

# THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITED SOLOMON

1 KINGS 10



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Like the queen was amazed by the wisdom God gave King Solomon, people were amazed by Jesus' teaching. Jesus is God's Son. He taught with power because He is the King of everything. Jesus came to earth to show us how to live and to save us by dying and coming back to life.

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

**KEY PASSAGE:** Proverbs 3:7

**STORY POINT:** People were amazed by Solomon's wisdom.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

### LEADER Bible Study

By 1 Kings 10, word had spread to the queen of Sheba about the amazing wisdom of King Solomon. She traveled to his courts with an entourage of great abundance—camels, spices, gold, and precious stones. Solomon’s acclaim, however, served a greater purpose for the queen: blessing the Lord of Israel (1 Kings 10:9).

What did the queen of Sheba discover during her visit? How does the queen’s amazement demonstrate the same amazement that the crowds experienced through the teachings of Jesus?

When the queen of Sheba surveyed the king’s wisdom in conversation, as well as the splendor of life in his palace, it took her breath away. The rumors of his wisdom and prosperity didn’t offer the full picture of what life in his kingdom was really like. She recognized the king’s justice and righteousness. She acknowledged God’s eternal love for His people and how happy Solomon’s men were because of his wisdom. The queen recognized how people who have a wise leader and a loving God are truly blessed.

Jesus is the all-wise and perfect Ruler, surpassing Solomon in all his wisdom. Just as the queen of Sheba was amazed at Solomon, the crowds Jesus spoke to were also amazed at His wisdom and authority. And yet, unlike the queen of Sheba who blessed the God of Israel, many refused to believe in Jesus. Jesus spoke about the wisdom of Solomon, but regarding Himself and His own wisdom said, “... something greater than Solomon is here” (Matthew 12:42). Jesus had come to lead people into true wisdom: faith in Him.

Lead boys and girls to see that Jesus is who He says He is: the mightiest King with perfect wisdom, authority, and power. Pray that they would be amazed by King Jesus and trust in Him. Ask the Lord to show them how to walk by faith in His wisdom.



#### 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

- “Match the Shadows” Activity Page, 1 per child

#### Pack for a trip

- small suitcase, duffel bag, or backpack
- various classroom items

#### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



### LOVE

#### Snack and talk

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

#### Design a cuff bracelet

- paper towel tubes
- adhesive gems
- metallic crayons



### LEARN

#### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

#### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “The Queen of Sheba Visited Solomon” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

#### Review the Bible story

- toy camel
- device that plays music

#### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “Turn, Turn, Turn (Proverbs 3:7)” song
- wide ribbon
- permanent marker (teacher use)

#### Learn the Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Missions moment

- Orvil Reid Photos” printable
- painter’s tape
- beanbags



### LIVE

#### Follow patterns

- heavyweight paper
- colored dot stickers

#### Play with animals

- toy animals, including a camel

#### Make spice dough

- flour (wheat or rice)
- vegetable oil
- large bowl
- measuring cups
- large spoon
- paper plates
- spices (cinnamon, nutmeg, paprika)
- wet wipes
- ziplock bags (optional)

#### 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 “Match the Shadows” on the Activity Page.

**SAY** “ In today’s Bible story, someone important came to visit King Solomon—it was a queen from another nation! The queen of Sheba heard about Solomon’s wisdom, and she wanted to meet him. The pictures on the activity page shows some of the gifts she gave to King Solomon. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

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

#### TELL RIDDLES AND JOKES



Gather preschoolers and quiz them by telling them some jokes and riddles. Use your own, or consider using the following riddles: I act like a cat, I look like a cat, yet I am not a cat. What am I? (a kitten) What do you call a sleeping dinosaur? (Dino-SNORE) What comes down but never goes up? (rain) What kind of dog never bites? (a hot dog) Invite a few volunteers to tell any jokes they may know.

**SAY** “ In today’s Bible story, the queen of Sheba heard about wise King Solomon, and she came to visit him. She talked to him, and he answered her questions. She even asked him some riddles, and Solomon answered every one correctly. The queen was amazed. ”

#### PACK FOR A TRIP

Talk about some fun trips preschoolers have taken or places they would like to visit one day. Ask preschoolers to tell about some of the things they have taken with them on trips. Provide small suitcases, duffel bags, and backpacks and encourage children to pack classroom items as if they are preparing to travel a long distance.

**SAY** “ The queen of Sheba went on a trip. She traveled to visit King Solomon because she heard that **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON’S WISDOM**. She wanted to talk to Solomon and ask him some questions. The queen brought gifts to give to Solomon. Today we’ll hear about the things she gave to him in our Bible story. ”

### 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 walk like a camel as they move to the Bible study area as they transition to Learn.

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





## LEARN the Bible Story

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### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Talk about preparing for company to visit. Ask children to tell about a time when a friend or family member came for a visit.

**SAY** “ Did your family work together to clean the house? Maybe someone blew up an air mattress so your guest would have a place to sleep. When your guest arrived, did they bring any gifts to give to you and your family? **[Allow responses.]** Today when we read our Bible story, we will hear about someone who came to visit King Solomon. A queen from Sheba brought many camels that were loaded with gold, spices, and gemstones to give to Solomon. Listen to hear why the queen of Sheba wanted to visit Solomon. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at 1 Kings 10 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ Today’s story is found in the book of 1 Kings, in the Old Testament part of the Bible. The words in the Bible are God’s words because He told people what to write down, and they obeyed. ”

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.

#### THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITED SOLOMON

“ **The queen of Sheba heard King Solomon was very wise**, so she came to meet him and test him with riddles. **She brought lots of gifts with her—camels with spices, gold, and shiny gems.**

She talked to **Solomon** about everything on her mind, and he **answered all her questions. She was amazed by** all she experienced: **his wisdom and big palace, the delicious food he served, and how great his servants were.**

**The queen said**, “The stories I heard were true! **You are even wiser and richer than I thought.** Your people must be so happy. **Praise be to the LORD your God, who made you the king and gave you wisdom** to be fair and do the right thing.”

**Then the queen gave Solomon lots of gold, spices, and gemstones.** She also gave him wood to make instruments and stairs for the temple.

**King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba everything she asked for. Then she went back home with her servants.** ”



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

#### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ Like the queen was amazed by the wisdom God gave King Solomon, people were amazed by Jesus’ teaching. Jesus is God’s Son. He taught with power because He is the King of everything. Jesus came to earth to show us how to live and to save us by dying and coming back to life. ”

#### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Pass a toy camel around the circle as music plays. Stop the music, and ask the child holding the camel to share something he remembers from the Bible story.

**SAY** “ What an exciting time it must have been for King Solomon and his servants when the queen of Sheba came to visit. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON’S WISDOM.** People were also amazed by the teachings of Jesus, the King of everything. Jesus came to show us how to live and to save us by dying and coming back to life. ”

#### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Before the session, cut long strips of wide ribbon, and write the key passage and reference on each with a permanent marker. 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. Give a ribbon strip to each child. Point out the passage’s words on the ribbons. Say each word of the passage as you point to it on your ribbon strip. Lead children to follow your lead as you wave the ribbon over your head, in a large circle, or back and forth while you repeat the passage. Play the key passage song, “Turn, Turn, Turn (Proverbs 3:7),” and lead preschoolers to wave the ribbon to the steady beat.

**SAY** “ Who remembers what the word *fear* means in our key passage? It means to show respect for or to think about how awesome God is. When people fear the Lord, they want to obey and worship Him. ”

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

**Play out the story with figures and props:** Use people figures, toy animals, and props as you tell the story. Consider removing a crown, bottles of spices, craft gems, and instruments from a pillowcase while telling the story.

**Sit on a throne:** Tape pieces of cardboard to the storyteller’s chair. Enlist children to attach decorative tape, crafting jewels, or other materials to the cardboard so the chair transforms into a throne.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

#### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ Solomon was the wisest man who had ever lived. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON’S WISDOM.** But did King Solomon know everything? He did not. **What does God know? God knows everything.** After the queen of Sheba talked to King Solomon, she understood that God was the one who gave Solomon the wisdom he needed to lead God’s people. Who was a better leader than Solomon? (Jesus) Jesus taught with power because He is the King of everything. Jesus came to earth to show us how to live. He made the way for us to be saved by dying and coming back to life. ”

#### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

Print and display a copy of the “Orvil Reid Photos” printable. Tape a six-foot piece of tape to the floor to make a balance beam. Challenge preschoolers to show how athletic they are. Encourage them to walk heel-to-toe along the line, while balancing a beanbag on their heads.

**SAY** “ Missionary Orvil Reid was known for being strong, but he was also a preacher, writer, printer, and athlete. Orvil jogged 550 miles from Georgia to Virginia. Along the way, he talked to many people, and more than 340 people became followers of Jesus. Along his run, Orvil led church services and gave demonstrations of his physical strength. ”

Pray, thanking God for individuals and churches who help support missionaries as they tell people around the world 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, thank You for sending Jesus to earth to be the King of everything. Please help boys and girls begin to understand the reason Jesus came to earth: to show us how to live and to save us by dying and coming back to life. 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 the queen of Sheba think about her visit with King Solomon? ”

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

### 3 DESIGN A CUFF BRACELET

Before the session, gather paper towel tubes, and cut them into two inch portions, one per child. Make a cut into each portion to form a cuff bracelet. Set the bracelets, metallic crayons, and adhesive gems on a table. Invite children to use the materials to design a cuff bracelet. Review the Bible story as children make their bracelets.

**SAY** “ I love how each bracelet you designed looks different. The Queen of Sheba brought beautiful gems, gold, spices, and wood as gifts to Solomon. She heard **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON’S WISDOM**, and she wanted to talk to him. Solomon’s wisdom came from God. **What does God know? God knows everything.** God knew people would sin and would need a Savior. God sent Jesus to earth to show us how to live and to save us. Jesus died on the cross and came back to life so we can be forgiven for our sin. ”

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.

#### COMPARE ITEMS



Explain to preschoolers that when they think about two items and decide what is the same or different about them, they are comparing the two. Give an example of a red block and a blue block and ask how they are the same and how they are different. Direct the conversation toward animals, and ask children to decide which animal is the cutest or has the most fur. Introduce new categories as you decide which are the fastest, biggest, or most colorful.

**SAY** “ Is a kitten bigger or smaller than an elephant? What flavor of ice cream do you think is the best? Which person in the Bible was the wisest? **[Allow responses.]** The queen of Sheba was amazed by the wisdom God gave to King Solomon, but I can think of someone else whose teaching amazed people—Jesus. Jesus is God’s Son, and He is the King of everything. Jesus came to earth and showed people how to live. Then He died on the cross and came back to life to rescue us from sin. ”

#### FOLLOW PATTERNS

Cut heavyweight paper in fourths lengthwise to create strips that are about 11 by 2.75 inches in size. Attach five or six colored dot stickers in a row along a strip to establish a pattern of colors (Example: red, red, blue, blue, red), leaving the remainder of the row blank. Make several puzzle strips for children to complete. Give the strips to preschoolers, and observe the established pattern. Encourage children to attach stickers to complete the patterns.

**SAY** “ Nice job finishing the patterns! Some of them were not easy; you really had to think. In today’s Bible story, the queen of Sheba heard that King Solomon thought about a lot of things. She wanted to talk to him and ask him questions. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON’S WISDOM.** I can think of someone else who people were amazed by—Jesus. Jesus taught with power because He is God’s Son. Jesus came to earth to show people how to live. Because Jesus died and came back to life, people can be rescued from their sins. ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### PLAY WITH ANIMALS

Set a container of toy animals near the block area. Engage a child by picking up an animal and asking her to identify it. Suggest boys and girls build enclosures or habitats for the animals with the blocks. Point out whether an animal flies in the sky, lives in the water, or walks on the ground. Ask a child to sort animals by whether it lives on a farm, in the desert, or in the forest. Look specifically for a camel as children play.

**SAY** “ In 1 Kings, the Bible tells that the queen of Sheba brought camels with her to visit King Solomon. The queen’s helpers loaded the camels with gifts to give to Solomon. After she asked Solomon many questions, the queen praised God for making Solomon so wise. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON’S WISDOM.** Later after God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth, people were amazed by Jesus’ teaching. Jesus came to show us how to live and to save us by dying and coming back to life. ”

### MAKE SPICE DOUGH



Display an allergy alert. Invite boys and girls to help you measure and dump approximately four cups of flour and one cup of vegetable oil into a large bowl. Enlist children to take turns mixing the flour and oil to form a dough. Scoop portions of dough onto paper plates, one per child. Offer open jars of spices for preschoolers to smell. Ask children to choose their favorite spices and add a few sprinkles to their dough. Encourage children to mix the dough and enjoy its fragrance. Keep wet wipes nearby to clean hands. Consider giving each child a ziplock bag for his spice dough. (Note: This recipe produces a crumbly dough. If you prefer a more pliable texture, use your favorite play dough recipe.)

**SAY** “ One of the gifts the queen of Sheba brought King Solomon was spices. I wonder how they smelled? The queen had many questions for King Solomon, and he answered them all. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON’S WISDOM.** Solomon was king of the Israelites, but Jesus is the King of everything. Jesus came to earth to show people how to live. He died and came back to live so that when we trust in Him, we can be forgiven of our sin and one day be with God forever. ”

## 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.