#### Lesson 9:

#### Wisdom of Solomon

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

I Kings 3

MEMORY WORK:

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

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Money and popularity will not make me happy in the long run or acceptable to God.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we studied about King David’s son who became king after him. What was his name? (King Solomon) What did King Solomon ask the Lord to give him? (knowledge, wisdom, and understanding) The Lord blessed him with these things and much more. We are going to learn more about King Solomon today. We are going to learn about how having lots of money doesn’t mean you will be happy. Following God and sharing with others will help you have a happy life. If we want to be smart and have wisdom about the Bible, we need to study the Bible. We will learn more and more when we study our Bible.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Remind the children about God speaking to Solomon in a dream and what Solomon requested. Solomon’s great wisdom and his tremendous wealth made him very famous, even in faraway places.
   * Solomon knew more about plants and animals than anyone. He wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs (1 Kings 4:32). He wrote the books of Song of Solomon, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes, and at least two Psalms (72 and 73).
   * There was so much gold in Solomon’s kingdom that silver was not even considered valuable; it became “as common as stones in Jerusalem” (1 Kings 10:21,27). He had 300 large shields made of gold. His throne, made of ivory, was completely covered with gold. On each of the six steps up to his throne, there were 12 lions; there was nothing else like it in the entire world. Gold and silver, ivory, apes, and baboons (or peacocks) were brought to Solomon every three years.
2. Solomon’s influence and power as King of Israel grew steadily. With his massive army, Solomon extended his kingdom northeastward to the Euphrates River and southward to the border of Egypt. The leaders of other nations came to visit King Solomon to hear his wisdom and see his great wealth. His wealth grew even greater as these visiting leaders brought him expensive gifts.
3. Other people also came to visit King Solomon. Sometimes people came to him (or were brought to him) to have arguments or disputes settled. 1 Kings 3 tells us about two women who came to Solomon to make a very important decision. The two women lived together in the same house. They each had a brand new baby. One night one of the babies died. The mother of the dead baby got up during the night and took the baby of the other woman, putting the dead baby in its place.
4. The next morning, when both women got up, the woman whose baby was really alive was horrified to discover a dead baby in her bed. She confronted the other woman, but that woman insisted the live baby was hers. So the two women went before wise King Solomon to tell their story and seek some help.
5. After hearing the story, and the way the two women were both insisting that the live baby was their own, he told one of his soldiers to take his sword and cut the baby in half, and then give half to each of the women. It was a horrible suggestion, but the real mother immediately shouted, “Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him.” The other woman, whose real son had died, said, “Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him!” Then Solomon knew immediately who the real mother of the baby was.
6. Solomon didn’t intend for the baby to be killed or divided in half. He was wise enough to know that a loving mother would not let her baby be harmed. The news about Solomon’s great wisdom in this incident spread far and wide, and he became even more famous.
7. After Solomon had been King of Israel for about 20 years, the Queen of Sheba came for a visit. Not much is known about this queen except that she came with the specific purpose of testing Solomon “with hard questions.” She brought an impressive caravan of gifts for the wise king: 1 Kings 10:2,10 and 2 Chronicles 9:1,9 say that she brought him many gifts on camels specifically, and that she brought an abundance of spices, gold, and precious stones.
8. Solomon showed the queen everything in Jerusalem and “answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her.” The queen was overwhelmed by everything she saw and the great wisdom she heard from Solomon. She admitted to him that everything she had heard was true, but she had not believed it. After she saw everything for herself, she said that not even half had been told her. Solomon gave the queen many gifts before she left to return to her own home.
9. Solomon impressed the Queen of Sheba and numerous others with his knowledge about many things and with his great wealth. Solomon was a very intelligent man. But all the gold and wealth that Solomon had did not make him happy or help him become closer to God. [With older kids, discuss Ecclesiastes: Solomon’s search for happiness in spite of his wealth and wisdom and his acknowledgement at the end of the book of what truly brings happiness.]
10. Sometimes Solomon did not use his money to help people. There were many poor people that he made work very hard. He made the people pay heavy taxes to support his many building projects and all the other things that so impressed the Queen of Sheba. We need to remember that God wants us “to do good, to be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share” (1 Timothy 6:18). [With older children read 1 Timothy 6:9,10,17-19.]

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 “09” in the Visuals Folder

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Wisdom is better than gold sheet – Template is in lesson file. Let students color and add gold circles.
* Read and Color Proverbs – Included in the lesson file are coloring pages with different Proverbs that would be easy to understand for children. Discuss how Solomon wrote many of these proverbs.
* Wise Wheel – Copy template that is in lesson file onto cardstock and precut the circles.. Discuss how to be wise at home, school, church and our neighborhood. Let the students color the wheel and attach with a brad.
* Complete the Scene Coloring Page

### 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:

* Kings Review Game- Add new cards to the Solomon fact cards, then play to review previous kings. New facts for this week could include:
  + Wrote many proverbs
  + Was known for being wise

Review Questions

### How many songs and proverbs did Solomon write?

### 1,005 songs and 3,000 proverbs

### What was silver like in Israel since there was so much of it?

### Like stones

### Who came to see Solomon to “test” his wisdom?

### The Queen of Sheba

### What did the Queen of Sheba bring to Solomon?

### A large caravan of expensive gifts

### Is true happiness in riches and fame?

### No

### Where can real happiness be found?

### In obeying God’s Word

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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