



Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for October 29, 2006
Released on October 24, 2006

"God Made Solomon Wise"

GOLDEN TEXT: *"I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart"*
(I Kings 3:12).

SUMMARY OF SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:

Solomon asked God for wisdom, and God gave it to Him.

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: I Kings 3:3-14

I KINGS 3:3 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.

4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.

5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day.

7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am *but* a little child: I know not *how* to go out or come in.

8 And thy servant *is* in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: 10 I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

NOTES ON THE LESSON

Solomon, the son of David and Bathsheba, was the third king of Israel. He was one of the least warlike of the kings. He directed the nation toward peace. He built up a navy for commerce, not war. Due to the wisdom of Solomon, Israel was a great world power during his reign. Never again was Israel united as one great nation in Old Testament times. Solomon wrote songs and stories. He wrote the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon, evidence of the wisdom God gave him (I Kings 4:31-32).

God promised to give wisdom to Solomon so that no one in his life would be his equal. When his obedience slipped, though, troubles multiplied. The children must understand that God's blessings are given to those who obey God.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach the children that God wants to help them do a good job in the work He gives them to do.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Solomon wanted God to help him be a good king.
2. It is important to ask God to help us do good work.
3. God blesses those who obey His direction.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For *Telling the Lesson*, you need the time line, Bibles, and a heart cut from red paper. Print "Understanding" on one side and "Wise" on the other. Hide the heart in the classroom.

For *Telling How to Live*, each child will need two 3-by-5-inch cards and their promise boxes.

For *Helping to Remember*, for each child you will need a piece of red paper, a black crayon, and scissors.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

(Gather the children on the floor around you.)

Question: *What would you ask for if God said you could have anything?*

Possible Answers: Lots of money, a new home, a new television, expensive toys or clothes they can't have right now... (Allow time for answers but do not comment on them.)

God told Solomon to ask for something, and God would give it to him. We will find out what Solomon asked for.

TELLING THE LESSON

(Gather the children around a table with their Bibles.)

When King David died, Solomon became king. He was David's son.

One night God came to Solomon in a dream. We will find what God said to him.

(Read the Bible books from the time line. Point to I Kings. Help the children find chapter 3, verse 5 in their Bibles.

Read the verse to the children; then read the same words in unison.)

Solomon said, "God, You were very good to my father, David. He loved and served You. You gave him a son to be king. You promised David that someone related to him would always be king." We know he was talking about Jesus.

"I am now king in place of my father, King David. I am young. I do not know how to be a good leader to my people. There are many of them. You have chosen them, and they are a great people," Solomon said.

Look at verse 9 to see what Solomon asked God to give him. (Read the verse; then read it in unison.)

Question: *What are some of the reasons that Solomon may have felt unable to lead the people even though he was chosen by God to be king after his father King David died?*

Possible Answers: *Because he was young, because he had never been the king before, and it was something new to him; because the kingdom was so big, and there were so many people to care for and guide, because the kingdom had enemies and he wasn't sure who he could trust, etc.*

There is a heart in this room with a word written on each side. Everyone look for it and then return to the table. (Allow time for search. Place the heart in the center of the table. Show the "Understanding" side.)

Do you think God was happy with Solomon's request? (Allow time for discussion.)

Read verse 10 to yourself to see if you guessed correctly. (Discuss.)

God was pleased with Solomon's request. God said that He was glad that Solomon had not asked for three other things. Find these three things in verse 11. (Allow time for search.)

What did God give Solomon in verse 12? (Allow time. Show "Understanding" heart again. Then turn the heart over to show the word "Wise.")

Question: What does the word "wise" mean?

Answers: *clever, smart, gifted, bright, quick, able, sharp, and sensible.* The opposite of wise is foolish.

Because Solomon did not ask for riches and greatness, God gave him a wise and understanding heart. God promised that Solomon would be a great and famous king. Solomon was one of Israel's great leaders.

God told Solomon that he was to obey Him. God promised Solomon great blessings *if* he obeyed God.

Question: *Why do you think Solomon asked God for wisdom?*

Possible Answer: *Because he knew that kings have to make difficult decisions that affect many people, and he wanted to know how to choose what was best.*

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Solomon's job was to lead the people. Everyone has work to do. You have work to do also. What work do you do? . (Discuss. Include schoolwork and work around the house.)

Question: *What do you do when you have trouble making decisions about things when you are doing your schoolwork or work around the house?*

Possible Answers: *Ask for help, advice, or guidance from a parent or older relative; talk to an older sister or brother; talk to a good friend; get help from your teacher or a student in your class who you think is wise.*

God can give us an understanding and wise heart to do our work also. How do you think we can get this? We can pray and ask God to help us.

(Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you do your work.)

(Distribute promise boxes and cards to each child. Write "Help" and "Pray" on the chalkboard. Instruct the children to write one word on each card. Explain that God's part is to give help and our part is to ask God for help. Have them put both cards in their promise box and store it in the classroom.)

Tell the children to remember to ask for God's help, to expect Him to provide help, and to realize that sometimes God sends us help through the people around us, especially those who are older like our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, big brothers and sister, and teachers. However, just because a person is older does not automatically mean that they are wise. It is always best to obey God.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Distribute red paper. Show the children how to fold the paper in half and cut out a heart shape. Show the heart from Telling the Lesson. Have the children write "Understanding" on one side of the heart and "Wise" on the other. When you look at the heart, it will remind you that God will help you do your work if you obey Him.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart" (I Kings 3:12).

God gave Solomon a wise and understanding heart. God helped Solomon in his work as king. God gave him a heart that understood what his people needed.

God gave him a wise heart that helped him do what God told him. He understood what was best for his people, and he did what needed to be done.

To be wise is to know the best way to do things. To be understanding is to think about how others feel and what they need.

Special Activity for This Lesson: "Wise or Foolish"

Read the following statements that were written by King Solomon, and decide which statement is describing a behavior that is wise, and which is describing a behavior that is foolish. Discuss and compare your answers with one another.

Taken from the book of Proverbs

1. What kind of son brings joy to his father? 10:1
2. What kind of son causes grief to his mother? 10:1
3. What kind of person gathers crops in summer? 10:5
4. What kind of son spurns (rejects) his father's discipline? 15:5
5. What kind of heart accepts commands? 10:8
6. What kind of person chatters (talks and gossips a lot) and comes to ruin? 10:10
7. What kind of men store up knowledge? 10:14
8. What kind of men invite ruin with their mouths? 10:14
9. Who conceals (hides) his hatred and has lying lips? 10:18
10. Who spreads slander (says mean things about other people)? 10:18
11. What kind of person listens to God's instruction? 8:33
12. What kind of person hates correction? 12:1
13. Who walks with companions who are wise and grows wise because of it? 13:20
14. Who is a companion of fools and suffers harm? 13:20
15. What kind of woman builds her house? 14:1
16. What kind of woman uses her own hands to tear her own house down? 14:1
17. Whose talk brings a rod to his back? 14:3
18. Whose lips protect him or her? 14:3
19. Who fears the LORD and shuns evil? 14:16
20. Who is hotheaded and reckless? 14:16

Lesson Summarized by Sister Barbara Palmer

Answers: Wise: 1,3,5,7,11,13,15,18,19

Foolish: 2,4,6,8,9,10,12,14,16,17,20