



S2.Prophets & Kings: King Solomon Asks for Wisdom

1 Kings 3:3-15

Multi-age One-Room Sunday School Lesson Plans

Supplies: A pair of scissors per student; at least 2 sheets of construction paper per student; at least one sharpened pencil per student; glue sticks; cones or string/rope to mark a starting line; larger room/outside area for freedom of movement

OPENING PRAYER

TELL

- For the opening question, I'm going to ask you a question and then we'll go around the circle and say our names and then our answer to the question.
- I'll ask the question and then I'll answer first, ok?
- Here's the opening question: *What's one thing that you don't have, but you would like to have?*

GO AROUND THE CIRCLE

- During this session, we're talking about the prophets and some of the first kings of Israel.
- All of these stories that we're hearing and talking about in this Session are from the Old Testament. That means these things happened well before Jesus was born.
- The last few weeks, we've talked about King David, how he was anointed by the prophet Samuel, how he fought Goliath and how he danced when the Ark was brought to Jerusalem.
- Today, we're going to read a story about his son, Solomon. King David has died and his son, Solomon is now King.
- As I read the story, listen for what King Solomon would like to have.

READ 1 Kings 3:3 – 15

3 Solomon loved the Lord, and followed the traditions of his father, David; except for one thing: He sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. 4 He went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5 At Gibeon, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." 6 And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant, my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. 7 And now, O Lord my God, you have made me your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. 9 Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern your great people?" 10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked these things. 11 God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12 I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like

you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. 13 I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. 14 If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life." 15 Then Solomon awoke for God had been talking to him in a dream. He came to Jerusalem where he stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. He offered up burnt offerings and offerings of well-being, and provided a feast for all his servants.

ASK

- What did King Solomon ask for? (short answer: wisdom. Long answer: An understanding mind, to discern between good and evil; to govern God's people, Israel)
- Does this request that surprise you?
- It seemed to surprise God a little bit too, didn't it?
- What did God also offer Solomon that Solomon did not ask for? (riches and honor)

TELL

- At the beginning of the story, Solomon in his dream tells God that his dad, King David had "walked before God in...uprightness of heart."
- When we exercise in certain ways over a long time, our body gets stronger and better able to do the exercise.
- For example, if we walk regularly, we'll eventually be able to walk farther and faster, right?
- The same is true about us with God.
- When we live God's way, our mind and body gets stronger and better able at living God's way. When we get better at living God's way, some of the things we experience are joy, peace, patience and love.
- So we're going to do a craft now that can help remind us to walk in God's way, just like King David did and like Solomon wanted to.

TELL Instructions for Craft

- We're going to trace both of our feet on a piece of colored construction paper.
- You're going to have to take off your shoes and socks.
- And you'll probably want someone to trace your feet for you
- And then return the favor and trace their feet.
- Once your feet have been traced, cut the traced feet from the paper.
- Then position the feet on a blank piece of construction paper vertically with the heels overlapping and the toes slightly angled to the sides.
- It should look like a heart!
- Glue the feet to the paper.
- Write on the heart: Our hearts are shaped by walking God's Way.



DO Craft

TELL

- God tells Solomon: *14 If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.*

- If we talk and listen to God and are obedient to what we hear from God, then that would be “keeping God’s statutes and commandments.”
- Doing these things will shape how we move and live.
- We’re going to do a game now where our movements are directed by one person.

EXPLAIN 2nd Activity

- We’re going to play a game called, “What time is it Mr. Wolf.”
- One person is Mr. Wolf and stands over there, with his/her back to us.
- The rest of us stand way over here at the starting line.
- Then we all say, “What time is it Mr. Wolf?”
- And Mr/Ms Wolf says a time.
- We all take that many steps. (if its 4 o'clock, then we take 4 steps)
- However, if Mr. Wolf says “It’s DINNER TIME” then we all run back to the start line as Mr Wolf chases us.
- If Mr. Wolf catches one of us, then that person will be the next Mr. Wolf.
- Or, if someone touches Mr. Wolf before s/he calls DINNER TIME, then that person is Mr. Wolf

DO Activity/Game “What time is it Mr. Wolf?”

TELL

- OK, everyone go back to their seats and sit down.
- So when Mr. Wolf said "It is 3 o'clock," did you take 3 big steps or 3 small steps?
- Did you trust Mr. Wolf to have your best interest in mind or his/her own best interest in mind?
- Did that mean that sometimes you tried to not do exactly what Mr. Wolf said?
- So this activity is a little bit different than our listening to God.
- Because when we listen to God, God leads us in a way that is best for both ourselves and for those around us.
- So to ask God for God's help, like King Solomon did, is a very wise thing to do, even though we can sometimes feel a little bit cautious in acting upon what we hear.

CLOSING PRAYER

TELL

- Let’s close in prayer. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

Dear God, (Dear God)

Thank you for loving us (Thank you for loving us)

Help us to be like King Solomon... (Help us to be like King Solomon)

...and ask for your wisdom... (and ask for your guidance)

...so that we can be your gift... (so that we can be your gift)

...and share your love and light... (and share your love and light)

...with those around us (with those around us)

We pray these things in your name, (We pray these things in your name)

Amen (Amen)