



IF YOU WALK BEFORE ME WITH A HEART OF INTEGRITY  
UNIT 12 • SESSION 1

# SOLOMON THE WISE KING

## MAIN POINT

Jesus is the source of all wisdom.

### 1 KINGS 2:1-4 • WISDOM BEGINS WITH A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

**1** As the time approached for David to die, he ordered his son Solomon, **2** “As for me, I am going the way of all of the earth. Be strong and be a man, **3** and keep your obligation to the LORD your God to walk in his ways and to keep his statutes, commands, ordinances, and decrees. This is written in the law of Moses, so that you will have success in everything you do and wherever you turn, **4** and so that the LORD will fulfill his promise that he made to me: ‘If your sons take care to walk faithfully before me with all their heart and all their soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’

### 1 KINGS 3:4-9 • WISDOM IS MORE DESIRABLE THAN WEALTH

**4** The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there because it was the most famous high place. He offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. **5** At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, “Ask. What should I give you?” **6** And Solomon replied, “You have shown great and faithful love to your servant, my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, righteousness, and integrity. You have continued this great and faithful love for him by giving him a son to sit on his throne, as it is today. **7** “LORD my God, you have now made your servant king in my father David’s place. Yet I am just a youth with no experience in leadership. **8** Your servant is among your people you have chosen, a people too many to be numbered or counted. **9** So 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 3:10-15 • GOD WILL GIVE A WEALTH OF WISDOM

**10** Now it pleased the LORD that Solomon had requested this. **11** So God said to him, “Because you have requested this and did not ask for long life or riches for yourself, or the death of your enemies, but you asked discernment for yourself to administer justice, **12** I will therefore do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has never been anyone like you before and never will be again. **13** In addition, I will give you what you did not ask for: both riches and honor, so that no king will be your equal during your entire life. **14** If you walk in my ways and keep my statutes and commands just as your father David did, I will give you a long life.” **15** Then Solomon woke up and realized it had been a dream. He went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the LORD’s covenant, and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he held a feast for all his servants.

### INTRO OPTION 1

## GUESSING JAR

#### SUPPLIES LIST

NO SUPPLIES NEEDED.

Place a jar of candy, gum balls, mints, etc. in front of your students. You could even split students into teams and have multiple jars of candy, gum, mints, etc. Each team would need one jar. Make sure you know the number of pieces in each jar. Also, make sure it is a generous amount. Have students guess the number of pieces that are in the jar. The team/person that comes closest to the amount wins it all. In today's session, we will learn God is generous in giving wisdom to His people. Because we have received God's perfect wisdom in Christ Jesus, we depend on His wisdom from above to live as a testimony to our all-wise God.

### INTRO OPTION 2

## RIDDLE

#### SUPPLIES LIST

NO SUPPLIES NEEDED.

Google or come up with a riddle for students to solve. You could find multiple ones and even split students up to make a competition out of it. Allow them to ask you any question to try and solve the riddle. The object of this is to illustrate how God is generous to give us wisdom. In today's session, we will learn that God is generous in giving wisdom to His people. Because we have received God's perfect wisdom in Christ Jesus, we depend on His wisdom from above to live as a testimony to our all-wise God.



## SCRIPTURE READING

### MAIN POINT

Jesus is the source of all wisdom.

#### 1. WISDOM BEGINS WITH A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

### READ 1 KINGS 2:1-4

In 2 Samuel 7, God promised that David's descendants would reign forever. But this promise had a condition—the kings had to follow the Lord just as David had. As David neared death, he charged his son, Solomon, with the responsibility to walk with God and rule with wisdom.

#### WHAT NEEDED TO BE SOLOMON'S TOP PRIORITY AS KING?

David instructed Solomon to walk with the Lord, carefully observing God's law. David's instructions to Solomon are reminiscent of God's words to Joshua (see Josh. 1:6-8). Like Joshua, Solomon's greatest challenges as ruler of Israel would not be political but spiritual. He needed to lead the nation to obey God's law, and the first step would be to follow God's law himself. God wants to use us to lead others to Him and to accomplish great things for His kingdom, but the first priority is to personally obey Jesus. That is the foundation for the rest of our leadership and influence.

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WALK WITH GOD? HOW DOES THIS DISPLAY ITSELF IN YOUR LIFE?

This "passing of the baton" moment is repeated throughout the Scriptures. Some new leaders and generations step up to the call (ex: Joshua, Solomon, Elisha), while others fail miserably (the Judges period and Solomon's sons). This is why we have a student ministry! Your grandparents and parents cannot live for Jesus for you. Only you can rise to the occasion to live out God's Word in your generation.

#### 2. WISDOM IS MORE DESIRABLE THAN WEALTH

### READ 1 KINGS 3:4-9

#### WHAT WOULD YOU ASK FOR IF GOD WOULD GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU REQUESTED?

Imagine what you would ask for—a car, a boat, a house, a superpower, money. Solomon teaches us something about value. What really matters most? What's the most valuable thing? Solomon understands that he has a life to steward, a kingdom to rule, and a God to serve. Understanding how to live is more valuable than how long you live or how fancy you live.



## 1 KINGS 2:1-4

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**2:1-4.** “The charge of David to Solomon (2:2-4) is typical Deuteronomistic theology, expressing the ideology of the kingdom. The fundamental obligation of the king is to rigorously observe the divine mandate (v. 3a), which is ‘written in the Law of Moses’—that is, Deuteronomy and its requirement of covenant faithfulness (cf. Deut. 30:10; 31:9-13). Faithfulness to the covenant is the single discriminating factor in determining whether kings are good or bad . . . Before David comes to the specifics of Solomon securing his own rule, he reminds Solomon of the one indispensable condition for the continuity of the kingdom.”<sup>1</sup>

**2:1-4.** “David’s directives to Solomon are similar to those given to Joshua by the Lord (cf. Josh 1:1-9). All texts of this type move the story to new characters and events, yet do so by providing continuity between the new situation and the old.”<sup>2</sup>

**2:1-4.** “This observing of God’s standards should grow into a lifestyle, a ‘walking’ in the ways of the Lord. How does one achieve this lifestyle? By adhering to the various elements of ‘the Law of Moses.’ ‘Decrees and commands’ are the specific instructions God forwards, such as the prohibitions against idolatry, murder, adultery, coveting, etc. found in Exod. 20:1-17.”<sup>3</sup>

## 1 KINGS 3:4-9

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**3:4-9.** “Solomon’s desire for an obedient, listening heart is based on his wish to administer justice in Israel. Justice can only emerge when the king is able ‘to distinguish between right and wrong’ (lit., ‘good and evil’).”<sup>4</sup>



## BIG QUESTION

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### DO I HAVE TO BE OLD TO HAVE WISDOM?

You will undoubtedly grow in wisdom the longer you follow Jesus. But age doesn’t guarantee wisdom. In fact, the longer someone lives their own way, the more entrenched they get in their own perspective and the more calloused they become to change. So, there isn’t a direct correlation between age and wisdom. The correlation is between walking with God for many years and being wiser because of it. 1 Kings 3:7 describes Solomon as a child. He is young, but he is wise. How? Because true wisdom is from God.





## SCRIPTURE READING

### MAIN POINT

**Jesus is the source of all wisdom.**

### **WHY DID SOLOMON NEED WISDOM? WHEN YOU NEED WISDOM, WHERE DO YOU TEND TO TURN?**

Solomon asked for wisdom for three reasons: his youth and inexperience, the overwhelming scope of his responsibilities, and the need to discern between good and evil. As a young person, you need God-given wisdom to bridge the gap in your understanding that may come with more experience. You, too, may face responsibilities and expectations that are beyond your capacity. And critically, you need God's help to discern between good and evil. You are bombarded with multiple moral claims and messages, and it takes God's wisdom to see with clarity what is good and what is evil.

### **3. GOD WILL GIVE A WEALTH OF WISDOM**

## **READ 1 KINGS 3:10-15**

### **WHY COULD GOD TRUST SOLOMON WITH RICHES, HONOR, AND LONG LIFE?**

Since Solomon first had wisdom, he could be trusted with the other things. We see all the time how people have money or power but lack wisdom. They waste it all for lack of understanding. But with wisdom, Solomon was able to handle the other blessings that God gave him. If we seek wisdom, perhaps we will be better equipped to manage the other opportunities and blessings that we hope for from God.

### **HOW DO WE GAIN WISDOM?**

God is the source of wisdom. In Ephesians 1:17, Paul prays “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.” How do we get wisdom? We humbly ask, and it is supplied through the Spirit often through God's Word. James 1:5 says, “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him.” All wisdom is hidden in Christ (see Col. 2:3). Too often, we seek wisdom outside of Christ, but true wisdom is found in Him.



**3:4-9.** “Solomon humbles himself before the Lord. He admits that God is the cause of his rise to power . . . In contrast to his own personal and experiential lack of stature, Solomon must lead a people whose greatness is first measured by the fact that they were chosen by God. Solomon now becomes the head of the nation once led by Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and David.”<sup>5</sup>

### 1 KINGS 3:10-15

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**3:10-15.** “As a king whose first concern is the well-being of the people, Solomon is also granted that which he does not request: wealth, honor, and a long life. Though any wise king would receive wealth and honor as a consequence of his good rule, these are given by God in abundant measure.”<sup>6</sup>

**3:14-15.** “This reference to Exod. 20:12 underscores the continuity of God’s covenant with Israel, with David, and with Solomon, the new generation. It also emphasizes the conditional nature of Solomon’s kingship, an idea that is repeated every time God addresses Solomon directly (cf. 6:11-13; 9:3-9; 11:11-13) . . . God’s covenant with David is eternal, but Solomon can be replaced with another ‘son of David’ if he disobeys the Lord.”<sup>7</sup>



## ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE

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### GOD IS OMNISCIENT

Scripture teaches that God is all-knowing. He is the One who “has perfect knowledge” (Job 37:16), and this knowledge extends to all things past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. His knowledge is complete, and as He is outside of time, He has known from all eternity whatever will come to pass. In response to God’s omniscience, we admit our finite knowledge and trust His decisions as wise and good.

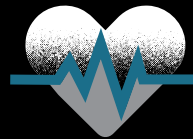


## CHRIST CONNECTION

Solomon reigned with great wisdom and insight, yet he was still an imperfect king who needed God's forgiveness. Solomon foreshadows the coming of a greater king—Jesus, in whom are hidden "all the treasure of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3).



HEAD



HEART



HANDS

### **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT WE CAN ALL GROW IN WISDOM? WHAT ARE SOME WAYS WE CAN GROW MORE WISE?**

At the end of Romans 12:16, Paul says, “Do not be wise in your own estimation.” No matter how much we know, there’s more to learn, and no matter how discerning we may be, none of us discern perfectly. We all need more wisdom! Now, that doesn’t mean we should walk around and say, “I’m dumb,” or “I can’t do anything right.” Rather, the purpose is to acknowledge that we need God to live wisely. It’s an admission that we are not self-sufficient.

### **HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THE TEMPTATION TO DISREGARD OUR PARENTS’ WISDOM?**

As we grow closer to adulthood, we don’t want to be treated like a “kid” anymore. We tend to overestimate our own understanding and dismiss our parents’/guardians’/grandparents’ opinions because “they just don’t understand what it’s like in 2022.” But like Solomon, your parents love you and have insights you simply do not have yet. They are for you, not against you. Humbly receive wisdom and instruction for your own good from the godly adults in your life.

### **WHAT ACTION STEPS CAN YOU TAKE TO LIVE WISELY BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU’VE LEARNED TODAY?**

There are many simple but important lessons to take away from our study today. We need to pray for wisdom on a regular basis. God delights in answering that prayer. We should devote ourselves to seeking the wisdom that comes from God through His Word and become students of the Word. God has given us leaders and authorities over us who can pass their wisdom to us, so we need to be humble learners. These are just a few ways we can put this session into practice.