

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITED SOLOMON

1 KINGS 10



CHRIST CONNECTION: Like the queen was surprised by King Solomon's wisdom, people were also surprised by Jesus' teaching. Jesus is God's Son. He taught with power because He is the King of everything. Jesus came 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: Fear the LORD and turn from evil. 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 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 the greatest 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

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Dress up and match gifts

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ Bible times clothing
- ☐ boxes with lids



LEARN

Give gifts

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ wrapped gifts, 1 per child

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ "The Queen of Sheba Visited Solomon" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Foil wrap presents

- ☐ puzzles
- ☐ foil

Ride in a camel caravan

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ rope



LIVE

Paint with spicy paint

- ☐ art smocks
- ☐ washable paint
- ☐ bowls
- ☐ spices
- ☐ paintbrushes

Missions activity

- ☐ "Orvil Reid Photos" printable
- ☐ painter's tape

Snack and transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Count Gifts" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Guess items by touch

- ☐ canvas bag

Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Create a gift wrap collage

- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ wrapping paper

Look at items up close

- ☐ bowls
- ☐ spices
- ☐ gold coins
- ☐ jewels
- ☐ rocks
- ☐ toy camels
- ☐ wooden blocks
- ☐ magnifying glasses



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

DRESS UP AND MATCH GIFTS

Place a table just inside the classroom door. Spread out the Bible times clothing along one side of the table. Separate the gift boxes from their lids and randomly place them on the other side of the table. Display the Big Picture Question Poster within easy reach. As children arrive, welcome them and ask them to tell you what they brought with them to church. Help children put away any bags, Bibles, coats, or sweaters. Then guide children to the table and encourage them to select and to put on some Bible times clothing. After dressing up, guide children to the boxes and challenge them to match the boxes with their lids. Help as needed.

SAY “Thank you for coming to visit me at church. What kinds of things did you bring with you to church today? [Allow responses.] Today during our Bible story time, we are going to hear about someone who came to visit King Solomon. This woman, known as the queen of Sheba, came to see King Solomon because she had heard he was very wise. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON’S WISDOM.** She also brought him some things with her. The queen of Sheba learned during her visit that God had made King Solomon wise. Even though King Solomon knew a lot of things, God knows a lot more. Our big picture question tells us the same thing. **What does God know? God knows everything.**”

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





LEARN the Bible Story

1 GIVE GIFTS

Wrap a small gift for each child in your class. Place the gifts in the group time area along with a permanent marker. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster. Invite preschoolers to the group time area by telling them you have a special gift for each of them. As children join you, guide them to be seated. Distribute the gifts and prompt the children to open their gifts. Write the children's names on their gifts and set the gifts aside to be sent home with the children.

SAY “We like receiving gifts, don’t we? In our Bible story today, we will hear about the queen of Sheba who visited King Solomon and brought him gifts. Listen carefully to hear why she went to visit the king, what she brought him, and what surprised her about him.”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 10. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITED SOLOMON

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

She talked to Solomon about everything she was curious about, and he answered all her questions. She was so surprised by everything she saw: his wisdom, his big palace, the yummy food, and good servants.

The queen said, “Wow! The stories I heard were true! You’re even wiser and richer than I thought. Your people must be so happy. Praise God for making you king and giving you wisdom to be fair and do the right things.”

Then she gave Solomon lots of gold, spices, and shiny rocks. She also gave him wood to make cool instruments and stairs for the temple.

Solomon gave the queen everything she wanted, and then she went back home with her helpers.”

Christ Connection: Like the queen was surprised by King Solomon’s wisdom, people were also surprised by Jesus’ teaching. Jesus is God’s Son. He taught with power because He is the King of everything. Jesus came to show us how to live and to save us by dying and coming back to life.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Say to the children that you would like to hear just how well they were listening. Point to the Bible Story Picture Poster and ask the children to tell you what is happening in the picture. Then guide the children to say out loud all that they remember from the story.

SAY “ The queen of Sheba visited King Solomon because she heard stories that he was very wise. She praised God for making Solomon king and giving him the wisdom to be fair and to do the right things. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON’S WISDOM** including the queen of Sheba. People were also surprised by Jesus’ teaching. Jesus is God’s Son. He taught with power because He is the King of everything Jesus came to show us how to live and to save us by dying and coming back to life. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Are You Sleeping?”:

What does God know? What does God know?
Everything, everything
There is no one like Him. There is no one like Him.
Trust His way. Trust His way.

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Proverbs 3:7. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase aloud. Ask the children to tell you what surprised the queen of Sheba when she met King Solomon. Say the key passage phrase together as you pretend to ride a camel. Stand up, grasp pretend reins in front of you, and move your head up and down as you say the phrase.

SAY “ In today’s Bible story, the queen of Sheba was amazed that God had given Solomon wisdom to be fair and to do the right things. This is what it means when our key passage says to ‘Fear the Lord and to turn from evil.’ ”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for helping His people to know good from evil.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 TOSS A BEANBAG AND ANSWER QUESTIONS



Gather children in a circle. Say that you are going to toss a beanbag to each child while asking a simple question. Instruct children to answer your question while tossing the beanbag back to you. Ask each child a very simple question: What color is your hair? What color are your eyes? What is the weather like outside? How many brothers and sisters do you have? Who brought you to church today?

SAY 🗨️ The questions that I asked you were really easy. But in today's Bible story, the queen of Sheba visited King Solomon and asked him riddles. Riddles are hard questions. Solomon answered all her riddles. Like the queen was surprised by King Solomon's wisdom, people were also surprised by Jesus' teaching. Jesus is God's Son. He taught with power because He is the King of everything. Jesus came to show us how to live and to save us by dying and coming back to life. 🗨️

2 FOIL WRAP PRESENTS

Place puzzle pieces in a bin on a table. Rip off 3- to 4-inch segments of foil and place them next to the puzzle pieces. Invite a child to wrap a gift. Lead children to select a puzzle piece. Show children how to wrap the foil around the puzzle piece, pressing it around the piece's shape. Set "gifts" aside when the children are done.

SAY 🗨️ How many gifts have we wrapped? [Count the number of wrapped puzzle pieces.] **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON'S WISDOM.** The queen of Sheba visited Solomon because she heard that he was very wise. She brought lots of gifts with her—camels, spices, gold, and shiny rocks. She talked to Solomon, and he answered her questions. The queen said, 'Wow! The stories I heard were true!' 🗨️

3 RIDE IN A CAMEL CARAVAN

Display the Bible Story Picture Poster. Place four or five chairs in a row, one in front of the other. Tie the ropes to the backs of the chairs creating "reins" for each child to hold while sitting behind in another chair. Place a bag on each chair. Invite a child to get ready to take a camel ride. Prompt the child to collect a few classroom items in the bag for traveling and then to place it under a chair. Then, lead the child to sit in the chair, hold the "camel's reins," and pretend to ride.

SAY 🗨️ Tell me what you see in the picture. [Point to the picture.] The queen of Sheba traveled to meet King Solomon because she heard he was very wise. She talked to Solomon about everything, and he answered all her questions. Like the queen was surprised by King Solomon's wisdom, people were also surprised by Jesus' teaching. Jesus is God's Son. He taught with power because He is the King of everything. Jesus came to show us how to live and to save us by dying and coming back to life. 🗨️

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 PAINT WITH SPICY PAINT



Post an Allergy Alert. Assist preschoolers in putting on art smocks. Squeeze paint into bowls. Add a spoonful of spice to each bowl and stir. Write the key passage phrase on a paper for each child. Place bowls, paintbrushes, spice containers, and phrase papers on a table. Invite children to paint. Lead children to smell the spices in the containers as you tell them the spice's names. Distribute brushes and papers, and guide children to paint with the spicy paint. As children paint, read the phrase from their papers.

SAY “ The key passage phrase says, ‘Fear the LORD and turn from evil. Proverbs 3:7.’ This phrase tells us to love God and to follow Him. When the queen visited King Solomon, she was amazed at how much Solomon loved God and followed His ways. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Remind preschoolers that the good news about Jesus is too good to keep to ourselves! God wants us to tell others about Jesus. A follower of Jesus who is sent to tell others about Jesus is called a missionary. Print and display a copy of the “Orvil Reid Photos” printable. Tape a 6-foot piece of tape to the floor to make a balance beam. Challenge preschoolers to show how strong 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. ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

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

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 GUESS ITEMS BY TOUCH

Before group time, collect small classroom items (blocks, Bible, toy car, markers) and place them in a canvas bag. Invite children to join you for group time. As children arrive, invite each child, one at a time, to place his or her hand in the bag to feel for an item and guess what the item is. Prompt the child to pull out the item to see if he is correct.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 10. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITED SOLOMON

- The queen of Sheba came to meet King Solomon. She heard he was very wise. She brought camels with gifts of spices, gold, and shiny rocks.
- The queen talked to Solomon, and he answered all her questions. She was surprised by his wisdom and his riches.
- The queen said, “Wow! The stories I heard are true! Praise God for making you king and giving you wisdom.”
- Then she gave Solomon the gifts she brought. Solomon gave the queen everything she wanted, and then she went back home.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Are You Sleeping?”:

What does God know? What does God know?
Everything, everything
There is no one like Him. There is no one like Him.
Trust His way. Trust His way.

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Proverbs 3:7. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the phrase aloud. Tell the children that the queen of Sheba saw King Solomon was wise because he made good choices. This is what it means to fear the Lord and turn from evil. Lead the children to tell you a time when they made good choices. Direct children to place his or her hands together to make a fish swimming in the water while saying the key passage phrase.

5 PRAY

Pray, asking Jesus to show us how to live in a way that pleases Him.

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 GO ON A TRIP

With the children's help, arrange chairs, tables, furniture, and toys in the classroom to form a small obstacle course that has a beginning and an end. Mark the beginning and the end of the course by taping an X on the floor. For example, you can have children weave in and out of chairs, walk around a shelf, hop over a toy block, crawl under a table, or tiptoe on a line. After the course is arranged, invite the children to walk through it from beginning to end. Then, guide children through the course from the end to the beginning.

SAY “ Did you enjoy our trip around the room? The queen of Sheba took a trip to meet King Solomon because she heard he was very wise. The queen talked to Solomon, and he answered her questions. She was surprised by his wisdom and riches. Like the queen was surprised by King Solomon's wisdom, people were also surprised by Jesus' teaching. Jesus is God's Son. He taught with power because He is the King of everything. Jesus came to show us how to live and to save us by dying and coming back to life. ”

7 CREATE A GIFT WRAP COLLAGE

For each child, write the key passage phrase on a piece of construction paper. Distribute phrase papers, glue sticks, and pieces of wrapping paper. Read the key passage phrase to children. Show children how to rip the wrapping paper into smaller pieces. Lead children to arrange their ripped pieces of paper on their construction paper. Then, help children glue the pieces of gift wrap in place.

SAY “ What kind of paper did we use for our collage? We used gift wrapping paper. When the queen of Sheba visited King Solomon, she brought him many gifts. The queen was surprised by Solomon's wisdom and his riches. The key passage phrase says, ‘Fear the Lord and turn from evil. Proverbs 3:7.’ Solomon was very wise because he feared God and turned from evil. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON'S WISDOM.** ”

8 LOOK AT ITEMS UP CLOSE

Post an Allergy Alert. Pour a small amount of spice into bowls and place on a table. Place gold coins, jewels, rocks, toy camels, wooden blocks, and magnifying glasses on the table. Invite children to look at the items using the magnifying glasses.

SAY “ What did you see with the magnifying glasses? [Allow responses.] When the queen of Sheba came to meet King Solomon, she brought gifts with her—camels with spices, gold, shiny rocks, and wood to make beautiful instruments and stairs for the temple. She gave these gifts to King Solomon. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY SOLOMON'S WISDOM.** ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.