

UNIT 12 | SESSION 1

SOLOMON BECAME KING

1 KINGS 2-3



KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 3:7

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

CHRIST CONNECTION: God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people. Jesus is wisdom, and He leads those who trust in Him to eternal life. When we follow Jesus, we become wise.

STORY POINT: God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

As King David neared the end of his life, he desired for his son, Solomon, to walk in God's ways, obey His commands, and honor the Lord as he continued their family line on Israel's throne. Though Solomon would not be a perfect king over Israel, he was able to lead the people with the wisdom he received from God. In the wisdom of King Solomon, we see a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, the true embodiment of godly wisdom in human form.

What was the significance of Solomon asking for wisdom? How is Jesus greater than Solomon?

Perhaps it was David's last words to his son which prompted Solomon to ask for wisdom. After all, when God spoke to Solomon in the dream, Solomon responded by recalling how his father walked in God's ways. In any case, Solomon told God that he was inexperienced and just a youth. Solomon's humble request for wisdom pleased God, and He generously bestowed Solomon with wisdom, wealth, and honor. Solomon's request for wisdom revealed a heart that desired to esteem God by governing His people and discerning between good and evil.

Still, the wisdom of Solomon pales in comparison to the wisdom of Christ. Jesus fully embodied wisdom by perfectly fearing and obeying the Lord. Infinitely greater than Solomon is the wisdom of God's Son, who formed the world, rules the world, and sustains the world. 1 Corinthians 1:30 tells us that Jesus, "became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." Only through Jesus can we receive the wisdom to walk in God's ways with hearts that desire to glorify Him. When we know Jesus, we know wisdom.

Reflect on the wisdom of God offered to us through Jesus Christ. Consider His gift of wisdom in your own life as you have matured in your faith. Pray for the Lord to open children's hearts to their need for not only wisdom, but the salvation that grows our wisdom as we continue to walk in the Lord's ways.



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



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

- ☐ "Untangle It" activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ note cards, 1 per kid



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

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



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

- ☐ "Solomon Became King" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 12, Session 1" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Orvil Reid" missions video

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Fear the LORD (Proverbs 3:7)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ cardstock pieces, 1 per kid
- ☐ music

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ "Complete It" activity page



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 you could ask God for anything, what would you ask Him? Why?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Untangle It” activity page.

| **SAY** “Today’s story teaches us all about where true wisdom comes from: Jesus!”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: WISDOM OR KNOWLEDGE?



Challenge kids to determine which statement, in each pair of statements, showcase wisdom or just knowledge about something. Consider the following examples or create your own:

- Knowing a bicycle goes fast vs. wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle
- Following the school rules vs. reading the school rules sign
- Seeing a dangerous situation vs. walking away from a dangerous situation
- Knowing the crosswalk symbols vs. following the crosswalk symbols
- Loving and obeying God vs. learning about God

SAY “Wisdom and knowledge may seem the same, but they are different. Wisdom is being able to judge what is true and right while acting on that judgment. Knowledge comes from gaining information about a subject. The Bible speaks about knowledge and wisdom because both are important. Without knowledge, we can’t grow in wisdom. Today, we will learn how David’s son, Solomon, became king and how **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.**”

☐ OPTION 2: ASK ME

Provide each kid with a note card and a pen. Lead kids to write an animal name on the card. Emphasize that the animal should be one others will know. Then guide kids to hand their note cards to you. Shuffle the note cards and tape one to each kid’s back. Direct kids to go around to different kids and ask them yes or no questions about the animal they have. For example, a kid may ask, “Does my animal have fur?” Or, “Is my animal very large?” Challenge kids to continue asking other kids questions to help them determine the animal taped to their back.

SAY “You couldn’t figure out the animal name on your own, could you? You each needed help from others to determine the name of your animal. Today, we will learn how Solomon, David’s son, realized he needed help leading God’s people. God invited Solomon to ask Him for anything, and Solomon chose to ask God for wisdom so he could lead the people of Israel.”

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 “ Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and I am so excited you’re here to learn from the Bible. 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. [Assist kids in finding 1 Kings in their Bibles.]

In the book of 1 Kings we will see how David’s reign as king came to an end. David was king over Israel for forty years. During that time, David sought the Lord and desired to follow Him. While David did sin, he also confessed his sin and asked God to forgive him. As we hear our story, we will see that Solomon, David’s son, became king after him. We’ll learn that **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s pray together: ‘God, thank You for Your Word. Help us learn from the story of King Solomon and trust in Your Son, Jesus, for the wisdom we need. Amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ Over the next few weeks, we will ask the question, **What does God know?** The answer we will learn through reading His Word is that **God knows everything about the past, present, and future.** We call God’s ability to know everything His omniscience. No one is able to know everything about everything like God. Because God knows everything and uses His knowledge in good and right ways, He is all wise. All wisdom comes from Him.

Today, we will learn more about God and His perfect knowledge as we study the life of King Solomon from the Bible. **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.** Although King Solomon lived long before Jesus came to the earth, the wise King Solomon pointed us toward Jesus, who is the perfect picture of true wisdom as our eternally reigning King. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

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

SAY “ We’ve learned about Israel’s first two kings: Saul and David. Saul was disobedient to God’s commands, and God rejected Saul as king. God chose David to be the next king of Israel. David walked in God’s ways and followed His commands. While David wasn’t perfect, he did repent of his sin and trust in God to forgive him. David reigned over all Israel, leading with justice and righteousness for all his people (1 Chronicles 18:14). Today, we will hear how David died and his son Solomon became king over Israel. ”



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 2:1-4,10-12; 3:1-15. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Solomon Became King.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

SOLOMON BECAME KING

“When David had grown old, he called for his son Solomon to give him this message: **“Be strong, my son, and keep your promise to the LORD to walk in His ways and obey His commandments. If you do, you will have success in everything you do, and the LORD will keep His promise to our family.”**

Then David died, and Solomon became king over Israel. One night, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream. God said, **“Ask. What should I give you?”**

Solomon replied, “You have shown great and faithful love to my father David because he was faithful to You and had a right heart before You. **You have continued to show faithful love to him by giving him a son to sit on his throne.**

“You have now made me king in my father’s place. But I have no experience in leadership. I am younger than most of the people I lead. So, give me a heart to judge the people and tell the difference between good and evil.”

The Lord was pleased with Solomon’s request. He said, **“Because you have asked for wisdom to lead well instead of long life or riches, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and understanding heart. You will be wiser than anyone who has ever lived before. In addition, I will give you what you did not ask for: both riches and honor. If you walk in my ways and keep my commands, I will give you a long life.”**

Solomon woke up and realized it was a dream. He went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord’s covenant, and presented burnt offerings.

Christ Connection: God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people. Jesus is wisdom, and He leads those who trust in Him to eternal life. When we follow Jesus, we become wise. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Remind kids: When you share how Solomon spoke of God’s promise, remind kids about God’s covenant with David. Discuss how God promised someone from David’s family would sit on the throne forever. Tell kids that person is Jesus.

Active listening: Invite kids to hold up the letter “W” by raising three fingers when they hear the words “wisdom,” “wise,” and “wiser.”



2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Before David died, he gave Solomon wise advice. What did David tell Solomon to do? Look at 1 Kings 2:3. **[Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 2:3 aloud.]** David told Solomon to follow God’s ways and keep His commandments. David knew following God’s ways leads to life, and God blesses those who love Him through their obedience. David believed God’s promise to build a forever kingdom through one of David’s descendants, and he wanted Solomon to be a part of that promise by trusting in the Lord above his own ways.

God appeared to Solomon in a dream and invited Solomon to ask Him for anything. What did Solomon ask of God? **[Allow responses.]** Solomon asked God for wisdom to lead His people. Solomon admitted that he was young and had no experience in leadership. He wanted a heart that was able to judge between good and evil. Solomon’s request was granted, and **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.**

Besides wisdom, what two other things did God give King Solomon? Look at 1 Kings 3:10-13. **[Ask a volunteer to read 1 Kings 3:10-13 aloud.]** God gave Solomon both riches and honor so that he would be greater than any other king. The Lord was generous, giving Solomon above and beyond what was needed to be king over His people. God is generous to believers, giving them an inheritance through faith in Jesus.

As we’ll come to see, Solomon did lead God’s people in wisdom. But like his father David, Solomon also sinned and did not always walk in God’s wisdom. Even though he knew what was right, he chose to do what was wicked. We also choose to do what is wicked. But Jesus is wisdom, and He leads those who trust in Him to eternal life. When we follow Jesus, we become wise. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.** We need wisdom to live for God and follow His ways. But wisdom is more than knowing about God. Wisdom is a person: Jesus Christ. When we trust in Jesus, we become wise. Jesus lives in us, through the gift of His Holy Spirit, and helps us obey God. ”

(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 1” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. When we pray to God, how do we know if He says yes or no?
2. Why should we ask God to help us follow His Word?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Tell kids that Orvil Reid and his wife, Jewell, were missionaries to the people of Mexico City, Mexico. Share how Orvil depended on God to help him share the good news about Jesus and the power of God to save anyone who believes in Jesus. Play the missions video.

SAY “When Orvil’s wife Jewell died, her funeral became a celebration of hope. Orvil was able to share how those who believe in Jesus will live with Him forever. Even if we die on this earth, we have the hope of eternal life in His presence.

God helped Orvil share his faith in Jesus and gave Orvil wisdom to do ministry. When we place our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in us and helps us share the gospel.”

Pray that missionaries around the world would depend on the power and wisdom of God to continue sharing the good news about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

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

SAY “True wisdom doesn’t come from ourselves but from turning to the Lord and away from evil. God knows everything and all wisdom comes from Him.”

Recite the key passage with the following dramatic hand motions: Don’t (create an X with your arms); be wise in your own eyes (point to your mind and eyes); fear the LORD (point to heaven); and turn away from evil (spin). As you fall into a rhythm, increase the speed and the volume of your voices. Encourage kids to recite it without you.

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 know all things, and You know the need we have for Your salvation through Jesus. Lead each of us to trust You and to gain the gift of Your wisdom as we seek to follow Jesus. 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 Kings 3. Tell kids that the books of 1 and 2 Kings were originally written as one large book. Share how these books are named after the series of kings who ruled over God's people. Explain that they fall into the History division of the Old Testament.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where David was from. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Jerusalem [H5]). Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 3:15 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “ After Solomon woke up from his dream, he traveled to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices to the Lord. Solomon offered a burnt offering to symbolize a payment was required for his sin. He also offered a fellowship offering to symbolize peace between him and God. Both offerings showed that Solomon's heart loved God and that he wanted to worship and follow God.

Like Solomon, believers' hearts are moved to worship when they realize the great grace of God in their lives. Solomon received a gift he did not deserve, and we receive the gift of salvation when we trust in Jesus. Christians love and obey God because of His great grace in their lives. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why did Solomon ask God for wisdom? Why do we need wisdom? ”

Remind kids that Solomon realized he was too young and inexperienced to be able to lead God's people in his own knowledge. He also recognized that God is the source of true and lasting wisdom. He wanted a heart that was able to judge between good and evil. We also need wisdom to be able to judge what is right from evil. Only a heart that has been changed by Jesus can truly be wise. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 111:10.)

SAY “ Why is wisdom better than riches? ”

Discuss how wisdom from God leads to life. God tells us what is true: we are all sinners. He also gives us knowledge on how to be saved: trust in Jesus. When we wisely act upon that knowledge and trust in Jesus, we are saved from our sin and given eternal life. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:13-16.)

SAY “ How can we gain wisdom? ”

Encourage kids to remember that God desires to give us wisdom so we can live rightly for His glory. We can pray to God and ask, by faith, for the wisdom that only He provides. God's wisdom helps us when we are in hard times, keeps us from evil, and helps us become more like Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 1:5.)

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: WISDOM WALK

Before the activity, write the word foolish on a piece of cardstock. Then gather enough cardstock pieces for each kid and tape the cardstock in a large circle on the floor.

Invite kids to stand on a piece of cardstock. When you begin playing music, lead kids to walk around the circle. Tell kids that when you stop the music, whoever lands on foolish is out. Play as time allows, ensuring kids don't jump over cardstock pieces once the group grows smaller.

Read Proverbs 28:26.

SAY “When we choose to follow Jesus and walk in His wisdom, we are safe. This doesn't mean we won't ever experience hardship, but it does mean nothing can separate us from God and His love for us. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will have eternal life.”

☐ OPTION 2: WOULD YOU RATHER?



Lead kids in a series of “would you rather” questions about various topics. For example, “would you rather have unlimited chocolate or vanilla ice cream?” “Would you rather have a kitten or a puppy as your pet?” “Would you rather be the world's greatest guitar or piano player?” “Would you rather be able to swim like a fish or fly like a bird?” Consider inviting kids to think of a would you rather question to ask the group.

SAY “Solomon had the choice to ask God for riches or honor or power, but rather than seek after those things, Solomon asked God for wisdom. **GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE.** God invites us to ask Him for wisdom too. Sometimes we may be confused at a situation before us, or we might be tempted to follow our hearts. Instead, when we ask God to help us make choices that honor Him, He is faithful to give us the wisdom we need.”

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, thanking God that the true source of wisdom comes from following Jesus and trusting Him for salvation. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Complete It” on the activity page.