



Solomon Asks for Wisdom

1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:3-28

Most first- and second-graders haven't yet developed strong problem-solving skills for applying God's wisdom to their everyday lives. You can help them by giving them opportunities to solve problems on their own. However, don't leave them frustrated and struggling. Assist them by suggesting strategies, helping them consider options, and directing them to think through possible consequences. Use this lesson to help them understand that God gives us wisdom.



► **Bible Point**
God gives us wisdom.

Key Verse

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

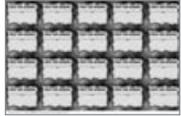
Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will ask God for wisdom.

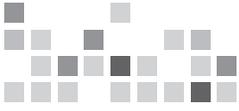
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Wisdom Hunt <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Choose to follow clues or to ignore them as they try to find a prize.</p>	<p>paper, pen, candy</p>	<p>Set up a scavenger hunt throughout your room, and hide a series of simple clues, with the final clue leading to the treat. Keep the first clue to get kids started.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Wise King <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Learn about and create representations of Solomon's wisdom from God.</p>	<p>4-inch construction paper circles, markers, 1 small length of yarn and one 4x5-inch piece of cloth per child, scissors, craft sticks, glue sticks Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline</p>	





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>Just Ask <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and sing a song.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD: "If Anyone Lacks Wisdom" (James 1:5) (track 9)</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Wisdom Needs <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Illustrate and pray for specific ways they need wisdom.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, pencils, markers Teacher Pack: "Pray for Wisdom" cards</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.</p>  <p>Separate the "Pray for Wisdom" cards.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





Wisdom Hunt Supplies

paper
pen
candy

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Wisdom Hunt Easy Prep

Set up a scavenger hunt throughout your room, and hide a series of simple clues, with the final clue leading to the treat. Keep the first clue to get kids started.

1 GETTING STARTED

Wisdom Hunt

■ ■ ■ **Tip** If you have mostly nonreaders in your group, use pictures for each clue. Either draw simple pictures or cut pictures from advertisements or magazines.

What You'll Do ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Then tell kids you've hidden a prize somewhere in your room.

Say: **I've also hidden several clues that will lead you to the prize. I have the first clue right here. Each person should look for the prize. You can either follow the clues or try to find the prize faster on your own.**

If some kids want to follow the clues, give them the first clue. If some want to search for the prize without using the clues, allow them to do so.

Talk With Kids ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

When kids have found the prize, allow everyone to enjoy the treat as you ask the following questions.

Ask:

- What was it like to search for the prize?
- How did the clues help you search for the prize?
- When you need help figuring out something in your life, what do you do?

Say: **In this game, the clues gave you wisdom so you knew what to do. We need wisdom to help us all the time. Today we'll learn that ► GOD GIVES US WISDOM. We'll learn by looking at King Solomon, who the Bible says is one of the wisest people who ever lived.**





2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Wise King



Tip An old, clean tablecloth would work well for the cloth in this activity.

What You'll Do

Give each child one of the paper circles, and set out markers for kids to share.

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 2, and show kids the passage. Tell kids this is God's book.

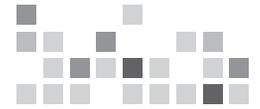
Say: **The Bible tells us that when King David was very old, he talked to his son Solomon. He told his son, "Soon I'll go to heaven, and you'll be the new king over the land of Israel. So be strong and brave, and obey God. If you follow God's ways, God will help you be a good king."**

Have kids draw Solomon's face on their circles. When children have finished drawing faces, give each child a piece of cloth.

Say: **Use a marker to draw a line across the middle of your cloth so that you have a top half and a bottom half.** Give kids a minute to draw the line on their cloth.

Say: **After King David died, Solomon became king. He was a good king, and he loved God and obeyed God's commands. One day, God appeared to Solomon in a dream. God said to Solomon, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."**

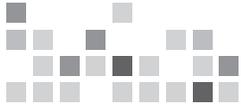
Wow! God told Solomon he could ask for anything from God! On the top half of your cloth, draw or write all the things you can think of that Solomon could've asked for.



Wise King Supplies

- 4-inch construction paper circles
- markers
- 1 small length of yarn and one 4x5-inch piece of cloth per child
- scissors
- craft sticks
- glue sticks
- Teacher Pack**
- Bible Timeline





Pause to let kids draw or write. After a few minutes, say: **Solomon answered God, “You were so good and kind to my father, King David, because he followed you and obeyed you. Now I’m king, and I don’t know how to be a good king. Please give me wisdom so I know what’s right and what’s wrong so I can be a good king.”**

God was pleased with what Solomon asked for. God told Solomon, “I’m so glad you asked for wisdom instead of long life, lots of money, or bad things to happen to your enemies. I’ll reward you by giving you wisdom and riches and honor. As long as you live, there will be no other king as great as you. And if you follow my ways as your father did, I’ll give you long life, too.”

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What were some of the things you drew on your cloth?**
- **Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom?**

On the bottom half of their cloths, have kids draw or write what Solomon actually received from God. Then help each child glue the paper circle to the top of a craft stick, face side out. Show kids how to drape cloths under the faces as robes, using yarn to tie the cloths to the craft sticks.

Say: **As I tell what happened next, focus on Solomon’s wisdom from God and how that helped other people. Every time you hear “Solomon,” raise your Solomon puppet high in the air.**

Show kids the “Solomon Rules Wisely” picture on the Bible Timeline. Say: **One day, when Solomon (pause) was king, two women came to his court. The two women lived in the same house, and each one had had a baby. But now they came with only one baby.**

One of the women said to King Solomon (pause), “This other woman’s baby died during the night, and she switched her baby with mine. The next morning when I got up, I saw the dead baby and thought it was mine. Then I realized it wasn’t mine—it was hers. She took my baby!”

The other woman said, “No, this is my baby. Yours is dead!” And they kept arguing.

God gave Solomon (pause) wisdom, so Solomon (pause) decided to test the women. He told an assistant to bring him a sword. Solomon (pause) wasn’t going to hurt the baby, but he pretended that he would, just to test the women. He said, “Cut the living baby in two and give half to one woman and half to the other woman.”

The real mother of the baby said, “No, don’t hurt the baby! Just give the baby to the other woman!” The other mother said, “That’s fine. Cut the baby in two, and neither one of us will have a baby.”

Solomon (pause) knew which one was the real mother of the baby: the one who wanted to save his life. So he told his assistants to give the baby to her.





When people heard about the way Solomon (pause) had ruled so wisely, they were amazed, and they realized God had given him wisdom to be a great king.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about what Solomon did?
- How did Solomon use God’s wisdom to solve this problem?

Say: Solomon knew that the real mother would care about the child more than the other woman did, so the real mother would do whatever it took to keep the child safe, even if that meant she couldn’t keep her baby.

We might not have to decide things as difficult as the things Solomon decided, but we need wisdom for many things. ► GOD GIVES US WISDOM for every hard thing in our lives, but we need to ask him for it, just as Solomon did.

Just Ask

What You’ll Do

Say: Today’s Key Verse tells us what to do when we need wisdom. Open your Bible to James 1:5, and show the verse to the kids. Then read the verse aloud: **“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5).**

Have kids repeat the verse with you until they can say it by themselves.

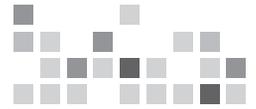
Say: **Now that we can say our Key Verse, let’s see if we can sing it!**

Pass out copies of the lyrics and play “If Anyone Lacks Wisdom” (James 1:5) (track 9 on the CD) once. Lead kids in singing the song as you play it a second time.

 **If anyone lacks wisdom,
He should ask God.
If anyone lacks wisdom,
He should ask God,
Who gives generously to all
Without finding fault,
Who gives generously to all
Without finding fault.
And it will be given to him.
(Repeat.)**

And it will be given to him.

“If Anyone Lacks Wisdom” (James 1:5) by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



Just Ask Supplies

-
- Bible
 - CD player
 - copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this lesson)
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: “If Anyone Lacks Wisdom” (James 1:5) (track 9)





Turn off the CD player, and gather kids in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in the following discussion.

Ask:

- **What's one area of your life where you need God's wisdom?**

Say: **God wants to give us wisdom, just as he gave it to Solomon. Let's pray for God to give us wisdom.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for offering wisdom to us whenever we need it. It's so amazing that all we need to do is ask, and you'll give us wisdom to know the right thing to do! Please, God, give us wisdom this week to know what's right. In Jesus' name, amen.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Wisdom Needs

Wisdom Needs Supplies

My Bible Fun
pencils
markers

Teacher Pack
"Pray for Wisdom"
cards

Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 5
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.

Separate the "Pray for
Wisdom" cards.

What You'll Do ■■■■

Direct kids' attention to the "I Need Wisdom" activity on this week's My Bible Fun page. Give each child a pencil, and make markers available to everyone.

Say: **Decorate the empty face to make it look like yourself. Then fill in the balloons with questions you have or things you need wisdom for. You can either write or draw your questions. For example, you might write or draw about a subject in school, a question you have about God, or a problem you need help solving.**

Allow several minutes for kids to write and draw. Walk around the room to offer encouragement and help as needed. Then give each child a "Pray for Wisdom" card, and say: **Write your name on the card I gave you. Then write about one of the things you need wisdom for. We'll pray aloud for all the needs.**

Provide help if kids need assistance writing their names or descriptions on their cards. Then collect the cards.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Sometimes we need wisdom to know the truth about things. When Solomon asked for God's help, God gave him wisdom. ► GOD GIVES US WISDOM, too. Now let's ask God for wisdom in these situations.**

Pray aloud, asking for wisdom for each person by name and praying for the specific situation on his or her card. When you're finished praying, return the cards to the children.



Encourage kids to take their cards home so they remember to ask God for wisdom in their situations.



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's each choose a Daily Challenge to help us remember that ► GOD GIVES US WISDOM.** Direct kids to find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Each time you have to make a difficult decision, ask God for wisdom to make the right choice.**
- **Every morning before you get out of bed, ask God to give you wisdom that day—and then follow his leading.**
- **Teach a family member the Key Verse and then share a hug.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.**

Say: **► GOD GIVES US WISDOM. Solomon asked for God's wisdom and got it. Our Key Verse promises that if we lack wisdom, we can ask God for it, and God will give it generously. Let's seek God's wisdom this week as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about receiving wisdom from God. Kids can also do the activities on the "HomeConnect" portion of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

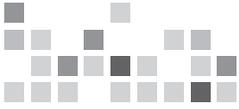
Talk to your Director about e-mailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for giving us wisdom.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Fun





If Anyone Lacks Wisdom (James 1:5)

If anyone lacks wisdom,
He should ask God.
If anyone lacks wisdom,
He should ask God,
Who gives generously to all
Without finding fault,
Who gives generously to all
Without finding fault.
And it will be given to him.

(Repeat.)

And it will be given to him.

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