

Family Lesson 37

Principle: Wisdom and humility. God blesses us to bless others.

Bible Character(s): Solomon

Scripture Reference: 1 Kings 3 and 10

1. Worship - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page! Have fun, sing loud, and follow along with the motions!

2. Skit Video - Watch the short [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

3. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

Does anyone remember what we learned about last week? (Last week, we learned about how David worships God.) **Does David worship God while also being distracted by others?** (David does not care what others think about him when he worships because he worships God from his heart.) **What is worship?** (Worship is acknowledging God and responding to who he is and what he has done. We worship God when we focus on him and his Word with all our heart.) **King David is a great example of having a heart that desires to worship and bring glory to God.**

This week, we are going to see that David's reign as king has come to an end. David reigns over Israel for forty years. In 1 Kings 2, David dies, but he leaves his throne to one of his sons, Solomon. He gives Solomon a charge to take courage, be a man, and obey God. Solomon watches his dad rule and follows in his father's footsteps as he tries to love the Lord and obey his commandments.

If you could ask God for anything, what would you ask for? (Allow answers.) **Are your wishes**

good things? How do you think God would respond to what you're asking for? Today, we are going to see a man who God allows to ask for anything he wants—King Solomon. We are going to see what he asks for and how God responds to it.

Let's begin reading the Bible in 1 Kings 3 [NLT].

I Kings 3:5-10

⁵ That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

⁶ Solomon replied, "You showed faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued your faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne.

⁷ "Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. ⁸ And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! ⁹ Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"

Solomon has the opportunity to ask for anything he wants. What does Solomon ask for? (Allow responses.) He asks for wisdom and an understanding heart so that he can lead the Israelites well. Solomon humbles himself before God, knowing that he could not rule as King all by himself. How do you think God responds to Solomon's humility and his request? Do you think God gives him wisdom? (Allow responses.)

Let's continue reading the Bible and find out.

1 Kings 3:10-14

¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. ¹¹ So God replied, “Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies—¹² I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! ¹³ And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! ¹⁴ And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life.”

Solomon humbles himself, voices his weakness, and asks for help. He could have asked for something that would have brought him riches, but he chooses to put the good of his people above himself and asks for help in ruling them. Think about the things you said you would ask God for. Were they things for you? Did you think about others, or did you ask for something that would make yourself feel good? (Allow responses.) Solomon places himself under God and others in order to live in the way that God wants us to live.

God blesses Solomon with wisdom to rule his nation and with wealth and fame (which he does not ask for). Solomon becomes a well-known king all over the world, and even the Queen of Sheba hears of Solomon’s wisdom and wealth and comes to ask him questions. It is thought that the Queen of Sheba ruled the area that most likely included modern day Yemen.

(Show your child the map of the Middle East found on the [Kids Resource Page](#) with a line from Yemen to Jerusalem.) **The Queen of Sheba traveled more than 1,200 miles on camels to see Solomon and ask him questions. That is like traveling from Greenville, SC to San Antonio, TX!**

Let’s read the Bible to hear more about her visit in 1 Kings 10.

1 Kings 10:1-9

¹ When the queen of Sheba heard of Solomon’s fame, which brought honor to the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions. ² She arrived in Jerusalem with a large group of attendants and a great caravan of camels loaded with spices, large quantities of gold, and precious jewels. When she met with Solomon, she talked with him about everything she had on her mind. ³ Solomon had answers for all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. ⁴ When the queen of Sheba realized how very wise Solomon was, and when she saw the palace he had built, ⁵ she was overwhelmed. She was also amazed at the food on his tables, the organization of his officials and their splendid clothing, the cup-bearers, and the burnt offerings Solomon made at the Temple of the Lord. ⁶ She exclaimed to the king, “Everything I heard in my country about your achievements and wisdom is true! ⁷ I didn’t believe what was said until I arrived here and saw it with my own eyes. In fact, I had not heard the half of it! Your wisdom and prosperity are far beyond what I was told. ⁸ How happy your people must be! What a privilege for your officials to stand here day after day, listening to your wisdom! ⁹ Praise the Lord your God, who delights in you and has placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king so you can rule with justice and righteousness.”

Solomon shares his God-given wisdom with the Queen of Sheba. The Queen sees how God has blessed him, and she gives praise to God. We can share our blessings with others just like Solomon shares his blessings. Everything we have comes from God. He wants us to share with others in order to bring glory to his name.

Read James 1:5 with your child. Encourage them to turn to the verse in their Bible.

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.”

How do we grow in wisdom? (Allow responses.)
We ask for wisdom in prayer. We learn God’s Word and put it in our hearts. We share our blessings with others. God provides us with blessings that we can use not for our own glory but for his.

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help you seek wisdom from him, and open up opportunities for you to share the blessings he has given you with others.

Activity

Solomon’s Steps

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Solomon’s Steps” (found on the [Kids Resource Page](#))
crayons/markers

Each finger has a step that Solomon takes. Go over these with your child. Have them color or decorate it and hang it in their room as a reminder of Solomon’s model for growing in wisdom to please the Lord.

1. Fear the Lord – obey his commandments (Psalm 111:10)
2. Acknowledge weakness – humble yourself
3. Pray – ask God to help and give you wisdom
4. Read God’s Word
5. Memorize and meditate on God’s Word (Psalm 119:11)

Solomon shows us how we can grow in wisdom. If we fear the Lord, we will obey his commandments. Psalm 11:10 says, “Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom. All

who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.” Next, we need to humble ourselves by acknowledging our weaknesses. We cannot live to worship and bring glory to God if we do not recognize that only he is good. We are sinners who deserve nothing; God is worthy of and deserves all our praise. In order to grow in wisdom, we must go to God in prayer and ask him to help us. We need to read God’s Word to learn more about who God is and understand how we can live like his son Jesus. And lastly, we need to memorize and meditate on God’s Word. Psalm 119:11 and 13 says, “I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” **We can grow in wisdom and understanding of how God wants us to live our life so that we can bring glory to him.**

Optional Additional Activity

Gifts Shared

The purpose is to share the gifts God has given us.

Supplies:

Small gift box/bag
Piece of paper

Have your child cut the paper into strips. On each strip, have them write different gifts (love, money, toys, skills/talents, friendship, kindness). The strips of gifts will go in the gift box and each day they can pull one piece of paper from the box and share that gift with someone that day.

What are some gifts that God has given you? How can you share those gifts with others? (Allow responses.) **This gift box is a reminder that God wants you to share the gifts and blessings he has given you to others so that he is glorified. Use the strips of paper with different gifts on them to give you an idea of how you can share your gifts every day.**

