#### Lesson 8:

#### Solomon Becomes King

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

I Kings 1

MEMORY WORK:

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God has promised me many good things if I obey Him.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Insert

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. As David’s life was ending, he gave Solomon some very good advice. He told Solomon that he must always follow God’s Word if he wanted to be a good king. He also reminded Solomon of all God’s promises to the nation of Israel. God wanted all of His people to succeed, to be happy, and to live in peace—but they had to do their part (1 Chronicles 22:12-13).
2. When David died, Solomon became King of Israel as David wanted. He was probably between 15 and 20 years old. He had apparently been taught to love and respect God and His law. He went to a place called Gibeon to worship God, and he made 1,000 burnt offerings! While he was there, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream one night and said to him, “Ask! What shall I give you?”

**NOTE:** Gibeon was the site of one of the “high places” where idol worship was practiced— where sacrifices were made and incense was burned. It was also where the Tabernacle was located at that time. It is interesting to note that the worship of Almighty God and the worship of idols were practiced side-by-side. It is also interesting that the Tabernacle was in Gibeon, but the Ark of the Covenant was in another tent of meeting in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 1:4).

Solomon stopped the worship of idols at the high places, but it did not last. When he was “old,” his many wives “turned his heart away after other gods” (1 Kings 11:4; see also 1 Kings 3:3-4 and 1 Chronicles 1:3-6).

1. To his credit, Solomon realized that his inexperience and youth might not help him be a great king. He did not selfishly ask God for great riches or power or fame. Instead, he asked for “an understanding heart,” as well as “wisdom and knowledge,” to guide the nation of Israel, and he asked to be able “to discern between good and evil” to be able to judge the nation (1 Kings 3:9; 2 Chronicles 1:10).
2. God was very pleased with Solomon’s unselfish request, so He promised to give Solomon greater wisdom and understanding than anyone who had ever lived—plus, He promised to give Solomon all the other things he did **not** ask for as well (riches, power, and fame). God made these promises to King Solomon, but there were conditions: Solomon had to always obey God. God promised Solomon riches, honor, and wisdom, “If you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments…” (1 Kings 3:14). [Note the repeated use of “if” and “then” in 3:14 and 6:11-13.]
3. The next day, Solomon left Gibeon and went to the tent of meeting in Jerusalem where the Ark of the Covenant was, and offered many more sacrifices to God. By going to worship God where the Ark of the Covenant was, Solomon wisely showed the Israelites that he intended to worship God and not idols—and he wanted his people to do the same.
4. God blessed Solomon with more wisdom, more wealth (1 Kings 4:20-28), and more power than any other ruler in history. He was King of Israel for 40 years.
5. God has promised to bless us, too, if we walk in His ways (live like He wants us to every day) and keep His commandments. God always keeps His promises! To His faithful followers:
   * God has promised to save them from their sins (Acts 2:38-39).
   * God has promised that their needs will be provided (Matthew 6:25-34).
   * God has promised joy even when things are hard (John 10:10).
   * God has promised eternal life with Him in heaven (1 John 2:25; Hebrews 9:15).
   * God has promised that Jesus will return from heaven a second time for judgment (2 Peter 3:3-9).

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “08” in the Visuals Folder

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“Read Your Bible, Pray Everyday”** Author: Unknown\*

(Talk about how we can become wise when we read and study our Bible)

If you read your Bible and pray everyday, you’ll grow, grow, grow. (REPEAT) (Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing).

Grow, grow, grow, grow, Grow, grow, grow.

If you read your Bible and pray everyday, you’ll grow, grow, grow. (Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing).

If you don’t read your Bible and pray everyday you’ll shrink, shrink, shrink. (REPEAT) (Make hand movements as if closing Bible, head gesture saying “No,” and like a child shrinking).

Shrink, shrink, shrink, shrink, Shrink, shrink, shrink.

If you don’t read your Bible and pray everyday, you’ll shrink, shrink, shrink.

(Make hand movements as if closing Bible, head gesture saying “No,” and like a child shrinking).

So read your Bible and pray everyday, and you’ll grow, grow, grow. (REPEAT) (Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing).

Grow, grow, grow, grow, Grow, grow, grow.

So read your Bible and pray everyday, and you’ll grow, grow, grow. (Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing).

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* “Place the Crown on Solomon’s Head” game: Use a large picture of “Solomon,” and give each child a crown cutout. Blindfold the children one at a time, and let them try to put their crowns on top of Solomon’s head—like “Pin the Tail on the Donkey”
* Draw the dream – In the lesson file is a coloring sheet of two people sleeping. One should represent Solomon. The other should represent the student. Have the student draw a cloud bubble and draw or glue pictures of things they would ask for. In Solomon’s bubble, show the students how to write the word wisdom. Discuss what wisdom is and how it is more valuable than material things.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* King Facts Review Game – Introduce Cards for Solomon’s Box. Then, review all the kings. Facts for Solomon this week could include:
  + Was the son of David
  + Was the third king
  + Was asked what he wanted from God in a dream
* Sunday School Activities Game:”Game of Riches”  
  Need:  2 Tubes of Pringles

Tell the children in your [tag]Sunday school[/tag] class to all wash their hands before starting. Bring one tube of Pringles to the table and open it. (Put the lid in your pocket for later use.)

Tell them they are  going to pretend they’re a king like Solomon. God said that he would make Solomon rich. It’s kind of important for a King to have lots of stuff and lots of money to buy stuff with.

Let’s pretend we’re a king, too, and pretend that each of the Pringles in the tube is a solid gold piece worth a million dollars. Hand the jar to the first child at the table. Open the tube and have them take out as many million dollars as they think they want so that they can buy all the stuff they want as king. They can’t eat them yet! “Take as many as you want – first come, first serve – and don’t break any! Any broken Pringles have to be swept away, and can’t be used or eaten!”

Let each child reach in the jar and take as many Pringles as he wishes. Soon, the tube may be empty before all the children have gotten any. Encourage the children who were first to share with their classmates and not be greedy. If one child has none, ask others what they want to do about it. Let them decide. If some children snatch, discourage it. If some children don’t have as many, whisper to them,  
“Don’t worry! It will all work out!”

Everyone count your dollars. We’re going to go around the table and see how many each person has. Ask children how many dollars they have and what they want to buy with all that money. Don’t let them eat yet.

To the child who has the least amount of Pringles, say, “You don’t have as many. You have the least amount. You were close to the end, and you’re not the type to grab, huh? Would you like to have the empty tube as your reward?”

The child might be ambivalent, but encourage him. Remove the lid from your pocket, put it back on top, and hand the tube to him. Next tell the child “I think there’s a secret message in the lid especially for you.”  Have the child peel off the lid and read the message. If he or she is too young, read the message on the lid for him:

Congratulations. You didn’t snatch, and you were wise. Therefore, God will reward you with more wisdom and with riches, too. Compare this to how God rewarded Solomon with riches even though that is not what he requested.

Give the child the prize, which is a second, private Pringles can. Use the tube to fill in so that everyone has the same amount, and give the remainder of the tube to the child so he can take home with him for later.

Everybody can eat now eat their Pringles!

Review Questions

1. After David died, who was going to be the next king of Israel?
   1. David’s son, Solomon
2. What did David tell Solomon while he was dying?
   1. To always obey God’s Word if he wanted to be a good king
3. When Solomon went to Gibeon to worship, how many burnt offerings did he sacrifice?
   1. 1,000
4. What did God say when He appeared to Solomon in a dream?
   1. “Ask! What shall I give you?”
5. What did Solomon ask from God?
   1. An understanding heart to guide his people and to discern between good and evil
6. Was God pleased with Solomon’s request?
   1. Yes
7. What did God also give Solomon?
   1. (Riches, fame, and power
8. How long was Solomon king of Israel?
   1. Forty years

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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