



# Solomon Asks for Wisdom

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

Most third- and fourth-graders equate knowledge with wisdom. It's difficult for them to see the two are not the same. This week's and next week's lessons will help kids begin to see that wisdom is very spiritual in its essence and a precious thing to have. Wisdom develops over time, so you might not see these kids regularly use wisdom in the decisions they make. Also, society bombards kids with the idea that doing things their way is *the* way. It really goes against the flow to think that kids need to do things God's way to be wise. But as they see wisdom modeled in Scripture and in you, they will begin to apply it more in their own lives.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>How Can You Do It?</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Form teams and try to do a job.	Bibles, broom or vacuum cleaner, paper, pencils or pens, snacks	Hide all the supplies.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>What Do You Want?</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Discuss what they would ask God for, and find out what Solomon asked God for.	Bibles, sticky notes, tape, paper, pencils or pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "What Do You Want?" poster	
	<b>You Be the Jury</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Listen to lawyers present their cases, and decide a verdict.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD: "Disputed Child" (track 10), Bible Timeline	



► **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 in their lives.  
.....





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>2</b> Bible Exploration <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>What Is Wisdom, Anyway?</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and see what wisdom looks like in their lives.</p>	<p>Bible, Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, scissors, 1 copy per person of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD: "If Anyone Lacks Wisdom" (James 1:5) (track 11)</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book, and cut out the "What Is Wisdom, Anyway?" cards. You'll need one set per pair of kids.</p>
<p><b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p><b>Asking for Wisdom</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Explore and pray for areas in their lives in which they need wisdom.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth, pencils or pens</p>	
<p><b>4</b> Lasting Impressions</p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth</p>	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





# Solomon Asks for Wisdom

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

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Solomon Succeeds David

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David’s charge to Solomon in 1 Kings 2:2-4 echoes the words of Deuteronomy 11. Apart from his sin with Bathsheba, David had consistently been obedient to God throughout his life, and he advised his son to do the same. God had promised David that his descendants would remain on the throne as long as they honored God. David’s wish was for Solomon as well as for himself.

## Solomon’s Request

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Once established on the throne, Solomon sought to follow the Lord. His habit of offering sacrifices at the “high places” (1 Kings 3:3) was questionable, however. The high places were altars left from the pagan worship prevalent in Canaan before the Israelites took over the land. Even though the law of Moses demanded that the Israelites not use pagan altars for worshipping God, it appears that this was a common practice in Solomon’s time. After all, there was not yet a temple at which to worship. Gibeon was an important place of worship because the tabernacle and the bronze altar were kept there (1 Chronicles 21:29; 2 Chronicles 1:2-6). God must have honored Solomon’s worship and sacrifices there to some degree because God appeared to Solomon there and offered Solomon whatever he wanted.

Solomon’s request for wisdom pleased God. Solomon could have asked for power, riches, or fame; instead he unselfishly asked for what would help him best rule God’s people. God honored Solomon’s unselfishness by granting his wish and giving him power, riches, and fame as well. Solomon’s response was to return to Jerusalem and again offer sacrifices to God.

## Solomon Practices Wisdom

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The best-known example of Solomon’s wisdom is related in 1 Kings 3:16-28. This story dramatically

illustrates the creative wisdom God bestowed upon Solomon. The final verse of this passage relates the people’s wonder when they witnessed their king’s wisdom. Solomon had asked God for discernment in ruling God’s people, and there was no doubt that his prayer was answered.

## The Jesus Connection

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Jesus doesn’t expect us to have all the answers. All we need to be wise is a willingness to constantly turn to Jesus, asking him for direction—just as Solomon turned to God.

Reread 1 Kings 3:16-28. Solomon needed wisdom to rule God’s people well. What do you need wisdom for?

In which areas of your life are you struggling for answers?

James 1:5 says that God generously gives wisdom to people who ask him for it. Take a minute and ask for wisdom right now. You can write your prayer here.

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### How Can You Do It? Supplies

Bibles  
broom or vacuum  
cleaner  
paper  
pencils or pens  
snacks

### ! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

### How Can You Do It? Easy Prep

Hide all the supplies.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### How Can You Do It?

■ ■ **Tip** If you have a large group, you may create more tasks, such as cleaning the whiteboard, dusting the furniture, or washing the tables. If you have a small group, assign tasks to either individuals or pairs.

#### What You'll Do ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

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

Then have kids form four groups. Give each group one of the tasks listed below. Keep the items needed to complete each task out of plain sight.

- **Sweep or vacuum the room.**
- **Write a list of your group members' names and birth dates.**
- **Write the Scripture reference for today's Bible passage.**
- **Serve a snack to the other kids.**

After assigning the tasks, wait a few moments before saying anything. Allow the groups to feel uncomfortable with your silence. If the children do not ask for materials right away, ask things like, "Why aren't you doing your tasks?" or simply, "Is there a problem?"

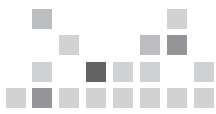
Then direct kids to ask for any items they may need to complete their tasks. For example, they would need a broom or a vacuum cleaner to sweep or vacuum the room. They would need paper and pencils or pens to gather names and birth dates. They would need snacks to serve one another. And they would need to know where today's Bible passage is found to write it down. When they ask for the items that they need, give the items to them. Allow groups time to complete their assigned tasks. While they're eating their snack, lead kids in the discussion below.

#### Talk With Kids ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Ask:

- **What was it like not to have the items you needed to complete your task?**
- **Why did you need my help?**
- **What are areas in your life where you don't feel like you have what you need?**
- **What kinds of things would help you do the things God may ask you to do?**

Say: **Sometimes it's hard to know what to do to solve a problem or achieve a goal. Asking for help may also sometimes be hard to do. Today we'll learn about a man named Solomon who asked God for something so he could do what he needed to do—rule a kingdom. We'll learn what Solomon asked for and that ► GOD GIVES US WISDOM, if we just ask, too!**



**2**

**BIBLE  
EXPLORATION**

# What Do You Want?

## What You'll Do

Hang the "What Do You Want?" poster where kids can reach it. Give kids sticky notes and pencils or pens.

Say: **On your sticky notes, write the answer to this question: "If you could ask for whatever you wanted, what would you ask for?"**

After kids have they've written their wishes, have them attach their sticky notes to the "What Do You Want?" poster. Tell the kids you'll come back to the poster in a few minutes.

Ask for four willing kids to each read one verse from 1 Kings 2:1-4.

Say: **When King David died, his son Solomon became king. David knew that being a king was a difficult job and wanted Solomon to succeed by following God's ways. A bit later God appeared to Solomon in a dream. Let's look at what happened.**

Ask kids to form trios, and make sure each trio has at least one Bible, paper, and a pencil or pen. Each trio needs to have a reporter to take notes on their discussion. Have each trio find 1 Kings 3:3-15.

Say: **In your groups, read 1 Kings 3:3-15 to discover what things Solomon had not asked for and why Solomon asked for wisdom from God. As you make observations, pause reading and have your reporter write down your observations.**

Allow about five minutes for kids to work in trios. Gather the whole group's attention and ask for group reports.

Direct kids' attention back to the "What Do You Want?" poster.

## Talk With Kids

Ask:

- Explain whether you think it would've been wise for God to give "anything" the new king wished for.
- What does this passage tell us about how God works in dreams?
- What's the most memorable dream you've ever had?
- What would you change about what you wrote for the poster based on what you've learned today?

Say: **Solomon asked God for wisdom so that he could be a good king for the people. And God gave Solomon what he asked for. If we choose to ask God for wisdom, we, too, will find that ► GOD GIVES US WISDOM. God gave Solomon**



## What Do You Want? Supplies

- .....
- Bibles
  - sticky notes
  - tape
  - paper
  - pencils or pens
  - Teacher Pack**
  - "What Do You Want?" poster





## You Be the Jury Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Disputed Child"  
(track 10)  
Bible Timeline

great wealth and great honor and power. Let's find out one of the ways Solomon used this wisdom from God.

## You Be the Jury

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Part of what God expected Solomon to do with this wisdom was to act as a judge when people had severe problems they couldn't solve. Today you'll have a chance to be like Solomon. You'll act as the jury to decide in court who's right and who's wrong. You'll hear two lawyers present a case to you, and you'll have to decide what to do.**

Play "Disputed Child" (track 10 on the CD). Show kids the "Solomon Rules Wisely" picture on the Bible Timeline. When the segment is finished, have kids form trios.

Say: **After jury members hear from the lawyers, they get a chance to talk about what they've heard and who they think is right. This is called deliberation. Pretend you're on a jury. Talk in your groups about which woman you think should keep the baby.**

Allow time for kids to talk briefly. Ask the kids who they think who should keep the baby and why.

Say: **Solomon had a case like the one you just heard. No lawyers came before him, just the two women. No witnesses saw what really happened, and Solomon needed to decide which woman would keep the child. It was very hard to know the right thing to do. Solomon had great wisdom from God. Because of that wisdom from God, Solomon knew how to find out who was the real mother.**

Ask someone to read 1 Kings 3:24-28.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

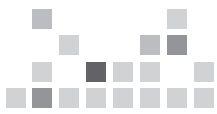
Ask:

- What did your juries decide about the case compared with how Solomon ruled?
- How did Solomon use God's wisdom to solve this problem?
- What helps you know how to make wise decisions?

Say: **Solomon wasn't really going to kill the baby. But the two women didn't know that. 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.**

**Solomon needed wisdom from God to do the job God had for him, and so do we. We might not have to decide things as difficult as the things Solomon decided, but we need wisdom for many things in our lives. God will give us the wisdom we need for every hard thing in our lives, but we need to ask him for it, just as Solomon did. We can follow Solomon's lead and do the same thing because ► GOD GIVES US WISDOM.**






# What Is Wisdom, Anyway?

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather kids and have someone read the Key Verse, James 1:5.

Say: **Our Key Verse says, "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). Let's sing a song about this verse.**

Pass out the copies of the lyrics. Play "If Anyone Lacks Wisdom" (James 1:5) (track 11 on the CD), and have kids sing.

 **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 from the beginning.)*

**And it will be given to him.**

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

Have kids form pairs. Give each pair a set of "What Is Wisdom, Anyway?" cards.

Say: **With your partner, you'll play a game called "What Is Wisdom, Anyway?" Your partner will read a question and four possible answers. Tell your partner why you believe yours is the wisest answer. Then you will switch roles, and you will ask your partner a question and read the four possible answers.**

Allow time for kids to play and share. Then give each person a copy of the rest of the Bible Truth Sleuth page and direct them to the Key Verse on the front page.

Say: **Let's repeat our Key Verse for today: "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 a few times.



## What Is Wisdom, Anyway? Supplies

- .....
- Bible
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- CD player
- scissors
- 1 copy per person of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

### Teacher Pack

CD: "If Anyone Lacks Wisdom" (James 1:5) (track 11)

## What Is Wisdom, Anyway? Easy Prep

.....  
Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book, and cut out the "What Is Wisdom, Anyway?" cards. You'll need one set per pair of kids.





## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- What stands out to you the most about God's wisdom?
- What is God's wisdom compared with the world's wisdom or advice?
- How did you need wisdom to answer the questions on the cards?
- What's an area of your life where you need to ask God for wisdom?

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US WISDOM**—but we have to ask for it, just like Solomon did. Think of the Key Verse song this week as you ask God for wisdom in the choices you make and the challenges you face.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Asking for Wisdom

## What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Every day, we have to make choices. Some are easy, some are hard. I'm going to have you think about the choices you've already made today. You'll go to one side of the room (gesture) for the first option, and the other side of the room (gesture) for the second option.**

Read the following choices, and have kids go to the side of the room that best reflects their decision.

- When your alarm went off or your parents woke you up, did you choose to (1) get up right away or (2) catch a few more minutes of sleep?
- When you were deciding what to wear, did you choose your outfit based on (1) being comfortable or (2) looking cool?
- Did you decide to start off the day with (1) a nutritious breakfast or (2) something not so nutritious?
- When you were leaving for church, did you decide to (1) bring a Bible or (2) leave it at home?
- When you got to Sunday school, did you choose to (1) socialize with your friends or (2) get to know someone you don't know as well?

Say: **You've already made a lot of choices today! Those choices might've been easy for you to make. And there's not necessarily a wise and unwise choice in all those decisions. But you'll face many more choices—choices where you're definitely deciding between God's wisdom and doing your own thing. Think about one of those choices you're facing right now or in the near future. Find a partner, and tell them about it.**

Have kids form pairs and share. Encourage kids to help each other figure out what God would want them to do to make wise choices. If they have a hard time thinking of areas

### Asking for Wisdom Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
pencils or pens





in which they need wisdom, make some of these suggestions: a difficult test coming up, a bully on the playground, fighting with a brother or sister, or other family troubles.

Have kids remain in their pairs. Direct them to the “Dear God” area of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have them work on their “Dear God” letters.

Say: **Let’s pray for wisdom for both of you. Talk with your partner about the area in your life in which you need wisdom and what you wrote on your Bible Truth Sleuth page. After you’ve finished, we’ll sing a song again to help us remember how we get wisdom.**

Allow several minutes for kids to write and pray.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- How has God helped you make a tough choice before?
- Explain whether you think God cares about every choice we make.
- How do you know whether you’re making a wise choice?

Say: **Remember that ► GOD GIVES US WISDOM. Solomon was wise enough to know he needed it to rule as king, and was blessed beyond his imagination when he humbled himself to ask God for wisdom. You’ve asked God for wisdom today, and God promises to bless you with it. You probably won’t be blessed the same as Solomon, but you’ll be amazed at how God works in your life when you’re open to his wisdom.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how we can practice asking God for wisdom this week.**

Direct kids to find this week’s Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and to choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Each morning, ask God to help you make good decisions that day.
- Keep a decision journal this week, keeping track of every choice you make—even the little ones. Pray for God’s help making every choice a wise one.
- Tell a neighbor about a time God helped you make a good decision.

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.



Daily Challenges  
Supplies

.....  
Bible Truth Sleuth





## 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.

Encourage kids to take home their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and place them where they will see them as reminders to pray for wisdom each day for their partners and themselves.

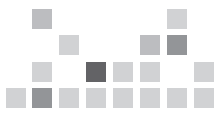
## Weaving Faith at Home

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" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth 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](http://group.com/digital).

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





## If Anyone Lacks Wisdom (James 1:5)

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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 from the beginning.)*

**And it will be given to him.**

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