



Metropolis

metrocalvary @ children's ministry

SOLOMON'S WISDOM

Series: History of Israel – The Kingdom

Reference: First Kings 3 & 10

Today's Theme Verse: “⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him” (*James 1:5*).

Theme: God Gives Wisdom

Objectives:

1. The children will know that God gives true wisdom to those who ask for it.
 2. The children will understand that wisdom comes as God helps us to know and apply His Word to our lives.
 3. The children will seek Jesus as our wise King.
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Lesson:

I. Background (*First Kings 3:1-4*)

King David died and Solomon was firmly established as king (*First Kings 2:10-12*). King Solomon was, in some limited sense, a wise man, as David had acknowledged (*First Kings 2:6, 9*). Yet, Solomon lacked the kind of “wise and discerning mind” (*First Kings 3:12*) that he would need to govern God's people. Solomon's marriage to Pharaoh's daughter in opposition to Deuteronomy 17:16-17 was a sign of his lack of wisdom. Solomon's tolerance of the “high places” where sacrifices were made instead of a single place as commanded in Deuteronomy 12, was a sign of his lack of wisdom.

They were not to worship the Lord in their own way. They were to worship only as God specified. Genuine worship is not a free for all. There is one true and living God. He has prescribed how man can approach Him. That was the point of the detailed sacrificial system of the O.T. — all of which pointed to Jesus as the way to God! This compromise — worshipping the true God in the wrong place — led to the sin of worshipping idols in those same high places. Compromise is partial obedience — which is in reality disobedience. It is a great tool of the devil to get us to the point where we are comfortable with disobedience!

Richard Cimino

II. God's Offer (*First Kings 3:5*)

God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him to ask, “Ask what I shall give you.” If God appeared to you and said, “Ask what I shall give you,” what would you ask for?

WOW! Blank check endorsed by God drawn against His account! Put yourself in Solomon's place. You're an 18 year old. God comes and says — anything you want — just ask and it's yours! What are you gonna say? Maybe \$1 million or \$100 billion or \$100 trillion? Really? Is that the biggest number you've got?

Richard Cimino

Has God promised to give us anything we ask for? (*First John 5:13-15; James 4:3*). God gives his children good gifts (*Matthew 7:11; James 1:16-17*). Good gifts are those things that God knows will be good for us; not those things that will lead us to sin.

III. Solomon's Request (*First Kings 3:6-9*)

If you have ever read this portion of the Bible and God appeared to you and asked the same question, you would know exactly how to answer — I want an understanding heart — because you have read the chapter! You know that if you say that, God is going to give you everything else too. We need to remember — Solomon has never read the chapter. He doesn't know the story. He answers from out of the desire of his heart. *Richard Cimino*

Solomon first reflected upon the love and kindness of the Lord to his father David (*v. 6*). Let us make it our pattern to remember the past blessings of the Lord, as we seek further blessings. Solomon acknowledged that it was God who made him king in the place of his father David (*v. 7*). God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men. He determines who is king, governor, or president (*Daniel 2:20-21; Romans 13:1*). Solomon was humbly aware of his inability to rightly govern the people of God by his own wisdom (*vv. 7-8*). God gives true wisdom to those who ask for it. Solomon asked for “an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil” (*v. 9*). He asked for wisdom. The Bible tells us to ask for wisdom (*James 1:5*). The wisdom Solomon asked for, he defined as the ability to “discern between good and evil.” Because we are sinners, we are unable to rightly “discern between good and evil” on our own. We must depend on God to inform us about what is good and evil. Wisdom comes as God helps us to know and apply His Word to our lives. The very first sin in the Garden of Eden was a failure to depend on God to define what is good and what is evil; what is right and what is wrong. Interestingly the tree from which Adam and Eve ate was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

IV. God Granted Solomon's Request (*First Kings 3:10-15*)

God was pleased with Solomon's request for wisdom (*v. 10*). Solomon's request please God because it was a request made in faith (*Hebrews 11:6*). It pleased God because above all else, a request for God to give wisdom acknowledges our dependence on God and is an expression of trust (*faith*) in God. God was pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom and not “long life or riches or the life of your enemies” (*v. 11*). Health, wealth, and power apart from wisdom would lead to self dependence and a lack of trust (faith) in God. God granted Solomon's request (*v. 12*). God said no one had been and no one would ever be as wise and discerning as Solomon. The only exception, of course, is Jesus, who is God in human flesh and is the one who is the one “**greater than Solomon.**” (*Luke 11:31*). Jesus is our wise King. Additionally, God promised to Solomon even what he had not asked for (*v. 13*).

V. Solomon's Wisdom Exemplified (*First Kings 3:16-28*)

The remainder of First Kings 3 is the account of two women arguing before King Solomon about whose baby it was that had died and whose baby it was that was still alive. Both claimed that the living child was hers (*vv. 16-22*). Because of Solomon's God given wise and discerning mind, he was able to determine who was really the living child's mother (*vv. 23-27*).

VI. The Queen of Sheba (*First Kings 10:1-13*)

Another example of Solomon's wisdom can be seen in the account of the visit of the queen of Sheba. Solomon's wisdom was so great that the news of it had reached Sheba (800-1000 miles south of Jerusalem). And the queen of Sheba, hearing of the wisdom of Solomon, traveled to meet him. She asked him all of her hard questions and Solomon was able to answer them all. She said to Solomon, "The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom, but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard. Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord loved Israel forever, he has made you king, that you may execute justice and righteousness" (*vv. 6-9*).

VII. Jesus is Our Wise King

Solomon is a picture of Jesus. Jesus is our wise King. In the New Testament Jesus mentioned Solomon a number of times. One of those times he talked about the queen of Sheba. "The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here" (*Matthew 12:42*). Solomon was a great king. Jesus is greater. Solomon was wise. Jesus is wiser. Jesus is our wise King, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (*First Corinthians 2:3*). In God's wisdom, Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for sinners like you and me. And God raised Jesus from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Jesus alone and turns from sin is forgiven and has eternal life as a free gift from God.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you need wisdom for?
2. Where does wisdom begin? *See Proverbs 9:10.*
3. Will God give you wisdom like He gave to Solomon? *God gives true wisdom to those who ask for it (James 1:5).*
4. How do we receive God's wisdom? *Wisdom comes as God helps us to know and apply His Word to our lives (Second Timothy 3:14-17).*
5. Who is "greater than Solomon?" *Jesus. Jesus is our wise King.*
6. In God's wisdom, what did Jesus our wise King do? *Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for sinners like you and me. And God raised Jesus from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Jesus alone and turns from sin is forgiven and has eternal life as a free gift from God.*

metropolis

C i t y

5th / 4th

Name: _____

Date: _____

LISTEN TO THE LESSON! MAKE A MARK FOR EACH TIME YOU HEAR:

BIBLE	GOD	JESUS	LOVE
Christian	Faith	Heaven	Pray

LESSON TITLE: _____

SCRIPTURE: _____

MEMORY VERSE

QUESTIONS I HAVE?

PRAYER REQUESTS

POINTS OF THE MESSAGE

1:

2:

3:



My DOODLES