

# SOLOMON'S WISDOM

**Scripture:**  
**I Kings 3**

**Materials Needed:**  
Small boxes or envelopes for MV  
Paper/scissors/glue/markers  
Piece of paper w/ Solomon's request

**Memory Verse: Proverbs 2:6**

*For the Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

**Objectives:** As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know:

When God appeared to Solomon and offered him anything he wanted, Solomon asked for wisdom to discern good and evil and knowing how to judge the people, and God gave him that as well as riches and honor.

To Realize: When one doesn't know how to do the job God has given them, they can ask God for wisdom and He will give all that is needed for the task.

To Respond: by asking God for wisdom and seeking it in Proverbs.

## Setting up the Story:

Start with teaching the memory verse by making "Wisdom boxes." Decorate a small box (Kleenex box) or use an envelope to decorate with markers/stickers. Cover the box with construction paper and have the students write the memory verse on the sides of the box, phrase by phrase:

For the Lord gives wisdom

And from His mouth

Come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:6

What is wisdom? Knowing WHAT to do and HOW to do it at the RIGHT time.

In today's lesson, Solomon is going to need to know what to do and how to do it at the right time. And when we see what Solomon needs, we are going to put that into our wisdom box. Because...the LORD gives wisdom and from HIS mouth come knowledge and understanding. Let's see what Solomon needs...

Scripture  
I Kings 1-2

## Telling the story:

- I. Solomon Becomes King
  - A. David is old
  - B. One of his sons decides to set himself up as king.
  - C. God had chosen Solomon to be the next king.
  - D. David announces Solomon is the next king and puts him on his throne.

## As you tell the story:

(background)  
Summarize background details.

This is a BIG job!  
Solomon has older brothers who want to be king.  
There are people who know that Solomon is young.

I Kings  
3:1-5

## II. God Appears to Solomon

- A. Solomon loves God
  - 1. Like David
  - 2. Offered a thousand offerings to God!

- B. God tells Solomon to ask for whatever he wants.

The first thing that Solomon wanted to do after becoming king, was to worship and honor God. The Temple wasn't even built yet, so he went to where the Tabernacle was and made a sacrifice to God...not one sheep, but 1,000!

Solomon loved God. He wanted to do a good job being king, but he was young. He didn't know HOW to do his job. He needed Wisdom! Storytell about God appearing to him.

Read verse 5

Wow! Solomon is king and God will give him WHATEVER he wants! What would a king want? Maybe a BIG army. Or maybe a LOT of gold and silver so other nations would know he was great. Or maybe that he would rule for a long time.

I Kings  
3: 6-9

## III. Solomon Asks for Wisdom

- A. He thanks God for his kingship
- B. He is young: the job is too big for him to know HOW to do it well.
- C. "Help me how to be a good judge of the people."
- D. "Help me know how to tell what is right and wrong."

What does Solomon want?

Did God want a king that would know right and wrong and help his people to do the right thing? That's what Solomon wanted! But he didn't know HOW to do that!

What would Solomon put into the Wisdom box?

(have his 2 requests written on pieces of paper and put them into the box/envelope.)

I Kings  
3:10-15  
(16-28)

## IV. God Grants Solomon's Request

- A. He is pleased
- B. He will give Solomon the things he didn't ask for, too!
  - 1. Long life
  - 2. Riches

Storytell these details.

- 3. Lives of your enemies
- 4. Honor
- C. No one will be as wise as Solomon
- D. Solomon's wisdom is put to the test: Which woman is telling the truth?

(Note: depending on ages of students, summarize the story of the women with the one child. How is Solomon going to know who is right/wrong? Who gives wisdom? GOD. And RIGHT WHEN HE NEEDED IT, God let Solomon know how to tell who was the true mother.

### **Concluding the Story:**

What job has God given to you? To be a brother/sister? To be a student? To be a friend? Do you need to know what is right and wrong?

Have students write down one thing they need wisdom for and put it into the Wisdom box (or envelope). Repeat the memory verse.

Whenever you need wisdom, where can you go? You can ASK God and write it out and put it into the wisdom box. He will give understanding and wisdom when we ask Him.

Solomon wrote down thousands of Proverbs...wise sayings that help people know what to do. He wrote about how to have good friends. How to save and spend money. How to work hard and not be lazy. How to stay away from bad people. How to speak kindly to others. His wise sayings are in the book of Proverbs. (Have students find book of Proverbs and how many chapters there are: 31.) There are 31 days in many months of the year...so someone can read a chapter of Proverbs each day of the month. What is today? (have your students tell you the date). That would be our chapter of Proverbs...let's turn there and read the first verse. (Show your students how they can read the chapter of Proverbs that matches the date, no matter what the date is.)

God not only gave Solomon wisdom, but he had Solomon write it down so that we can grow in wisdom, too!

Say memory verse again together.  
Close in prayer.

## **SOLOMON'S WISDOM HELPS FOR THE TEACHER**

### **Personal Application Questions:**

1. James 1:5 says, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him." Have you been given a job or are dealing with people and you don't know what to do, how to do it, or when to do it? Write it down now.
2. God made Solomon a wise person...but often He gives His children wisdom at the moment that they need it. Why is that often the case?

### **Application Questions to Think Through for your Students:**

1. Wisdom is needed at all stages of life, and especially for children who are establishing which path they will take: a wise or foolish way of living.
2. Have your students ask God for wisdom for what they are doing and who they are relating with. Show them how they can learn wisdom from reading the book of Proverbs, which is Solomon sharing what he learned about life.

**Memory Verse:** *For the Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6*

The NIV Kid's Club has music set to several verses in Proverbs, including this memory verse. Music can be downloaded from their website for \$2.

<http://nivkids.com/purchase.shtml#>