



GOD'S WISDOM FOR SOLOMON

Preschool-K • #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 |
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| <p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Adam Raccoon and the Flying Machine, Glen Keane</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Treasure box</i>• <i>Crown</i>• <i>Bag of play money, jewels</i>• <i>Empty vitamin bottle</i>• <i>Squirt gun</i>• <i>Bible</i>• <i>Picture of Jesus</i> | <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printed page with stars, circles, concept and key verse, 1/child• Two sizes of bright-colored die-cut circles, 1 each/child• Two sizes of bright-colored die-cut stars, 1 each/child• Glue sticks• Crayons |

*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."^[1]

[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, picture of the temple and picture of Jesus. Set aside for use with the Lesson.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Story – Adam Raccoon and the Flying Machine**

- **Instructions:** Read the story and talk with the children about Adam's choice to ignore the instruction book. Ask if they know there is an instruction book we can read that will tell us how to make good choices? We will learn about a man named Solomon who asked God to give him wisdom so he could make good choices. God gives us wisdom to know what is right and what is wrong. When we have God's wisdom we know what is right and what is wrong.

Introduction Lg. Group

We all make choices every day. What kind of choices do you make? Sometimes you make good choices to share with your friends or to obey your mommies. Sometimes you make bad choices to grab a toy or hit your friend or to say "no" to your mommies. Our lesson today is about a king who wanted to make good choices because he wanted to be a good king for God's people. Listen to find out what he did.

Lesson Lg. Group

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 tough job because the king had to make lots of choices.

The king made many choices for all the people in the kingdom. (Point to your class.) He made choices for many more people than this class, more than the whole city. Can you imagine making big choices for so many people? Solomon wanted to make good choices for God's people. But Solomon was not sure he would be able to make good choices. Solomon knew he had to have wisdom to make good choices. He knew that God gives us wisdom about what is right and what is wrong. He knew that without God's wisdom, it would be impossible to be a good king of God's people.

One night God visited Solomon in a dream. 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 should have asked for? Here are some things Solomon could have asked for. (Pull out bag of money and jewels.) He could have asked for riches. (Pull out vitamin bottle.) He could have asked God to make him strong so he would live a long time.

Lesson Continued

He could have asked God to defeat his enemies. *(Pull out squirt gun and squirt the class—or a fellow teacher if class seems fussy.)* Solomon could have asked for anything, but he chose to ask God for wisdom. *(Pull out the Bible.)* Do you know what wisdom is? When we have wisdom we know what is right and what is wrong. Solomon asked God for wisdom so he could make good choices. God gives us wisdom about what is right and what is wrong. God was glad to give Solomon wisdom. Because He had God's wisdom, He was a wonderful king.

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 became a bad king. The people of his kingdom suffered because of his bad choices. Do you know that the Bible says all of us want to do things our way rather than God's way? And when we do things our way rather than God's way other people suffer. We think we are smart and know what is right and what is wrong. But the Bible says that God gives us wisdom to know what is right and what is wrong. *(Pull out picture of Jesus.)* Many, many, many, many years after Solomon died, God came to live here on earth as a man. His name is Jesus. Jesus always knew what was right and what was wrong. He was perfect and always made good choices. Does anyone know why Jesus came to live on earth? *(Allow children to answer.)* Jesus came to be a perfect man so He could die on the cross to take 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. But each one of us has to make that choice and ask Jesus to forgive us.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Craft – God will teach us...

Instructions: Give each child a printed page and one each of the circles and stars. Remind the children about activity station from 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.

Discussion

- Why did Solomon ask God for wisdom?
- What happened when Solomon decided not to obey God's wisdom? (He was a bad king and all the people suffered.)

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

Learning Activity# 2 Continued

- Do you get consequences for bad choices? Why do your mommies and daddies give you consequences for bad choices?
- Why is it important to make good choices?

Let's pray now and thank God that He gives us wisdom to know what is right and what is wrong. Let's thank Him that He wants to give us wisdom and pray that we will learn to ask Him for His wisdom. Let's thank Jesus that He died on the cross so all of our bad choices can be forgiven and we can be friends with God.