



THE WISE KING SOLOMON

1 KINGS 1-11

GOAL

▶ To help children understand that being rich and famous doesn't satisfy; only God satisfies.

CHARACTERS

▶ **Solomon:** Though he was the richest and wisest man in the world, King Solomon made the foolish mistake of following false gods.

MEMORY VERSE

▶ **James 1:5:** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

OVERVIEW

▶ **Read over 1 Kings 1-11:** Solomon started out well. He inherited the rule of Israel from his father, David. He prayed for wisdom, and God gave him great wisdom along with great riches and fame. Unfortunately, Solomon amassed wives and wealth in such a way that his heart was drawn away from obeying God.



SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ As King David grew very old, his son Solomon inherited the throne of Israel. Despite making many mistakes, David was a great ruler, and God called him a man after His own heart. That's a tough act to follow. So when God offered to give Solomon anything he wanted, he asked God to give him wisdom so he could be a good ruler like his father.

When God granted Solomon's request for wisdom, he became one of the wisest men to ever live. But even with this great wisdom, Solomon made many foolish mistakes and sinned against God. He knew what was right, but he chose to do otherwise.

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▶ **Make a Wish**
Have the students sit in a circle. Assign one student to stand in the middle of the circle. With his or her eyes closed and pointer finger extended, have this student spin in a circle and say "Wish, wish, wish!" When he or she stops, the student being pointed at must say one thing that they wish for. That child then stands in the center of the circle.
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MEMORY VERSE MEANING

- ▶ **James 1:5:** We often run into situations that we don't know how to handle. All we need to do is ask God. Just like He did for King Solomon, God will make us able to accomplish any task He sets before us.



POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▷ **Create a Temple | *Supplies:*** building materials, such as Styrofoam, cardboard paper towel rolls, and boxes; scissors, and tape

Solomon was responsible for building the temple. Provide the class with an assortment of building materials. Instruct the students that, together as a class, they should use the building materials to create the grandest temple they can.

TAKE HOME

- ▷ In this story about King Solomon, we can learn two important things:

1. God will give us the ability to accomplish the tasks we are called to if we rely on Him.
2. Knowing what is right isn't enough; we have to act in accordance with what we know to be right.

Solomon teaches us that no matter how much we know, how much money we may have, or how much power we may possess, we must always keep our focus on the Lord.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: Who did God want anointed as king of Israel?

A1: God wanted David's son Solomon to be king.

Q1b: If it were possible, would you want to be a king or queen?

TN: Ruling an entire country is a big job. Solomon grew up watching how his father handled this role, so his entire life was sort of on-the-job training. By the time it was his turn to be the king, he knew what the job would require. Some people are good at being in charge and really enjoy the work, while others do not. That doesn't mean that they aren't as good or as motivated. God gives us all talents, abilities, and interests, meaning that God has created people capable of taking care of all of the different things that need to be done. Some of us will be leaders while others will be scientists and artists; but all of these roles are necessary and good.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: What did Solomon do to show God how much he loved Him?

A2: Solomon offered hundreds of sacrifices.

Q2b: Think of the best gift you've ever received. How did you show your appreciation?

TN: Saying thank you and giving hugs are good ways to show how much we appreciate gifts. Promising to take good care of the gift is another good way to say thank you. Offering sacrifices was the way people showed appreciation for God's blessings, so to offer hundreds of sacrifices shows how very thankful Solomon really was.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What did God tell Solomon in his dream?

A3: God told Solomon he would give him anything he wanted.

Q3b: What would happen if your parent suddenly declared that no one had to do chores anymore?

TN: At first we would be so happy. We wouldn't have to spend time doing things we don't want to do. But after a little while, it would start to cause problems. There wouldn't be any clean dishes or clothes. There wouldn't be any food in the house to eat, and the house would be a total mess. Good leaders have to ask people to do things they don't want to do sometimes to make sure that everything runs the way it should. Doing the right thing is not always fun or the easiest thing to do, but a good leader enforces rules and acts as a good example. God knew that Israel needed a good king who loved the Lord so the people would continue to do the right thing and follow God. To make sure this would happen, he offered Solomon anything he wanted to help him be a good king.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What did Solomon ask God to give him?

A4: Solomon asked God to grant him wisdom to be a good king.

Q4b: If you were Solomon, what would you ask God to give you?

TN: Let students answer and have fun with it. We'd all probably be tempted to ask God for fun things, or maybe even more wishes, but that is what makes Solomon's answer so special. While Solomon did ask for something for himself, he asked for something that would benefit all the people in his kingdom.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What was Solomon's first job as king?

A5: His first job was to build the temple.

Q5b: When building a house, which is more important to include: an indoor swimming pool or bedrooms?

TN: An indoor swimming pool would be cool, but without bedrooms, the house wouldn't be very functional or comfortable. The temple Solomon built for God was enormous and made of some of the most expensive and beautiful materials available. The temple was meant to serve as the place where God lived on earth. Its grandeur was a testament to God's glory, but the beauty of the building wasn't the most important part. The temple was where people went to meet with God—to worship him through song, prayer, and offerings. While the temple's exterior was amazing, what happened inside was the truly awe-inspiring part.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: How long did it take to build the temple?

A6: It took seven years to build the temple.

Q6b: How far would you travel to see your favorite band if you could only get there by walking?

TN: When the temple was completed, everyone in Israel came to the celebration. Compared to some, Israel is a small country, but it was no easy journey for many people. The lucky ones traveled to Jerusalem by horse or donkey; the not so lucky ones walked there. It was such a big deal, that it didn't matter how far or how long it would take, everyone wanted to be there for this celebration.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: How many wives did God say a king should have?

A7: God said kings should have only one wife.

Q7b: Which do you think is better: having two really close friends or having 100 friends that you barely know?

TN: While having lots of friends can be fun, most of us would choose to just have a couple of really close friends. If we had 100 friends, it would take weeks for us to spend just a little bit of time with each of them, and then we'd have to start all over again because it will have been weeks since we've spent any time with the people we hung out with first. We'd be spending all of our time on very superficial relationships that don't really offer any benefit.

SLIDE 8



Q8a: Did all of Solomon's wives worship the one true God?

A8: No, some of his wives worshiped false idols.

Q8b: If you knew that a burner on the stove was hot, would you touch it?

TN: No! It would be foolish to do something that we know would cause pain. King Solomon knew that worshipping false idols was wrong, but he did it anyway. The wise king who had received so many lavish blessings from the Lord acted incredibly foolishly.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 9



Q9a: What did God tell Solomon would happen?

A9: God told Solomon that his kingdom would be split in two.

Q9b: You're baking cookies and the recipe calls for sugar, but you use salt instead. Do you think the cookies will be good?

TN: Those cookies would be terrible! If we expect to end up with a pile of yummy cookies, we have to follow the recipe exactly as it is written. Before Jesus died for our sins, people had to live strictly according to the Law, or they would face punishment and judgment. The Law was like a recipe the people had to follow if they wanted to avoid punishment. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross means that we don't have to live by the Law; we are forgiven. That doesn't mean we can do whatever we want and Jesus will say it's okay. Mistakes are still mistakes and sins are still sins. What it does mean is that we can learn from our mistakes, see the consequences of sin, and work to never commit them again. Jesus won't make our salty cookies taste good, but He does give us a chance to try making them again the right way.



**MEMORY
VERSE**

- ▷ **James 1:5:** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.
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BIG IDEA

- ▷ It is foolish to do what we know is wrong.
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**CLOSING
PRAYER**

- ▷ Dear God, You made Solomon very wise. Help us to be wise and to follow You and love You more than anything else. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



King David's reign had come to an end, and Israel was ready for a new king. God told the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan to go to David's son Solomon and anoint him king over all Israel.

SLIDE 2



Solomon was very happy to be king. After he was crowned, he went to worship the Lord. He offered hundreds of sacrifices to show God how much he loved Him.

SLIDE 3



That night, as the exhausted King Solomon fell into a deep sleep, he had a dream. God gave him a message in the dream. "Solomon, whatever you want, I'll give it to you," God said. God wanted to bless King Solomon because God knew that the people of Israel needed a good king who loved the Lord.

SLIDE 4



Solomon thought about the dream and knew exactly what to ask God. He did not need any more money or possessions. Instead, as the leader of a great people, he needed wisdom. That night, Solomon prayed for wisdom. God answered his prayer, and Solomon became the wisest man in the world. In addition to making him wise, God also made Solomon very rich and honorable.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 5



Solomon's first big job as king was to build the temple. This temple was one of the most beautiful and expensive buildings in the world. Solomon ordered precious wood, valuable stone, gold, silver, and fine cloth. The new temple would be a marvel of beauty because it was the house of God.

SLIDE 6



Seven years later, when the temple was finally finished, everyone in Israel came to the celebration. They offered thousands of sacrifices, prayed long prayers, and sang many songs. God was very happy and filled the temple with the light of His glory. The people praised God with all their hearts. Unfortunately, something sad happened to Solomon.

SLIDE 7



Solomon was so rich that he could have anything his heart desired, and what he desired more than anything else were wives. So Solomon got them—hundreds of them. He had 1,000 women that he treated as his wives. Solomon disobeyed God, as God had said that a king should only have one wife.

SLIDE 8



These new wives came from all over the world. They did not know the one true God, and they worshiped false idols. They turned Solomon's heart away from God, and Solomon started praying to these false gods as well. Disobedience became prevalent, and soon God's blessing on Solomon would be revoked.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 9



God punished Solomon and told him that his kingdom would be split in two. After Solomon's reign, the people of Israel would reject his son as their next king. As wise as Solomon was, his wisdom, riches, and women brought him destruction, and God rejected him as king.