



# GOD'S WISDOM FOR SOLOMON

Young Preschool • #OT19 • October 15, 2023

## Concept

God will teach us what is right and what is wrong.

## Goal

Children will learn through Solomon's example that God gives wisdom to those who ask. He wants them to have a relationship with Him so He can help them make good choices.

## Passage

1 Kings 3:1-15

Key Verse: "I ask that you give me wisdom... Then I will know the difference between right and wrong." 1 Kings 3:9

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Sorting boat – shape sorter</i></li></ul> <p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Treasure box</i></li><li>• <i>Crown</i></li><li>• <i>Bag of play money, jewels</i></li><li>• <i>Empty vitamin bottle</i></li><li>• <i>Squirt gun</i></li><li>• <i>Bible</i></li><li>• <i>Picture of Jesus</i></li></ul>	<p><b>Learning Activity #1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Printed page with stars, circles, concept and key verse, 1/child</li><li>• Two sizes of bright-colored die-cut circles, 1 each/child</li><li>• Two sizes of bright-colored die-cut stars, 1 each/child</li><li>• Glue sticks</li><li>• Crayons</li></ul>

### \*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."<sup>[1]</sup>

[1] McCallum, Hamblin, God's Incredible Plan, ©1978, Fleming Revell, New Jersey, pp. 59, 60.

## Set Up

The day of class – Fill treasure box with crown, bag of play money and jewels, empty vitamin bottle, toy squirt gun filled with water, Bible and picture of Jesus. Set aside for use with the Lesson.

## Incorporation Lg. Group

### Activity Stations:

- **Game – Choices**

- **Instructions:** Use the shape sorter to develop the concept and results of right and wrong choices. When the children choose the right shape for the proper space, the shape fits. When they choose the wrong shape for the space, the shape does not fit.

## Introduction Lg. Group

**Instructions:** Begin with having the kids move around to help them release energy before sitting down to listen to the lesson! (pick an active game)

## Transition

Okay, now it's time to sit with our listening ears so we can learn about making good choices.

## Lesson Lg. Group

### Choices

**Instructions:** Use the shape sorter from the Activity Station to illustrate the idea of right and wrong choices.

Did you all get to try to put the shapes in this boat? What happens when I choose to put this round piece in this square hole? It doesn't work, does it? But when I put it in the round hole it goes right in. When we make the wrong choice, it doesn't work.

What kind of choices do you make? (Choose what clothes to wear, foods to eat, games to play, what to say and do.) We all make a lot of choices every day. Sometimes you make good choices to share a toy with your good friend or to obey your mommy. Sometimes you make bad choices to hit your friend or grab a toy from your friend or to say "no" to your mommy. Our lesson today is about a king who wanted to make good choices so that he would be a good king for God's people. Listen to find out what he did.

When King David was too old to be king he made his son, Solomon, king. *(Pull the crown out of the treasure box, being secretive about the rest of the contents. Put the crown on.)* Solomon was still young (hide your thumb in your fist and pretend to suck your thumb). Well, not quite that young! But he didn't think he was ready to be king. Being king was a big job because the king had to make lots of choices. But Solomon knew that God will teach us what is right and what is wrong.

One night God told Solomon to ask for anything he wanted. Wow, what a choice! Solomon could ask God for anything he wanted and God would give it to him. What do you think he asked for?

## Lesson Continued

There are some things in this treasure box that Solomon could have asked for. *(Pull out bag of money and jewels.)* He could have asked for a lot of money and jewels so he would be very rich. *(Pull out vitamin bottle.)* He could have asked God to make him strong and very healthy so he would live a long time. He could have asked God to beat his enemies. *(Pull out squirt gun and squirt the class—or fellow teacher if it seems a “wiser” choice – pun intended.)* Solomon could have asked for anything, but he chose to ask God for wisdom. *(Pull out the Bible.)* Do you know what wisdom is? Wisdom is knowing what is right and what is wrong. Solomon knew that God will teach us what is right and what is wrong so he asked God to give him wisdom. Solomon knew he could make good choices if he was wise. Solomon was so wise that God gave Him words to write three books in our Bible!

Solomon became a great king because He asked God to help him make good choices. He knew that God will teach us what is right and what is wrong. But do you know what? When Solomon got older his heart turned away from God and he didn't use the wisdom that God gave him. Solomon made bad choices and the people of his kingdom had a hard time because of his bad choices.

The Bible says that God will teach us what is right and what is wrong. *(Pull out picture of Jesus.)* Do you know that Jesus is God so He always knows what is right and what is wrong? When He lived on this earth He always made good choices. So when Jesus died on the cross He took the punishment we should get for all our bad choices. When we tell Jesus we know that we make bad choices and ask Him to forgive us, He does forgive us and we become His friends forever. Then He helps us to make good choices!

Let's pray now and thank God that He will teach us what is right and what is wrong. Let's thank Him that He wants to give us wisdom.

### **Craft – God will teach us...**

**Instructions:** Give each child a printed page and one each of the circles and stars. Remind the children about the shape sorter at the beginning of class. Have them glue the small circle inside the printed small circle, the large circle inside the printed large circle and the same with the stars. When they choose the right shapes there is a printed outline around each one. As the children work on the craft, tell the children that God gave them their minds so they can know where to place each shape. He promises that He will teach us right and wrong when we ask. When we choose for Jesus to come into our lives we can ask for God's wisdom and He will give it to us. Talk to children about right and wrong choices that help or hurt them and others.

## Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group