

# Lesson 9: The Wisdom of Solomon

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Learn from the Old Testament about Solomon and his wisdom
- 2) Learn that we too should aim to be wise and how wisdom is beneficial by doing various activities
- 3) As part of learning about wisdom students will become wiser by learning the books of the Old Testament by singing songs.

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**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1 for ideas

**Supplies:**

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Compass and/or maps of various places
- Chair (for throne), Blanket or Table Cloth (for Cape), Paper Crown or pretend Crown pre decorated for Game of Wisdom Activity
- Wisdom Activity Game Questions – one per class to share
- Old Testament Books Display Sheet – one for class to see – from previous lesson

**Optional:**

- Color Sheet one per student
- Easel or Chalkboard for everyone to see and a marker or chalk
- Snack: Graham Crackers one per student
- Vanilla Pudding Snack Cup one per student
- Plastic Spoon one per student
- Napkins for snack one per student
- Juice or water and cup one per student

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**Lesson:**

**1) Introduction to Lesson**

**5-10 minutes**

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week, if a new child arrives put their name on the chart for them. Once children are seated say: **Today we will learn about Solomon – the wisest man in the world – thanks to God!**

**Let's turn to Proverbs 1:2-6 and read it aloud.** Either a volunteer or you can read.

**Why does it say the book of Proverbs was written?** To attain wisdom and discipline, to learn what is right and fair

**To whom were they written?** To those desiring to be wise, including younger people!

**The Proverbs were written so that everyone who reads and applies what is recorded would become wise. Each proverb found within the book of Proverbs is a statement of wisdom and, if you apply those principles, you will become wise!**

**Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, is the author of most of the Proverbs. Essentially, this book of the Bible is inspired by God—written by the wisest human—for all mankind to grow in wisdom.**

**The Proverbs state from the beginning that they are written for young men (and women). These are written for you! Taking time to study the whole book of Proverbs and applying them will increase your wisdom.**

## **2) Learn of Solomon and How We Too Should Gain Wisdom**

**10-15 minutes**

\*Have compass and or maps ready to show kids at the end of this activity.

**Let's turn to 1 Kings 2:1-4, 3:3-15 and 4:29-34 and read it aloud to learn about Solomon – King David's Son and how he asks for wisdom.** Get volunteers to read about 4 verses each.

### **Ask Following Questions:**

**What is wisdom or who is wise?** Allow kids to answer. Possible answers may be: a person knows what to say and how to act in different situations. They know the Bible and can use it to answer problems they have in their life. A wise person is usually considered to be older and has gone through many things that help them to be wise, but as Solomon proved, by asking help from God even younger people can grow and learn to be wise!

**According to this story and the verses we read earlier, what are some wise choices we can make?** Allow answers, examples may be studying the Bible, praying, doing good things for others, etc.

**Why would Solomon want to be wise, knowing he was going to be king?** To help rule the people he was in charge of, to show he knew how to deal with problems properly, etc.

**Solomon loved God and thanked Him for the gifts God blessed him with. He went and worshiped God and told him that he loved him. Let's remember to do the same! Let's also remember to pray and ask God for wisdom in our lives, to learn to do things His way, since that is always the best way!**

Bring out the compass and/or maps for the class to see.

### **Ask:**

**What do compasses and maps help travelers do?** Help travelers find their way to certain places.  
**What would happen if you did not have a compass or map?** You would probably get lost!

**God is our compass and map! He helps us through life and guides us. God's wisdom will help us make the right decisions!**

**Just like Solomon we need to rely on and trust God to give us what we need and to ask in prayer for things that will help us to be wise!**

## **3) Optional: A Wise Person Shows Others How to Be Wise Color Page 10-15 minutes**

Hand out color page to each child along with crayons. Allow them to color and if desired, ask them questions about the story and about making wise decisions. Say, **Solomon was the wisest man to ever live because he asked God for wisdom and he was granted it. Solomon wrote most of the book of Proverbs – the book we have been looking at this quarter to learn about why and how we can be wise too! Solomon says something in Proverbs 11:30 let's turn there and read it."**

Read the verse and then ask, **"What is the fruit or benefit of being righteous? It is like a tree of life – it is life!**

**And who is wise according to this verse?"** Those who win souls. Those who teach about Jesus and God to bring them to salvation!

**A wise person shows others how to be wise – Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs to show others how to be wise! Let's color the page to remind us that we can be like Solomon if we study the Bible, pray and teach other's what we have learned from God!**

Remind them to put their name somewhere on the page before moving on to the next activity.

#### **4) Game of Wisdom for Children**

**10-15 minutes**

This will show students that they too can learn to make wise decisions. Knowing stuff is better than having stuff!

**Bring Your Requests before the King or Queen! We are going to play a game, each person will take a turn being the king or queen and answer questions wisely to help the person asking.**

Bring out a chair to use as a throne. You can decorate it with streamers or construction paper. If you have a decorative cape that can be used for a robe or a paper crown, use that also. Let the kids take turns putting on their crowns, sitting on the throne, and roll playing as King or Queen.

Have the children approach the king or queen one at a time with a request and have them read the questions in order taking turns after each question: (These questions are on the Wisdom Activity Question Sheet to show each child that approaches the King or Queen.)

- 1. Your Highness, I had the toy first, and she won't give it back. Can you solve this for me?**
- 2. Your Highness, my mom told me I have to eat broccoli, and I can't stand it. Can I get out of this somehow?**
- 3. Your Highness, I want to go to my friend's house, and my mom says I can't cross the street. How can I get to my friend's house?**
- 4. Your Highness, my teacher at school picks everyone but me when we raise our hands. May I please have some ideas on how to get the teacher to call on me?**
- 5. Your Highness, everyone is taller than I am. So nobody picks me for their team. How can I get picked first?**
- 6. Your Highness, I'm the oldest, and whenever my brother and I fight, my parents say I should know better. But sometimes he drives me crazy. What can I do?**
- 7. Your Highness, when my friend comes over, she wants to watch TV and I want to play with toys. She refuses to do anything but stare at the TV. How can I get her to play?**
- 8. Your Highness, I saw a kid on my street being really mean to his dog. He told me if I tell my mom what I saw, he'll beat me up. Should I be afraid of him?**
- 9. Your Highness, my mom wants me to give a bunch of my toys to the poor, and I don't want to. I might use them again sometime. What should I do?**
- 10. Your Highness, my birthday wish list is three pages long. My parents say that's too much. But I want all this stuff. Should I really have to make my list shorter?**

While it might be tempting to do a whole lot of prompting, often these games go better once the kids realize the adults are not there to put ideas in their heads and they are free to think of answers themselves. Only prompt when kids are king/queen who are prone to one liners. You can say "take some time to think about it, your Highness," and praise all appropriate answers.

Stress the importance of the idea that, **“knowing the right stuff is better than having stuff. And that knowing the right thing to do is hard – that is why we need to turn to the Bible to learn how to deal with situations like these! The best way to solve problems is to seek advice from the Bible, God is our best resource and can make us wise so we can help others learn the answer to life’s different problems.”**

#### **5) Optional – Snack: Sand of the Shore Graham Cracker/Pudding 5 minutes**

Graham Crackers crushed on Vanilla Pudding Snack Cups –

Hand out a vanilla pudding snack along with a glass of water or juice, and spoon to each child.

Explain that, **“before we start eating we need to add something special to the tops of our pudding snacks!”**

Hand out a graham cracker to each child and tell them to crush the cracker on top of the pudding to make “sand”. **1 Kings 4:29 says that Solomon’s wisdom was greater than the grains of sand on the seashore. These snacks will remind us that we too can have a lot of wisdom if we study and pray to God!** Have a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions and examples of how we can be wise, while snacking!

#### **6) Song**

**5 minutes**

**The Books of the Old Testament – Sung to the Alphabet Song Tune 2 times**

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers

Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges

Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles.

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther and Job,

Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes.

Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah,

Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel.

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah,

Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk

Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi!

#### **7) Close in prayer**

\*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray. Start below if you need help and then add the other prayer requests of the children.

**Thank you God that you have given us the chance to be wise and to learn what wisdom is. Thank you that we can look to You and Your Son Jesus for examples and look to others in the Bible as well that were wise. Thank you for Your Bible that guides us and gives us the answers we need. And we pray that You will help us all to be wise, to make wise decisions, to seek You and find You and to follow You all the days of our lives. Help us to be good examples to others and let them see Your love and kindness in our lives. Give us wisdom Father, as you did Solomon, and it is in Your Son’s precious name that we pray this, Amen.**