

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITED SOLOMON

1 KINGS 10



KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 3:7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

CHRIST CONNECTION: The queen of Sheba was amazed at the wisdom God had given King Solomon. The people who heard Jesus teach were amazed at His wisdom, authority, and power. Jesus has all wisdom, authority, and power because He is God's Son who came to live, die, and rise again.

STORY POINT: People were amazed by the wisdom God gave Solomon.



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 that 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 a 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 kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ “Can You Answer It?” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ various spices, 6–10
- ☐ note cards, 6–10
- ☐ paper plates, 6–10
- ☐ dry erase board and marker (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ dry erase board
- ☐ dry erase marker

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ “Solve It” activity page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “The Queen of Sheba Visited Solomon” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 12, Session 4” Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ “Orvil Reid Photos” printable
- ☐ printed copies of sombreros, 1 per kid

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “Fear the LORD (Proverbs 3:7)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ sticky notes, 1 per kid



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “If someone asked you for advice on how to spend his or her birthday money, what would you say? Why?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Can You Answer It?” activity page.

SAY “Today, we will see how the queen of Sheba visited Solomon and was amazed by his wisdom. Even when she asked him hard questions, he was able to provide the answers.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: SPICY SURPRISE



Before the session, sprinkle a teaspoon of various spices onto individual paper plates. Under the plates, place a note card with the name of the spice. Consider using cumin, cinnamon, oregano, cloves, nutmeg, and chili. Invite pairs of kids to come to the plates and sniff each spice. Challenge kids to think of the name of each spice. Consider writing the names on a dry erase board for kids to choose from. After all kids have sniffed the spices, invite them to share their guesses. Then reveal the answers by showing the note cards. Ask kids if they know any foods these spices are used with.

SAY “Today, we will see how the queen of Sheba visited Solomon because she heard about his wisdom. She brought rare spices and other gifts to King Solomon. In ancient times, spices were very expensive. Spices also had many purposes, such as making perfumes, flavoring food, creating medicines, preserving meat, and even anointing those who had died. This reminds me of how God’s wisdom allows us to follow His purpose for our lives. Let’s hear our story to learn more.”

☐ OPTION 2: SOLOMON MAD LIB



Invite kids to raise their hands to offer a silly or creative word for each bolded term. Jot down their answers. Then read the story aloud with kids’ answers:

There once was a **[female person]** who lived in **[place]** and who had heard about the **[noun]** of King Solomon. When she arrived at the king’s **[place]**, she had many gifts to give him, including **[noun]**, **[noun]**, and **[noun]**. She asked him many questions about **[noun]**, and he proved how **[adjective]** he was! This special guest was very impressed by all Solomon’s **[noun]** and by all the **[job/occupation]**s who lived in his **[place]** and **[past tense verb]** for the king there in his home. Solomon gifted her with **[noun]** in return. She soon returned home to the **[place]** where she lived, but they remained great friends for the rest of their days.

SAY “What a funny story you created! Today, we’ll learn how **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY THE WISDOM GOD GAVE SOLOMON** and how the queen of Sheba came to visit him.”

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





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I am glad to see you. If you have a Bible with you, will you hold it up? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, we will be in the Old Testament book of 1 Kings as we see how the queen of Sheba came to visit King Solomon. While we’re not entirely sure where the queen of Sheba lived, we do know from the Bible that she was wealthy and a powerful ruler.

As we hear our story, we will see that **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY THE WISDOM GOD GAVE SOLOMON**. [Display the Story Point Poster.] The news of King Solomon’s wisdom, wealth, and power had spread far and wide, eventually making its way to the queen of Sheba. We’ll learn how the queen of Sheba recognized that Solomon’s success was not his own but came from God. Let’s take a moment to ask the Lord to give us hearts and minds that are ready to hear His truth: ‘God, thank You for the wisdom, authority, and power that is ultimately found in Jesus. Help us trust in Him and seek Him for all wisdom. Amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “Let’s have the boys ask our big picture question. [Allow boys to respond.] What does God know? Now girls, you say the answer. [Allow girls to respond.] **God knows everything about the past, present, and future.**

While we’ll learn how the people were amazed by Solomon’s wisdom, God was not. All of Solomon’s wisdom came from God because God knows everything. Solomon’s wisdom was limited; he didn’t know everything about the past and present. He also didn’t know what would happen in the future. Thankfully, we don’t have to know everything because we trust in the God who does. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “God gave Solomon great wisdom and made him king over His people. Solomon obeyed God and led the Israelites in building the temple, a place where God would dwell with His people and where they could worship Him. While Solomon was wise, he also learned that his own wisdom had limits. God inspired Solomon to write the book of Ecclesiastes to help people know that to be truly wise and live a life of purpose, they must trust in God and obey Him. Today, we will learn how the queen of Sheba heard about Solomon’s fame and came to visit him. ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 10:1-13. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Queen of Sheba Visited Solomon.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITED SOLOMON

“**The queen of Sheba heard about King Solomon’s fame and how the Lord had given him great wisdom. So, she came to test Solomon with riddles.** The queen of Sheba arrived in Jerusalem with a large group of people and camels carrying spices, gold, and precious stones.

The queen came and spoke to Solomon about everything that was on her mind. Solomon answered all of her questions; nothing was too difficult to explain to her. When the queen of Sheba observed all of Solomon’s wisdom, his impressive palace, the wonderful food he served, the houses of his servants, how well dressed and behaved his servants were, and the sacrifices made at the Lord’s temple, she was amazed.

The queen said to Solomon, “The report I heard in my own country about your wisdom is true. But I didn’t believe what I heard until I came and saw it with my own eyes. It turns out you have even more wisdom and wealth than I had heard about. Your people must be happy. Your servants are blessed to stand in your presence and hear your wisdom. May your God be blessed, for He delighted in you and put you on the throne of Israel, because He loves His people. He has made you king to carry out justice and righteousness.”

Then the queen gave King Solomon four and a half tons of gold, many spices, and precious stones. In addition, she gave him a large amount of wood which Solomon used to make steps for the Lord’s temple and Solomon’s palace. He also used the wood to make lyres and harps for the singers.

King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba everything she asked for. Then she and her servants returned to their own country.

Christ Connection: The queen of Sheba was amazed at the wisdom God had given King Solomon. The people who heard Jesus teach were amazed at His wisdom, authority, and power. Jesus has all wisdom, authority, and power because He is God’s Son who came to live, die, and rise again. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Make a crown: Invite kids to use their hands to place a pretend crown on their head when they hear the word “king” or “queen.”

Invite questions: Encourage kids to ask questions about the Bible story just as the queen of Sheba asked Solomon questions.



2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “It was no small task for a ruler of a country to travel with a great assembly of people and gifts to a foreign country. Yet, **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY THE WISDOM GOD GAVE SOLOMON**, and the queen of Sheba wanted to see if all she had heard about Solomon was really true. How did she examine if Solomon was really as wise as she had heard? Look at 1 Kings 10:2-5. [Ask a volunteer to read 1 Kings 10:2-5 aloud.] The queen of Sheba asked Solomon questions and shared all that was on her mind. No question was too hard for Solomon to answer. She also observed how Solomon lived and how he gave burnt offerings to the Lord at the temple. She saw that Solomon was even greater than she had heard.

Through the queen of Sheba’s observations about Solomon, what did she conclude? Look at 1 Kings 10:8-9. [Ask a volunteer to read 1 Kings 10:8-9 aloud.] She recognized how happy others were because of Solomon’s wisdom, and she concluded that all of Solomon’s gifts had come from God. Solomon’s wisdom, wealth, and power were all from God. God delighted in Solomon, not because Solomon earned God’s love, but because God chose to show Solomon grace. No one deserves God’s grace, but through Jesus we receive gifts even better than riches or fame. We receive forgiveness of sin and life with Jesus.

What does it mean that Solomon was made king to carry out justice and righteousness? (1 Kings 10:9) Solomon did not use his riches and wisdom to only serve himself but to make life better for the people in Israel. He honored God by ruling in ways that were right and fair. However, Solomon was not a perfect king. The Bible tells us that slowly over time, Solomon did not wisely follow God’s commands. He allowed the things and people of this world to turn him away from following God with all his heart.

Solomon reminds us of our need for Jesus, the sinless King who is true wisdom. The people who heard Jesus teach were amazed at His wisdom, authority, and power. Jesus has all wisdom, authority, and power because He is God’s Son who came to live, die, and rise again. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “Solomon’s wisdom, authority, and power were impressive. Though a great ruler, Solomon was a sinner who needed to offer sacrifices to be made right before God. Jesus is the even greater King who became the ultimate sacrifice for sin and who will reign forever. Have you placed your trust in the King who lived, died, and rose again to save us from sin? ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 12, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why did people hate Jesus when all He did was teach, heal, and feed people?
2. Why do we need to believe in Jesus and not just be amazed at His power and wisdom?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the “Orvil Reid Photos” as you tell kids about the missionary.

SAY “Orvil Reid was a missionary to Mexico from 1938–1976. During his time in Mexico, Orvil wore many ministry ‘hats,’ such as performing strong man feats, writing Christian literature, running Vacation Bible Schools, and planting churches. As a follower of Jesus, Orvil served the people of Mexico with meaning and purpose because he wanted them to trust in Jesus.”

Play a traditional game of Mexico called “Atrapa el Sombrero” or “Stealing the Sombrero.” Print copies of a paper sombrero for each kid. Using tape, attach a sombrero to each kid’s back. Play some music and direct kids to try and take another kid’s sombrero without allowing theirs to be taken. Start and stop the music to signal the beginning and ending of each round. If kids lose their sombreros, they are out of the game. Play until only two kids remain in the game.

Close in prayer, thanking God for sending missionaries like Orvil Reid to tell the people of Mexico about Jesus. Ask God to help other missionaries follow His plan to make Jesus known throughout the world.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Proverbs 3:7 together.

SAY “Like Solomon, we are invited to gain wisdom from God, too, as we trust in Him and follow His commands.”

Write each word of the key passage on a sticky note. Rearrange the order of the words and place a sticky note onto the back of each kid’s shirt. Lead boys and girls to rearrange themselves in the correct order. To make it more challenging, instruct kids to complete this activity without speaking out loud to each other.

Lead kids to sing “Fear the LORD (Proverbs 3:7).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “God, You are faithful to grant us the wisdom we need to follow You. Help us show the world how amazing You are by living lives that reveal Your wisdom, authority, and power to the people around us. Amen.”

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





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Chronicles 9. Tell kids that the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles cover the same time period as the books of 1 and 2 Kings. However, 1 and 2 Chronicles focuses on the kings of Judah. Discuss how 1 and 2 Chronicles cover many of the same stories in 1 and 2 Kings.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where Solomon was from. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Jerusalem [H5]). Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Chronicles 9:1 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “ The queen of Sheba came with many gifts for King Solomon, including spices and gold. Some spices she may have brought were frankincense and myrrh. The queen of Sheba paid her respects to Solomon through these gifts. She also recognized that Solomon’s wisdom and blessings were from the Lord.

When Jesus was born into the world, the wise men from the east also brought Jesus gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They recognized Jesus as the King and brought him costly gifts to worship him. Like the queen’s gifts and the wise men’s gifts, we can offer God our hearts to show that we love and honor Him. When we follow Jesus in obedience, not only do we show wisdom, but we also make known that Jesus is our greatest treasure. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why did the queen of Sheba travel so far to see Solomon? ”

Remind kids that the queen wanted to see if the reports she heard about Solomon were true. Share how we can’t get to God on our own. He came to us through His Son, Jesus. Discuss how faith in Jesus saves us and how Jesus brings us to God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 12:42.)

SAY “ How does God’s generosity in sending Jesus compare to His generosity toward Solomon? ”

Discuss how God graciously gave Solomon wisdom and riches. However, the ultimate gift of God toward us was the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. God has blessed believers with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. The riches of Solomon were nothing compared to the gift of Christ’s love. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 1:3.)

SAY “ Are you ever tempted to seek after God’s gifts more than God Himself? Why? ”

Answers will vary. Remind kids that no gift is greater than the Giver. Share how gifts can be taken away, destroyed, or broken, but God is forever. Gifts will never satisfy. Only God will make our hearts truly happy in Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 16:11.)

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: AMAZING TEACHING



Invite kids to volunteer to teach the group something. It could be something simple like how to tie a double knot in a shoelace, how to do a cartwheel, how to make a paper airplane, etc. Allow 1-2 minutes for each kid to teach. Then read the following Bible passage: Matthew 13:53-58. Discuss how people were constantly amazed at Jesus' teachings and His wisdom.

SAY “ Solomon’s great wisdom came from God. **PEOPLE WERE AMAZED BY THE WISDOM GOD GAVE SOLOMON.** Jesus is God, and He holds all wisdom. When Jesus taught on earth, people were constantly amazed at His wisdom and authority. But still, many did not believe in Him. Being amazed at Jesus’ wisdom is not the same thing as believing in Him. We can hear Bible stories and learn truth, but until we trust in Jesus, we will not be saved from our sin. Jesus’ wise teachings pointed to the truth that He had come to save people from their sin and give them life in Him. ”

☐ OPTION 2: WHO IS WISE?

Form kids into six groups and distribute a Bible to each group. Write the following references on a dry erase board and assign one to each group: Psalm 14:2; Psalm 19:7; Proverbs 3:7; Proverbs 13:20; Hosea 14:9; 1 Corinthians 1:20-24. Lead groups to read their Bible verse(s) and determine what it says about the wise person. Then invite groups to write their responses next to their Bible references on the dry erase board. For example, for Hosea 14:9, kids may write, the wise person recognizes God’s ways are right and walks in them. Discuss their responses.

SAY “ These verses help us understand that all wisdom comes from God. The wise person seeks God, obeys God’s Word, turns away from evil, walks with other wise people, and recognizes that the gospel alone is the wisdom of God that saves people from sin. If we want to be wise, then we must trust in Jesus who is the source of all wisdom. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel, and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, asking God for wisdom to follow Him and bring Him glory. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Solve It” on the activity page.