



MOSAIC Gospel Project

Volume 4, Unit 12, Lesson 1: Solomon Asked for Wisdom

Bible Passage: 1 Kings 2-3

Personal Preparation

The downfall of David's kingdom was propelled by David's sin with Bathsheba. Amid the pain of losing their firstborn son, God showed David and Bathsheba that he still loved them. Bathsheba gave birth to Solomon. God chose Solomon to be Israel's next king (2 Sam. 12:24-25, 1 Chron. 22:9-13).

David spoke to his son from his deathbed, giving specific instructions: "Keep your obligation to the Lord your God to walk in his ways" (1 Kings 2:3a). After 40 years of reigning over Israel, David died and Solomon became Israel's king.

Early in Solomon's reign, God appeared to him in a dream. "What should I give you?" God asked. Solomon's response set him apart from many other kings. His God-honoring qualities were apparent. First, Solomon humbly acknowledged his lack of experience in leading God's people. Then he said, "Give your servant a receptive heart to judge your people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours?" (1 Kings 3:9).

If you were a king or queen and God offered to give you anything you asked for, what request would you make? Ask the individuals you teach what they would ask for if they could receive anything their hearts desired. One might assume that a king would ask for power or for victory over his enemies. Perhaps he would ask for riches or to live a long life. Solomon asked for none of these. Instead, he asked God to make him wise. God was pleased

with Solomon's request, and he agreed to give Solomon a wise and understanding heart.

Solomon's heart was surrendered to God. Solomon was a wise king who wanted to do God's plan. Solomon wasn't perfect, but God had a plan to give his people a greater and wiser king—his Son, Jesus. Jesus completely trusted God. Jesus surrendered his own life to die on the cross for our sin.

Take time to thank God for giving us wisdom when we ask for it. Thank him for sending Jesus as the wisest king who leads us perfectly. Pray that the individuals would seek wisdom from God. Pray that they would choose to follow Jesus and put their trust in him.

Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by sharing the memory verse with the group.

James 1:5

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

Points of Emphasis

1. God gave Solomon wisdom to lead his people.
2. God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Activity #1

Lead the group to begin working on the activity sheet. Feel free to let the individuals continue working as you teach the lesson.

Video

We know that God’s chosen people were living in the land God had promised when they demanded a king. Their first king, Saul, was not a very good king. However, David, the man who became king after Saul, was a great king. When he died, his son Solomon became king. That’s where we are now.

Play the video for the lesson titled “Solomon Asked for Wisdom.”

Bible Lesson

I love this story, but it also makes me feel a little guilty sometimes. If God offered to give me anything I asked for, I think I might ask for something selfish like riches, power, or good health. Solomon did not ask for those things. Solomon asked for wisdom. Wisdom is more than just knowing a lot—it is understanding how to use what you know to make the best choices. God is the source of all wisdom. Because God knows everything about everything, he always does what is best. What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future. Nothing can surprise God, so his plans always happen. He knows what is best and always does it.

Solomon knew that God’s people needed a good leader, and he knew that wisdom is necessary to lead well. Solomon asked God for wisdom, so God gave Solomon wisdom to lead his people. God was so pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom that he decided to give Solomon other blessings on top of the wisdom.

Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. People came from all around to hear him speak and to learn from him. He wrote lots of songs, poems, and wise sayings to help people live good lives. But even though Solomon was a wise and powerful king, he was not perfect. He was a sinner, just like we are sinners. He needed a Savior just as we do.

Activity #2

Guide the group to finish working on the activity sheet. Review the memory verse with the group and help them learn it. Encourage the individuals to write the verse using the Velcro pictures.

Christ Connection

Solomon was a wise king who wanted to do God’s plan. Solomon wasn’t perfect, but God had a plan to give his people a greater and wiser king—his Son, Jesus. Jesus completely trusted God. Jesus surrendered his own life to die on the cross for our sin. Then he rose again to defeat death!

Review Questions

(Optional: Play the Questions from Kids (QFK) video to continue the discussion on Solomon’s wisdom. Today’s episode asks what wisdom is.)

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. **Who told Solomon that he should obey God and that God would keep his promises?** David
2. **Who asked God for wisdom?** Solomon
3. **Who gave Solomon riches and honor along with wisdom?** God

Group B

1. **What did David tell Solomon about God?** To obey him; that he would keep his promises
2. **What did Solomon ask God for?** Wisdom to lead
3. **What did God give Solomon?** Wisdom as well as riches and honor
4. **What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?** Guide the group to discuss the nature of knowing information versus knowing how to use information in the best way. Remind them that if a person knows the right things but still does the wrong

things, he is not wise. Talk about God's perfect knowledge and perfect wisdom.

5. **Why does God want us to have wisdom?** Behaving wisely glorifies God and benefits us. When we behave foolishly, we dishonor God and hurt ourselves. God wants us to glorify him, and he loves us and doesn't want us to be hurt. Wisdom leads us to Jesus. When we love and obey Jesus, God is glorified.
6. **Ultimately, wisdom comes from God. What are some ways God gives us wisdom?** We can gain wisdom by studying God's Word, by spending time with other believers, by praying to God, and by listening to the Holy Spirit's guidance. The wisest decision we can make is the decision to put our faith in Jesus to save us.

Group C

1. **Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom instead of something else?** Instruct the individuals to discuss their ideas. Prompt them to consider that a person usually asks for something he lacks. If Solomon asked for wisdom, he probably didn't believe he was wise enough to lead God's people on his own. Wisdom comes from God. Apart from him, we are foolish.
2. **How is Jesus greater than Solomon?** In the New Testament, Jesus said he is greater than Solomon (Matt. 12:42). Jesus is God, and what does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future. The Bible says all wisdom and knowledge are found in Jesus. People went to Solomon for wisdom, but Jesus came to us. We can look to him for everything we need to know.
3. **Why do you think people sometimes refuse to seek wisdom from God?** Guide the individuals to discuss the humility required to listen to and accept the counsel of others. Pride often makes us want to depend on ourselves rather than on God or others. Listening to instruction might mean acknowledging you were wrong. Some people might refuse wisdom because they want what is wrong or selfish.

Group D

Advanced Learner

1. **What does this story teach us about God?** God gave Solomon wisdom to lead his people. In fact, God made Solomon wiser than anyone who had ever lived. God also gave him the things he had not asked for—riches and honor and power. God is so generous! And if Solomon would obey God, God promised to give him a long life as well.
2. **How did Jesus demonstrate wisdom?** Jesus completely trusted God. Jesus surrendered his own life to die on the cross for our sin. Sometimes God asks us to do things without revealing to us all the details. We can ask God for wisdom as we follow him in obedience.
3. **What is wisdom, and how do people become wise?**
4. **What are some ways you can grow in wisdom?**

Prayer

God, thank you for your Word. All knowledge and wisdom is found in you. We confess that when left to ourselves, we are foolish. We look to you for wisdom and power to follow you. Thank you for generously giving us everything we need. We love you. Amen.

