Dear Parents/Guardians,

The downfall of David’s kingdom was propelled by David’s sin with Bathsheba. Amid the pain of losing their firstborn son, God showed David and Bathsheba that He still loved them. Bathsheba gave birth to Solomon. God chose Solomon to be Israel’s next king. (See 2 Samuel 12:24-25; 1 Chronicles 22:9-13.)

David spoke to his son from his deathbed, giving specific instructions: “Keep your obligation to the LORD your God to walk in his ways” (1 Kings 2:3a). After 40 years of reigning over Israel, David died and Solomon became Israel’s king.

Early in Solomon’s reign, God appeared to him in a dream. “What should I give you?” God asked. Solomon’s response set him apart from many other kings. His God-honoring qualities were apparent. First, Solomon humbly acknowledged his lack of experience in leading God’s people. Then he said, “Give your servant a receptive heart to judge your people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours?” (1 Kings 3:9).

If you were a king or queen and God offered to give you anything you asked for, what request would you make? Ask the kids you teach what they would ask for if they could receive anything their hearts desired. One might assume that a king would ask for power or for victory over his enemies. Perhaps he would ask for riches or to live a long life. Solomon asked for none of these. Instead, he asked God to make him wise. God was pleased with Solomon’s request, and He agreed to give Solomon a wise and understanding heart.

Solomon’s heart was surrendered to God. Solomon was a wise king who wanted to do God’s plan. Solomon wasn’t perfect, but God had a plan to give His people a greater and wiser king—His Son, Jesus. Jesus completely trusted God. Jesus surrendered His own life to die on the cross for our sin.

Check this session’s Activity Page and Big Picture Card for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

**FAMILY STARTING POINTS**

- **Babies and Toddlers**
  - God knows everything.
  - King Solomon asked God to make him wise.
  - God gave Solomon wisdom to lead God’s people.
  - Wisdom is loving God and obeying His words.

- **Preschool**
  - God knows everything.
  - What does God know? God knows everything.
  - God gave Solomon wisdom.

- **Kids**
  - What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.
  - God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.

**UNIT KEY PASSAGE** - • James 1:5

**NEXT WEEK** - • “Wisdom for God’s People” (Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs)
February 9 – Wisdom for God’s People

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs are three books spanning more than 50 chapters of the Bible. This week’s study follows the story of Solomon, the primary writer of these books. While three books of the Bible are certainly a lot to cover in one session, this brief overview will reveal the wisdom of God for His people as He works out His wise plan for our salvation.

True wisdom comes from God. (See Proverbs 2:6.) God made Solomon the wisest man who had ever lived, and people came from all over to listen to his wisdom. (See 1 Kings 4:29-34; 10:1-9.) He wrote most of the Book of Proverbs, which offers practical advice for living wisely. Solomon ruled Israel with great wisdom, but he still turned away from God and pursued His own desires.

Israel needed someone greater than Solomon. God’s plan included that: “Something greater than Solomon is here!” (Matthew 12:42; Luke 11:31). Jesus not only taught God’s wisdom, He displayed it perfectly.

The Book of Ecclesiastes teaches us to think carefully about how we should live our lives. Solomon was searching for something to give meaning to his life. In the end Solomon discovered that following God was—and is—the only way to find real happiness.

Finally, King Solomon wrote Song of Songs, which reveals God’s wisdom for relationships—specifically, between a husband and a wife. In the New Testament, the book of Ephesians says that Jesus loves the church as a husband loves his wife. (Ephesians 5:22-28)

These books are the inspired words of God. The wisdom offered is not merely suggestions for living; it is part of God’s plan for our sanctification. Wisdom in the Bible shows us how to be like Jesus—in how we live, how we speak, and how we think. But wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God’s wise plan, can rescue us from sin.

Check this session’s Activity Page and Big Picture Card for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
  - God knows everything.
  - God made Solomon very wise.
  - Solomon wrote that wisdom comes from loving God.
  - Jesus always did what was wise and good.

- **Preschool**
  - God knows everything.
  - What does God know? God knows everything.
  - Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.

- **Kids**
  - What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.
  - Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **James 1:5**

NEXT WEEK

- “Solomon Built the Temple” (1 Kings 6–8)
February 19 – Solomon Built the Temple

Dear Parents/Guardians,

When David was king, he wanted to build a temple for God, but God did not allow him to build the temple. “When your time comes and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your descendant ... and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (2 Sam. 7:12-13). God said King David’s son would build the temple.

King Solomon began to gather materials to build the temple. He ordered cedar and cypress timbers from Lebanon. He gathered 30,000 men from all of Israel as laborers to excavate stone and prepare the timbers for the temple’s construction.

The temple was impressive. The entire interior was cedar. King Solomon had everything covered with gold. In all, it took seven years for the temple to be completed. Inside the temple was furniture and accessories. (See 1 Kings 7:48-50.)

The time came to dedicate the temple. All of the Israelites gathered in Jerusalem. The priests brought the ark of the Lord to the most holy place, and a cloud filled the house of the Lord. God’s glory filled the temple.

Solomon prayed and praised God for keeping His covenant with David. He recognized that God is not confined to a temple. “Even heaven, the highest heaven, cannot contain you, much less this temple I have built” (1 Kings 8:27). Solomon’s prayer and speech was followed by a great offering to God.

Jesus changed everything when He died for our sins on the cross. By taking our sin upon Himself, Jesus made the way for sinners to come to God. The temple was a place where God was with His people. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help.

Check this session’s Activity Page and Big Picture Card for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
  - God knows everything.
  - Solomon built a temple for God.
  - Solomon told the people to love God with all their heart.
  - Because of Jesus, we can worship God everywhere.

- **Preschool**
  - God knows everything.
  - What does God know? God knows everything.
  - God’s people built Him a temple.

- **Kids**
  - What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.
  - God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- James 1:5

NEXT WEEK

- “The Kingdom Divided” (1 Kings 11–12)
February 23 – The Kingdom Divided

Dear Parents/Guardians,

King Solomon loved God. He received wisdom from the Lord and was dedicated to building His temple. But early on, we see hints that Solomon’s heart was not completely devoted to God. He married foreign wives who turned Solomon’s heart away from God. (1 Kings 11:4)

Solomon gradually abandoned what he had believed. Israel had a history of turning away from God, and Solomon was no exception.

God was angry with Solomon. He had warned him twice not to turn to false gods. God planned to discipline Solomon by taking the kingdom away from his family. God was going to take the kingdom from Solomon’s son Rehoboam—every tribe except for one. God graciously left one tribe for Rehoboam, keeping the promise He made to David. (See 2 Samuel 7:16.)

God set apart Jeroboam, one of Solomon’s servants, to become leader over 10 tribes of Israel. Parts of the tribe of Benjamin followed Jeroboam, and some followed Rehoboam. When Solomon died, all of Israel gathered to make Rehoboam their new king. They asked Rehoboam to lighten the burden of service Solomon had given them, but Rehoboam refused. In fact, he promised to make their work even harder.

Israel rebelled against Rehoboam and made Jeroboam king. Only the tribe of Judah stayed with Rehoboam. So the kingdom was divided into two kingdoms—the Northern Kingdom was called Israel (ruled by Jeroboam) and the Southern Kingdom was called Judah (ruled by Rehoboam).

King Solomon failed to lead God’s people perfectly. God’s people needed a better king, a perfect king! Through David’s family, God would send His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be a perfect King over God’s people forever. Jesus is greater than Solomon. Jesus brings His people together and leads them back to God.

Check this session’s Activity Page and Big Picture for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

● **Babies and Toddlers**
  ○ God knows everything.
  ○ King Solomon’s sin split the kingdom.
  ○ People from David’s family were kings of Judah.
  ○ Jesus was born into David and Solomon’s family.

● **Preschool**
  ○ God knows everything.
  ○ What does God know? God knows everything.
  ○ God divided Israel into two kingdoms.

● **Kids**
  ○ What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.
  ○ God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

● James 1:5

NEXT WEEK

● “Elijah and the Widow” (1 Kings 17)