

Old Testament 4: God Works through Prophets and Kings

Engage CD

Cross Explorations® Sunday School



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Cross Explorations® At-a-Glance

15 Minutes

Engage
(Large-Group
Opening)

20 Minutes

Explore
Level 1
(grades 1–3)
Level 2
(grades 4–6)

25 Minutes

Express
Drama
Music
Crafts
Activities
Service

Preparing the Lesson

Date of Use _____

The Wisdom of Solomon

1 Kings 3

Key Point

Solomon, though wise, needed what we and all sinners need: Christ, Wisdom Himself, and the forgiveness He brings.

Law/Gospel

The fear of the Lord—reverence for God and trust in Him—is the beginning of wisdom, yet, in my sin, I am unwise, failing to trust in the Lord above all things. **Jesus, Wisdom personified, gives to me and all who believe in Him a share of His wisdom, that is, Himself.**

Context

Solomon, the second child of David and Bathsheba, was Israel's third king. A "little child" when he assumed the throne (1 Kings 3:7), he reigned forty years (tenth century BC). Right after becoming king, he settled some old political scores from his father's reign (2:13–46); then "the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon" (v. 46).

The nation expanded its borders, there was money galore, the temple was built, and Israel was relatively at peace with its neighbors. But not all was well. Solomon, though "he was wiser than all other men" (4:31), foolishly overtaxed and overworked his citizens and contracted alliances with Gentile nations. Worst of all, his pagan wives "turned away his heart after other gods" so that he "did what was evil in the sight of the LORD" (11:4, 6). As a result, after his death the nation split into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah).

Commentary

Wisdom has little to do with a person's IQ. There are high school dropouts with more true wisdom than the Ivy League intelligentsia. How can this be? Wisdom is not a human achievement but a divine endowment; it is received, not achieved. Wisdom is keeping one's thoughts, deeds, and words in sync with the divine will in all matters of life. The wise look down from heaven to earth; that is, they see life

through God's eyes. And this they do by having a listening heart.

Young Solomon prayed for an "understanding mind" (3:9), which in the Hebrew is literally a "listening heart." And what do the ears of the heart listen for? The voice of wisdom—that is, the voice of Christ Himself—verbalizing His will and ways through the Sacred Scriptures.

Moses preached that when Israel was given a king, the king was to "write for himself in a book a copy of this law" (Deuteronomy 17:18). This Scripture was to "be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God" (v. 19). The divine Word creates the fear of the Lord, which in turn is the beginning of wisdom. And that Word is heard only by those to whom Christ has given a listening heart.

Sadly, even those with such a heart also heed other voices, as did Solomon—voices of lust or greed or malice, voices that lead astray even the wisest of men. This king who so wisely decided the case of the two prostitutes would himself go whoring after other gods in his twilight years (1 Kings 11:4).

Solomon, though a wise man, needed what all sinners need: Christ, Wisdom Himself, and the forgiveness He brings. This One who is greater than Solomon gives us more than a listening heart—He gives us His own heart, pulsating with love and absolution that knows no bounds.



To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/ podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.



Painting by Greg Copeland © CPH

Pronunciation Guide—Old Testament 4

God Works through Prophets and Kings

Lesson 1: The Wisdom of Solomon, 1 Kings 3

Gibeon	GIB ee un
Israel	IS ray ell
Pharaoh	FAIR oh
Solomon	SAHL uh mun

Lesson 2: Solomon Builds the Temple, 1 Kings 5–6

Hiram	HIGH rum
Lebanon	LEB uh none
Sidonians	sigh DAWN ih uns
Tyre	tire

Lesson 3: God Provides for Elijah, 1 Kings 17

Ahab	A hab
Cherith	KEE rith
Gilead	GILL ee ad
Sidon	SIGH dun
Tishbe	TISH bee
Tishbite	TISH bite
Zarephath	ZAR eh fath

Lesson 4: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal, 1 Kings 18:20–46

Baal	BAY uhl
Jezreel	JEZ reel
Kishon	KIGH shuhn

Lesson 5: Elijah Is Taken to Heaven, 2 Kings 2:1–15

Bethel	BETH uhl
Elisha	ee LIE shaw

POWERPOINT TIPS

The slides on this CD work with PowerPoint versions from 2003 forward or with the free, downloadable PowerPoint Viewer.

The full PowerPoint program is available as part of Microsoft Office for PCs or Macs. A variety of programs on Apple computers convert and use PowerPoint files as well.

As an alternative, Microsoft offers PowerPoint Viewer as a free download. This program lets you view, project, or print slides, but not create or edit them. You need the complete PowerPoint program for those tasks.

To install PowerPoint Viewer, use the link on the automatic menu of this CD.

1. Put the CD in your computer's CD drive.
2. Click "Install." Follow the directions on the automatic menu. It will take you to this site: <http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=13>
3. You need to agree to the license terms. Once installation completes, restart your computer.

Troubleshooting

When working with these PowerPoint slides, some things may affect the look of your slides.

1. Different versions of PowerPoint may provide slides that look slightly different than the originals. You might see odd spacing or words that run out of a text box or off the page. You may see odd placement of Bible references.

The problem comes from different fonts on the computers that made the slides and the one you use. Even fonts with the same names may differ from one computer or system to another.

2. To help, we use fonts embedded in Microsoft Office programs and common to most computers. Using the Microsoft Office fonts should take care of most of the differences between the two operating systems.
3. We also prepare and check slides on PC and Mac computers to make sure they work with both systems.
4. If you find odd spacing with apostrophes and quotation marks, change a setting in your PowerPoint program. After doing so, you might need to retype the punctuation marks to get rid of the odd spacing.
 - For Macs, when in the PowerPoint program, click on the word "PowerPoint" along the top menu and choose "Preferences" from a pull-down menu.

Choose “Autoformat As You Type.” Click to check the box in front of “Straight quotes with smart quotes.”

- For PCs, go to File/Options/Proofing/Autocorrect Options. Choose “Autoformat as you type” and click to mark the choice that says “Straight Quotes with Smart Quotes.”

Editing slides

If you have 1997, 2003, 2007, or 2010 Microsoft Office with a full PowerPoint program, you can edit these slides or copy and paste them into different presentations. Some animations may not work in pre-2003 versions of PowerPoint.

(PowerPoint 1997 does not copy and paste slides easily. Please consult your software manual for help.)

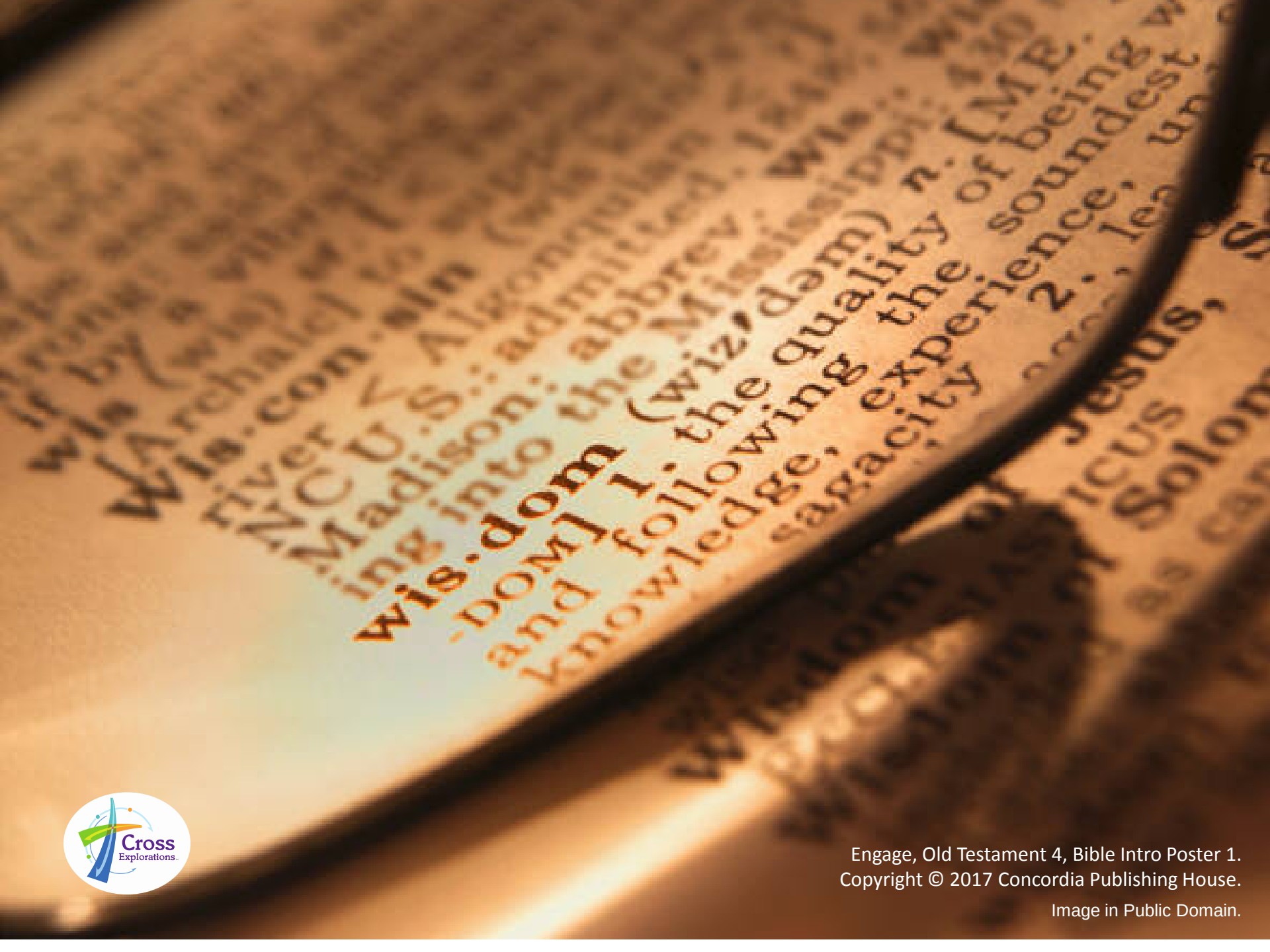
When editing and creating slides, you may have difficulties when you cut and paste elements from one slide or presentation to another. However, this is very easy to do if you know a few secrets.

PowerPoint defaults to the design template of the presentation you pasted slides **into** and does not automatically carry over design elements from the slide you copied. This means you can lose art, photos, and other elements of the original slide. However, a few easy steps can retain the design of the original slide.

1. Make sure you are in NORMAL view.
2. Copy slides from the source (right click to bring up the menu and choose COPY), and then put your cursor below or between the slides in the new presentation to insert the copied slides.
3. Paste slides into the new presentation (right click to bring up menu and choose PASTE).
4. When you do, a small clipboard icon appears at the bottom right hand corner or somewhere near the new slides. (If it does not appear, undo and reinsert.) Click on the clipboard. Two choices appear in a menu below the clipboard: (1) Keep source formatting, OR (2) use design template formatting. To retain the design elements of the copied slide, choose 1. To take on attributes of the new presentation, choose 2.

Playing Slides with Linked Music

Open the PPT file. The music slides will automatically play when you click to the first page of lyrics. Do not click again until the song finishes.



wis·dom (wiz'dəm) *n.* [ME.
-DOM] 1. the quality of being
and following the soundest
knowledge, experience, un-
sagacity 2. lea-



Lesson 1 Handout

The Wisdom of Solomon

1 Kings 3

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song

Opening Sentences

Wisdom and Knowledge

Leader: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Psalm 111:10)

People: We praise You, God our Father!

Leader: All those who practice it have a good understanding. (Psalm 111:10)

People: His praise endures forever! (Psalm 111:10)

Leader: In [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:2)

People: We praise You, Christ Jesus!

Leader: Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)

People: We praise You, Holy Spirit!

Leader: [Christ] we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (Colossians 1:28)

People: Thank You for giving us faith in Jesus, our Savior.

Leader: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)

People: We praise You—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Amen.

Song

Presentation

Offering and Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Song

Bible Challenge Questions

Engage Openings, Old Testament 4

Lesson 1

Name one or more of David's sons or daughters.

Sons: Amnon, Daniel, Absalom, Shimea, Adonijah, Shephatiah, Ithream, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, Ibhar, Elishama, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

Daughter: Tamar
(1 Chronicles 3:1–9)

Lesson 2

How many temples were built to honor God in Jerusalem?

Three: Solomon's temple; the second temple, also called Zerubbabel's temple; and Herod's temple

Lesson 3

Which prophet appeared with Moses on the mountain at Jesus' transfiguration?

Elijah

Lesson 4

Name one of the false gods (idols) named in the Bible.

The best known is probably Baal. Others include Ashtoreth, Molech, Chemosh, and Milcom. See 1 Kings 11:4–8 and 1 Samuel 5.

Lesson 5

Who in the Bible never died but was taken straight to heaven by God?

Elijah the prophet (2 Kings 2:11) and Enoch (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5)

Lesson 6

True or false? Elijah was Elisha's father.

False. Shaphat was Elisha's father (1 Kings 19:16).

Lesson 7

True or false? Jonah could hardly wait to go to Nineveh to preach God's Word.

False. Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh.

Lesson 8

True or false? Prayer is talking to God. **True**

Lesson 9

What do we call a person who receives messages from God to tell His people?

A prophet

Lesson 10

Name the Babylonian king who defeated Jerusalem, destroyed the country, and took many Jews to his country as captives.

Nebuchadnezzar

Lesson 11

True or false? The Babylonians changed Daniel's name.

True. They called Daniel Belteshazzar (Daniel 1:6–7).

Lesson 12

If you are "living in exile," are you close to home or far away from home?

Far away from home

Lesson 13

Name one or more women who were queens over God's people in the Old Testament.

Jezebel, Vashti, and Esther. Maacah is called queen mother.