



Solomon

The Wise King

The young King Solomon stood up before all the important grown-ups in Israel. He started to talk, but they stopped him with their questions:

"When will you start building God's temple?"

"How will you keep peace in the land of Israel?"

"Will you be a good king, just like your father, David, was?"



Solomon looked at all the faces before him. There were more faces than he could ever count! Suddenly, he felt very small. He didn't know the answers to any of their questions. He didn't know how to be a king.

Oh, if only his father, King David, were still alive to tell him what to do!

Then Solomon had an idea. He said to the people, "Let's go to Gibeon and worship the Lord at His special tent, the tabernacle."

At the tabernacle, Solomon and all the people prayed to the Lord. Solomon gave a thousand of his best animals to the Lord as an offering.



That night, while Solomon slept, God came to him in a dream. God said He would give Solomon whatever he asked for.

Right away, Solomon knew what he wanted. He said, “Lord, you have loved my father, David. You have chosen me to take his job as king. But I don’t know how to rule over Your great people. Give me wisdom and understanding so I will rule well.”

The Lord was pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom. Most kings would ask for riches and fame instead. So God gave Solomon wisdom – but that’s not all. God also gave him the things he didn’t ask for too! No king anywhere would be as wise and rich and famous as Solomon.



The next morning, Solomon went back to his throne in Jerusalem. Now, whenever he talked to the grown-ups, he gave them wise answers, called proverbs.

He said things like:

"A kind and calm answer keeps anger away. But a cruel word makes everyone mad."¹

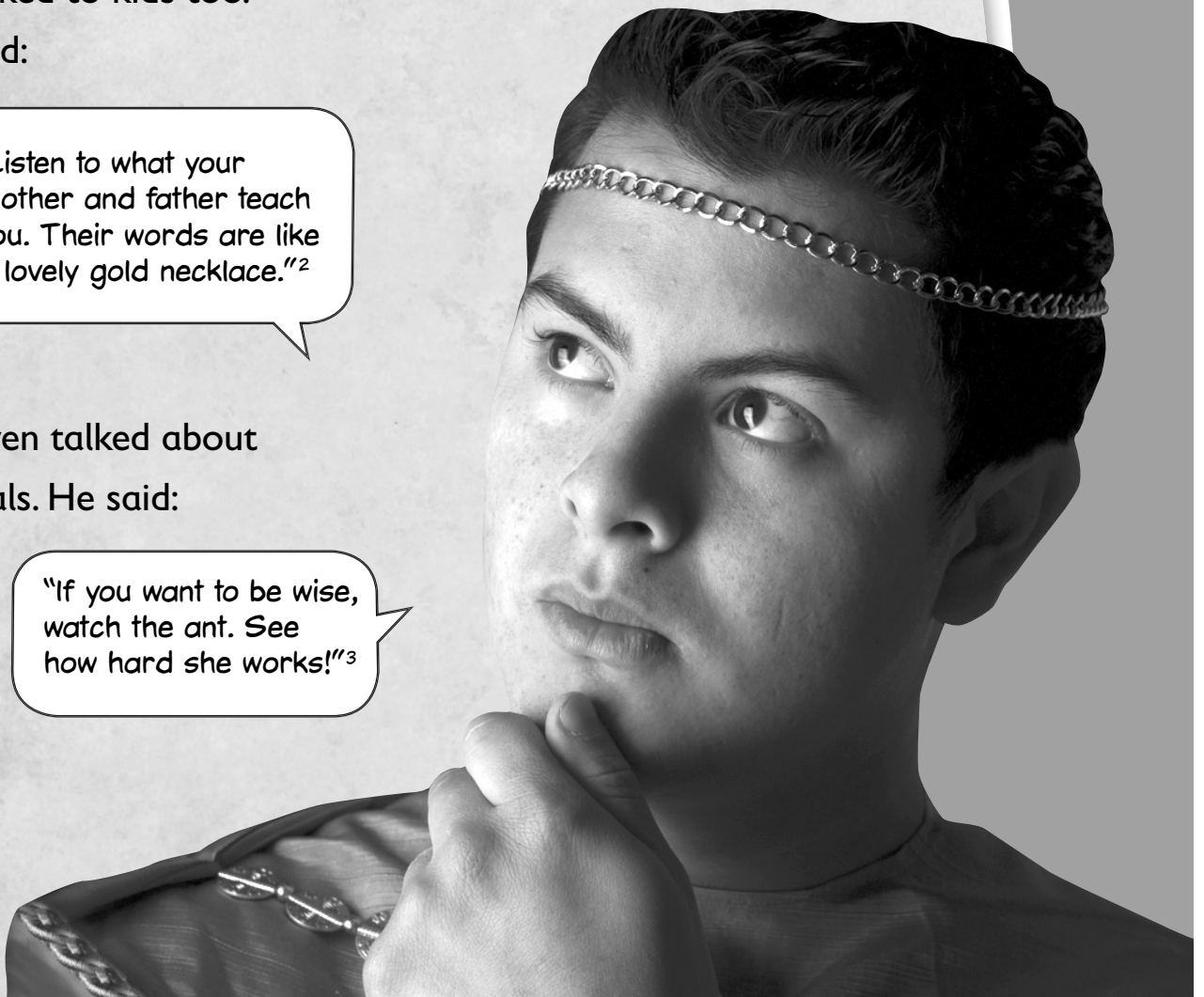
He talked to kids too.

He said:

"Listen to what your mother and father teach you. Their words are like a lovely gold necklace."²

He even talked about animals. He said:

"If you want to be wise, watch the ant. See how hard she works!"³



The people felt happy and safe with such a wise king. He helped them solve hard problems. He built a grand, beautiful temple for the Lord.

Even kings and queens from faraway lands came to listen to Solomon. All of them were amazed at what he knew. They said, “Blessed be the God of Israel who has loved His people and given them such a wise and good king!”⁴

¹ See Proverbs 15:1. ² See Proverbs 1:8-9. ³ See Proverbs 6:6-8. ⁴ See 1 Kings 4:29-34 and 1 Kings 10:6-9.



**Learn from
King Solomon's biography:**

- God was the one who made Solomon wise. True wisdom starts with knowing God.
- God wants you to ask Him for wisdom to serve Him too.

Parent Ideas

Solomon, the Wise King

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 1:1-13; 1 Kings 3:7-15

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- God was the one who made Solomon wise. True wisdom starts with knowing God.
- God wants you to ask Him for wisdom to serve Him too.

1. Read-together activity –

Before you read the biography, gather these visual aids:

- A pile of money (or something your child finds personally valuable, like a favorite toy, pet, food, candy or game)
- A picture of your child's favorite movie or cartoon star
- A book with your own homemade cover taped on it, which says "Book of Wisdom: Knowing and Doing What's Right"

Show your child the visuals. Then ask him which item he would most like to have if he became king (or president) and why. Would he like to have all the money (or candy) in the world? Would he like to be more famous than his favorite character? Would he like to be able to always know and do the right thing? Accept your child's answer without evaluating it at this time. Then introduce the biography by saying something like, "In the Bible, King Solomon got a chance to ask God for whatever he wanted. Let's see what he chose!"

2. Discussion activity – Ask your child to explain what wisdom is. A simple definition of wisdom is "knowing what's right, based

on what God's Word says, and doing it!" Explain that we start to be wise by knowing God, which includes respecting and obeying Him (Proverbs 9:10). Then ask your child these questions:

- Why would it be better for a king to ask for wisdom than for money or fame?
- Why is it best for us to ask God for wisdom?

Help your child to see that wisdom pleases God and helps us to know Him better. It also helps us to make right choices, teaches us to use what we have wisely and makes us feel happy and safe.

Parents, if you'd like to learn more about the Bible's concept of wisdom, read Proverbs 2:1-6, 4:5-11, 8:1-21, 9:10-12 and James 1:5, 3:13-17.

3. Application activity – To help your child relate with Solomon, put her in charge of your household for an afternoon or evening. (Of course, she won't REALLY be in charge; you'll just let her think she is!) For extra fun, make a paper crown to put on her head. When she's in charge, make sure to ask her lots of questions that she probably won't know the answer to, like "How do I start the washing

machine?" or "Can you show me how to make spaghetti?" or "Will you please make your siblings stop fighting?" If she asks for help, say, "You're in charge."

When the activity is over, talk with your child about how she felt while she was in charge. Did she ever feel worried, alone or not ready for the job? If so, that might be how King Solomon felt when he first became king. As you talk, help your child to understand her own need for wisdom. Although practical life skills (like laundry) will come as she gets older, only God knows all the answers and right things to do in every situation. Pray together, asking God for the wisdom to make daily choices that please Him.

4. Application activity – God has given us a book of wisdom – it's the Bible! Flip through the book of Proverbs with your child and choose a few of your favorite proverbs. Some proverbs especially relevant to kids (and included in the Solomon biography) are Proverbs 15:1, 1:8-9, 6:6-8. Put these proverbs into practice during the week, and keep a daily journal describing how you practiced them. If possible, let your child be the main journal writer, while you offer assistance as needed.