



SOLOMON'S WISDOM & FOLLY

God's Incredible Plan • U7#4 1st-3rd Grade • Jan. 25, 2026

Concept

God is wisdom.

Goal

Students will learn that God perfect in wisdom and wants to give us his wisdom when we ask for it, but we have a choice as to whether or not we decide to live by that wisdom.

Passage

1 Kings 1-11; 2 Chronicles 1-9

Key verse: "Respect and obey the LORD! This is the beginning of wisdom. To have understanding, you must know the Holy God." Proverbs 9:10 (CEV)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bible• <i>Jeweled crown</i>• <i>Solomon's robe</i>• <i>Picture of Solomon's Temple</i> <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>18 large Styrofoam cups</i>• <i>3 blindfolds</i> <p>Optional Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>20 paper clips</i>• <i>1 square, shallow plastic tray</i>	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Children's Book of the Bible, W.C. Metts, Jr., L.K. Causey</i>• <i>Jenga blocks</i>• Toilet paper tubes, 1/student• Markers• Glue sticks• Tape• <i>Various shape hole punches distributed among classes</i>• <i>Construction paper, 5 sheets of different colors</i>• Dry beans, 1 lb. bag/class• Rubber bands, 2/student• Crepe paper streamers, 1 roll/class• 8½" x 14" copy paper, 1/student• 4 rulers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"King Solomon. Solomon reached many worldly goals as king of Israel, but his most significant achievement was the building of the first Temple. Following instructions given by his father, David, Solomon patterned the Temple after the Tabernacle and built it on Mount Moriah. The Temple was constructed of hewn stone, fitted together at the Temple site, without the sound of a hammer. Eighty thousand men cut stone in Solomon's quarries, thirty thousand men cut the cedar, and there were seventy thousand additional craftsmen. The Temple was magnificent in every detail and the ark of the covenant was placed in the Holy of Holies with great rejoicing on the day of dedication. God's Shekinah glory hovered over the ark as a sign of His Presence in their midst.

"When Solomon became king, he asked for and received from God the gift of a wise and discerning heart. During his forty-year reign, there was peace and prosperity. He also wrote the Book of Proverbs, which sets forth spiritual wisdom and truth in practical and applicable sayings for family life and business.

"Tragically, Solomon in later years did not practice the wisdom he had been given. He married many wives and became enslaved to luxury and wealth. He overtaxed the people and his opulence produced decadence in the kingdom, weakening it. Even more serious was his sin of allowing his wives to turn his heart away from Jehovah God to their false idols. The nation as a whole followed Solomon's example, even with the glorious new Temple in their midst.

"Israel's worship of God became more formal and ritualistic through the years instead of increasing in fervor and desire to follow God. The Temple and its glory became their god rather than Almighty God, whose Presence hovered over the Temple. We always seem to worship the seen rather than the Unseen. We are often subtly caught up in "things" which are the evidence of our own achievement rather than worshiping the One who gives us our ability and sustains our very life.

"Apparently, at the end of Solomon's life he wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes. In it, he described how things appear "under the sun" or without God's viewpoint (Ecc. 4:1). Solomon had explored every avenue of human endeavor and pleasure open to man. He had spared no effort or expense in his search for satisfaction. His conclusion: Man's endeavors are all foolishness and futility, like chasing the wind (see Ecc. 12:1). In his old age, Solomon returned to God's viewpoint and the wisdom God had given him as a young king.³

Set Up

- For the Introduction, teachers should decide who will be the narrator, who will be Solomon and who will blink the lights.
- Tape the picture of the temple up on the board for the Drama skit.
- Make 3 sets of 6 Styrofoam cups. Write the words, "Worship," "Work," "Wisdom," "God," "Kingship" & "Temple" on each cup of the sets for Game.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Station

- **Research – "A House for God"**
 - **Instructions:** Read pages 90-91 in Children's Book of the Bible to learn about the Solomon and the Temple he built. Make the distinction that we are now God's house, not the church building. Ask the students if they remember the furnishings of the Tabernacle. These same furnishings were put into the Temple which was now a permanent structure rather than a tent. Now that the Israelites lived in the land, they no longer needed a tent that could be packed up and moved each time the cloud moved.
- **Construction – Build a Temple**
 - **Instructions:** Using provided blocks have students work together to build a temple. Show them the picture of Solomon's Temple, but explain that no one knows for sure what Solomon's temple looked like because it was destroyed long ago.
 - Begin with the following introduction: God's people were settled in the Promised Land and King David wanted to build a permanent house, or temple, for God. God was glad that David wanted to build Him a temple, but God said, "You shall not build a house for My name... And He said to me, 'Your son Solomon is the one who shall build My house and My courts'" (1 Chronicles 28:3). When the time seemed right to Solomon, he asked God's permission to begin the temple. God said, "yes," so the people built the temple. It took 7 years to finish.
- **Craft – Trumpets and Shakers**
 - **Instructions:** For trumpets, roll the 8½" x 14" pieces of paper from one corner diagonally to the opposite corner. Tape them closed and form like a shofar/trumpet. For shakers, decorate toilet paper tubes with markers. Punch out various construction paper shapes with the hole punches and glue on. Cut six 5" strips of crepe paper. Crisscross (I) three of the strips on one end of the tube and hold them in place with a rubber band. Put a handful of beans in the tube and cover the other end with three more crisscrosses of crepe paper held in place with a with a rubber band.
- **Missions Prayer**
 - **Instructions:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving campaign.

Introduction Lg. Group

Drama – "Solomon's Temple" skit performed by teachers or student assistants.

Instructions: One teacher/student assistant will be the narrator and another will be Solomon. Two teachers/student assistants will blink lights at the appropriate times. Have students take the instruments they made with them to the skit.

Narrator

When David was old and ready to die, God made his son, Solomon, King of Israel. Solomon loved God and wanted to rule God's people God's way. God was pleased that Solomon wanted to obey Him. One night in a dream God asked Solomon what special present he would like. What would you ask God for? Listen to find out what Solomon asked for. (Read 1 Kings 3:3-13.)

(Blink the lights)

We're going back in time to join the Israelites and Solomon as they celebrate the completion of the Temple. OOPS! It's raining like crazy and there's Noah. I guess we went too far.

(Blink the lights again.)

Here we are. Look, there's Solomon.

Enter Solomon and stand beside the temple picture so it will appear you are in front it.)

WOW, look at that awesome temple!

Solomon

My father David wanted to build a temple for the Lord, but the Lord told him that I would be the one to build the temple. The Lord kept His promise. I am now king of Israel and I have built the Lord's Temple. Praise the Lord. He promised that He would give His people rest. He has done that and kept every promise. I pray that the Lord will be with us as He has been with the nation of Israel from the beginning. I pray that He will never leave us. May He help us to turn to Him and follow Him so that we will obey His laws and commands. I pray that He will help us every day. Then all the people of the world will know the Lord is the only true God and there is no one else.

Now let's celebrate! If you made an instrument, it's time to play it.

(Lead the students in a song such as, "Rejoice in the Lord Always." Let them play their instruments, sing and go wild.) Now let's bow down and shout, "God is good; His love continues forever" (2 Chronicles 7:3).

(Blink lights.) Let's go forward in time.

Transition

We read earlier that before Solomon built the temple God went to him in a dream. What did Solomon ask God for? (He asked for wisdom.) Why did Solomon ask for wisdom? (So he could do a good job as king.) He knew that God was the wisest being because He created the earth. He wanted to be like God in serving the people of Israel. He wanted wisdom to serve the people rather than for selfish reasons. Did God give him wisdom? (Yes.) God was very pleased that Solomon wanted wisdom so he could be a good king to God's people. Solomon began his rule as king with the great desire to rule the people, as God wanted. So God was glad to make him wise. Not only that, He also made him rich and famous. You might say, Solomon had it all. He was so famous that kings from all over the world went to him for advice. He was so rich that he didn't know what to do with all his money and possessions. And all this because God gave it to him. If "People everywhere wanted to see King Solomon and listen to the wisdom God had given him," wouldn't you think that he would follow God's laws and commands and look always to God for wisdom?

You might think so, but Solomon still made some bad choices because he thought he was so wise that he didn't always seek the Lord. Instead he married women who did not know or love God. And God had specifically told him not to do that. The Bible (**1 Kings 11:4, 9-11**) says, "As Solomon grew old, his wives caused him to follow other gods. He did not follow the LORD completely as his father David had done. {9} The LORD had appeared to Solomon twice, but the king turned away from following the LORD, the God of Israel. The LORD was angry with Solomon, {10} because he had commanded Solomon not to follow other gods. But Solomon did not obey the Lord's command."

God said, "{11} Since you have not kept our agreement and have not obeyed my laws, I will tear the kingdom away from you and your family and give it to someone else." Solomon had agreed to keep God's commandments and follow God like his father, David. But instead he worshipped other gods. From that point on other nations began to attack Israel and the peace of Solomon's kingdom ended. When Solomon died, the nation of Israel was split into two countries that walked farther and farther away from God.

As Solomon thought back over his life and what really mattered, what do you think he decided? Do you think he thought his riches, his fame and his wisdom were most important? At the end of his life, Solomon said that what really matters is that we love and obey God because there is no other god. He is the only true God and His wisdom is perfect.

Do you know that we can know many things, but not be wise?

Lesson Continued

Our key verse today is, "Respect and obey the LORD! This is the beginning of wisdom. To have understanding, you must know the Holy God" (Proverbs 9:10).

Solomon wrote the Book of Proverbs from which this verse came. He knew that God is the source of all wisdom. Therefore, the more we know God and His word, the wiser we become. Knowledge (wisdom) begins with respect for God. Unless we have a true measuring stick (ruler), we can't know how long a line is. If we don't have a speedometer, we don't know how fast our car is going. In the same way, the human mind cannot measure truth. Only God can show us the difference between truth and error. Many people have a hard time knowing right from wrong because they don't know God. People's opinions, or even human laws, can't always tell you what is right...So your knowledge (wisdom) must begin with God."⁵

Good news

How do you begin to respect and obey the Lord? (You must know Him.) You can't obey God if you don't know Him. So, the first step is to know God. Who can tell me how you get to know God? (You tell Him you want to know Him and want to be His friend.) How do you become His friend? (You tell Him you know you sin and want His forgiveness. Believe that Jesus died for your sins. Ask Jesus' death to pay for your sins.) Once we tell Him we want to be forgiven, all our sins are washed away and we are His friend and forgiven forever.

5 Explorer's Bible, 1991, Thomas Nelson, Inc., "Digging In," p. 804.

Transition

Let's get into 3 teams to play a game.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Game - Build a Temple^[1]

Instructions: Divide class into 3 teams. In this relay blindfolded players must crawl ten or twenty feet in front of their teams to where the six Styrofoam cups lie. They must stack up their set of six, pyramid fashion, to build a "temple" before returning to their teams and passing the blindfold off to a teammate. You, meanwhile, knock down each "temple" for the next players.

^[1] Wayne Rice & Mike Yaconelli, Play It Again, ©1993, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, Mi., Adapted from "Pyramids by Braille," p. 106.

Transition

Let's get into small groups.

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

Small Groups

Sometimes we don't want God's wisdom because we think it will be what we don't want to hear or something that will stop us from being happy. In other words, we don't really believe that God's wisdom is best.

Learning Activity# 2 Continued

- Can you think of a time you don't want God's wisdom? (When angry and don't want to forgive, when selfish and don't want to share, when want something you're afraid you won't get.)
- How do you feel when you hear God's wisdom, but you don't want to believe it or do what it says? (Some responses might be angry, guilty, alienated.)
- How do you feel when you believe and act on God's wisdom even though you didn't want to at the time? (Some responses might be happy, free, glad.)
- As Solomon thought back over his life and what really mattered, what do you think he decided?
- In Ecclesiastes 12:13 Solomon says, "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person." At the end of his life Solomon knew that God's wisdom is perfect and he was foolish to trust in himself. He knew to "Respect and obey the LORD! This is the beginning of wisdom. To have understanding, you must know the Holy God" (Proverbs 9:10).

Let's pray now and thank God that no one is as wise as He is. It's an awesome thing that He wants to give us His wisdom.

Optional Activity

Game – The Great Number Controversy[1]

- **Instructions:** Start the tray with the person next to the person next to you. When the tray comes around the circle, secretly take one paper clip out when you count and pass on to the last person, who should be next to you. The last person will not agree with the count of all the others. See if the last one changes his/her answer to conform with the others.
- As I pass this tray of paper clips around I want each of you count the number of paper clips in this tray. (Pass around.) Okay, all of you have counted now. How many paper clips are in the tray? (All but one answer should agree. Ask if everyone counted carefully. Check with the one who has a different answer. The pressure may cause doubt. When everyone is frustrated, reveal the secret and discuss conforming.)
- Solomon believed in one God but married women from other countries who worshipped other gods. Solomon was surrounded by people who had different beliefs. How easy was it to keep believing the number you counted when others disagreed? Solomon allowed himself to be influenced by others who believed lies. This resulted in compromise in His walk with the Lord.

[1] Ideas - Combo Edition #9-12, Youth Specialities, El Cajon, © 1984, Adapted from "The Great Button Controversy," p. 16.