

## **September 13th \*Unit 12\*Session 1\* Elementary**

### **Solomon Asked for Wisdom**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 1 Kings 2–3

**STORY POINT:** God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.

**KEY PASSAGE:** James 1:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

#### **Opening Activity:** Making Requests

Explain that in each round, someone will say, “Ask for anything” and the other person will respond with a request: “Could I please have [any silly request]?” Neither player is allowed to smile during the exchange. If a player smiles, the other person earns one point. After the first exchange, switch roles so the next person begins with, “Ask for anything.” Continue as time allows.

**Say:** What kinds of things did you ask for? In the Bible story we will hear today, God told King Solomon to ask for anything. What kinds of things might a king request? We’ll soon find out!

### **THE BIBLE STORY**

David was the king of Israel for many years. His son Solomon was going to be king after Him. Before King David died, he gave Solomon some instructions. “Be strong and brave, Solomon,” David said. “Obey God, and you will be successful. God will keep His promise that every king of Israel will come from our family.” When David died, Solomon became the king of Israel. One night, God appeared to Solomon in a dream. God said, “Solomon, ask for anything you want, and I will give it to you.” Anything? A king might have asked to live a long life or to have lots of riches. Solomon could have asked God to give him victory over all his enemies.

But Solomon did not ask to be rich or to have a long life. Solomon wanted to be a good king. He asked for something even better. Solomon prayed, “God, I am young, and I do not know very much about being a king. Please make me wise and obedient to You. Help me know the difference

between right and wrong. Help me lead Your people well.” God was happy with Solomon’s request. God said, “I will give you wisdom. In fact, I will make you more wise and understanding than anyone who has ever lived. No one in the future will ever be as wise as Solomon.” God also said, “Because you asked for wisdom, I will also give you what you did not ask for: long life, riches, and honor. You will be greater than any other king during your lifetime.” Then Solomon woke up. He praised God and worshiped Him.

**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.

### **Key passage activity**

Read James 1:5 out loud together. Then form a circle and pass a ball. The person holding the ball should say the first word of the key passage and pass the ball to her left. The next player will say the second word, pass the ball to the left, and so on until the group says the entire verse and reference. Play a second round, challenging yourself to go as fast as possible.

**Say:** If we want wisdom, we can ask God and He will give us wisdom! We will work on memorizing this key passage over the next few weeks. Practice it this week at home.

### **Discussion & Bible skills**

**Say:** Solomon had traveled from Jerusalem to Gibeon when God appeared to him in a dream. God told Solomon to ask for anything he wanted—anything at all! Solomon could have asked for power, riches, or a long life. He could have asked for victory over His enemies. But Solomon didn’t ask for any of these things. He wanted to be a good king, so he asked for something better: wisdom to lead God’s people well. So God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.

Ask the following questions:

**1. Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom instead of something else?** Instruct your kids 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?** Point out that in the New Testament, Jesus said He is greater than Solomon. (See Matt. 12:42.) Emphasize that Jesus and God are one, and what does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future. The Bible says all wisdom and knowledge is 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?** 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.

### **Craft: Asking & Praying**

Get materials to color with and pens to write. Answer the questions on the craft sheet and then cut it out to make a prayer journal. Fold the paper to make it a closed journal, and when you're ready to pray you can open it.

**Say:** God always listens to us when we pray. We can ask Him questions or ask for Him to help us with hard things.

### **Reflection and prayer**

Ask your kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

**End by praying together**

