lord, we can show Him honor and respect, and most importantly, we can do what God wants us to do. That’s what King Solomon wanted. Solomon asked God to make him wise so Solomon could make choices that showed how much he loved God. ”

Sing the key passage song, “Turn, Turn, Turn (Proverbs 3:7).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Sit on sleeping bags: Spread out a few sleeping bags in the story time area. Lead boys and girls to sit on the sleeping bags throughout large group time. Mention that God spoke to Solomon in a dream when he was asleep.

Vary your voice: Use different vocal tones for the voice of Solomon and the voice of God.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY “ In today’s Bible story, when God told Solomon to ask for anything, God already knew what Solomon would ask for. **What does God know? God knows everything.** King Solomon did not ask God to give him riches and kingdoms. Solomon asked for wisdom, and God gave it to him. **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM,** and that was what King Solomon wanted most of all. Jesus has wisdom to lead His people. Jesus is the best King because He lived a perfect life to rescue sinners by dying on the cross and rising again. ”

8 MISSIONS MOMENT

Tell preschoolers that many years ago, a man named Orvil Reid opened a house in Mexico for students to live while they were in school. He also directed Vacation Bible Schools and started new churches. Show the “Orvil Reid” missions video.

SAY “ Orvil Reid and his wife, Jewell Starr Reid, were missionaries in Mexico. Orvil was a very strong man who loved telling people about Jesus. ”

Pray, thanking God for people like the Reids who helped many people know about Jesus.





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

SAY “ God, help the boys and girls remember that You know everything. Because You know everything about each one of us, I pray the children will learn to trust You. Thank You for Your kindness to King Solomon. I thank You especially for Jesus, our perfect King. I pray this in Jesus’ name, amen. ”

2 SNACK AND TALK

Post an Allergy Alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

SAY “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

SAY “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

SAY “ What did Solomon ask God to give to him? ”

SAY “ **What does God know? God knows everything.** ”

3 MAKE CHOICES

Show both sides of a coin, and decide whether tossing a coin is the best way to make a choice. Show a basket of fruit snacks. Ask children to hold out a fist. Bump each fist in turn and say a choice-making rhyme: “Fruit snack, fruit snack, in a dish; how many pieces do you wish?” Give the chosen child a package of fruit snacks, and continue playing until everyone has been given a snack.

SAY “ These might be fun ways to make choices, but are they the best ways to choose? Only God knows what is truly best. **What does God know? God knows everything.** When God offered to give Solomon whatever he wanted, he asked God for wisdom so he could lead the people the right way. Can you think of another King who had perfect wisdom? Jesus did. Jesus lived a perfect life so He could rescue sinners by dying on the cross and rising again. ”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group—all at the same time, in small groups that rotate through each activity, or set up as centers—allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

ASK AND MOVE



Lead boys and girls to sit in a circle. Inform preschoolers that you will ask some questions. Say that if the child can answer “Yes” to the question, he should stand up and switch places with a friend who has also answered “Yes” to the question. Questions could include: Have you ever visited the beach? Do you like to eat blueberries? Are you wearing sandals today? Do you have a pet cat? Does God know everything?

SAY “Wow, when I asked if God knows everything, so many of you changed places! **What does God know? God knows everything.** I asked a lot of questions when we played this game. In today’s Bible story, God told Solomon to ask Him for anything. King Solomon asked God to help him make wise choices so he could be a good king. **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM.** Jesus is more than a good king. He is the best King because He is perfect. He is the only One who could rescue sinners by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.”

MAKE A PILLOW

Print one copy of the “Pillow” printable for every child. Fold in half, and secure two of the edges around the perimeter with tape. Encourage preschoolers to personalize their pillows with washable markers. Demonstrate how to insert stuffing inside the pillow before sealing the opening to secure it.

SAY “Do you have a soft pillow you sleep on at night? What about a special blanket or stuffed animal? What do you dream about? Something very special happened to King Solomon one night when he was sleeping. God talked to him in a dream. Solomon asked God to give him wisdom to know the right things to do. **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM** to lead His people. I can think of someone else who leads His people well—Jesus. Jesus has perfect wisdom and never did anything wrong. That made Him the only One who could rescue sinners by dying on the cross and rising again.”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

PAINT WITH CROWN SHAPES

Before the session, cut zig-zagged lines through several sponges so they resemble crown shapes. Write the story point, **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM**, on construction paper, one per child. Cover a table with a tablecloth, and put smocks on the children. Squirt a thin layer of paint into plates, and show a child how to stamp the sponge into the paint and press it on her paper. Offer wet wipes to the child if her hands need to be cleaned.

SAY “ What kind of person wears a crown on their head? (queen or a king) In today’s Bible story, Solomon became the king after his father, King David, died. Solomon wanted to be a good king. When God talked to Solomon in a dream, God told Solomon He would give him whatever he asked for. Solomon did not ask for gold or other riches. He asked for wisdom. **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM** to lead His people. King Solomon was a good king, but King Jesus is the best King because He lived a perfect life to rescue sinners by dying on the cross and rising again. ”

SORT JEWELS

Place crafting jewels in a bowl. Gather pieces of paper that are the same color as the plastic gems. Arrange the paper around the bowl. Lead preschoolers to sort the jewels by color. Instruct a child to lay the green jewel on the green piece of paper, the red jewel on the red paper, and so forth.

SAY “ Kings and queens usually wear very fancy crowns and necklaces or hold scepters with valuable jewels on them. When God told King Solomon to ask Him for anything, Solomon did not ask for money or land or even fancy jewelry. Solomon asked God to give him wisdom so he could make good choices about how to lead the people. How do you think God answered Solomon’s request? [Allow responses.] **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM**. God also gave King Solomon honor and riches too, as long as Solomon continued to obey God. Solomon wanted to know right from wrong. What other King knew right from wrong and never made a wrong choice? King Jesus. Jesus is our best King because He lived a perfect life and rose again after He died on the cross. ”

2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed Activity Page. Distribute the Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to review the Bible story and engage with the family discussion starters during the week.