

UNIT 12 | SESSION 1

GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM

1 KINGS 2-3

KEY PASSAGE:

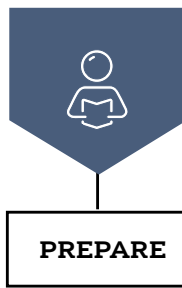
Exodus 34:6-7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is mercy? Mercy is when God does not give us the punishment that we deserve.

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.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

What exactly do you pray for the next generation? When you ask God to move and work in the coming generations, what is it that you are asking Him to do?

You may hope for them to be good and productive citizens. It may be that you hope to see them make good decisions, marry the right person, and raise a godly family. It may be that you hope they will become committed to the local church and even show evidence of their love for God in how they serve others.

In 1 Kings 2, we see an incredible example of how to pray for the next generation. Whether your own kids, your future kids, the kids you are investing in through your church, or others that you influence, consider David's desire. David's hope for his son demonstrates what we ought to hope and pray for the next generation.

The first four verses of 1 Kings 2 contain David's dying words to his son Solomon. David knew his days were few, and he took the opportunity to call Solomon to what he knew would be best. Ultimately, David told Solomon to grow into a godly man who is faithful to the Lord in every way. Specifically, David called Solomon "to walk in his ways and to keep his statutes, commands, ordinances, and decrees" (1 Kings 2:3).

When you think about the way you pray for the next generation, does it sound like this? Does it sound like the words of a father who knows his kid's only hope is to trust in God and follow Him faithfully? Do our prayers for the next generation stem from a heart that looks toward eternity and kingdom growth?

We should want what God wants for our own lives and the lives of the next generation, who we are investing in. Our hope should be that future generations would faithfully follow God as they grow into godly people who are faithful to the Lord in every way.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Solomon: The tenth son of David and the second son of Bathsheba, Solomon became the third king of Israel and reigned 40 years around 1000 B.C. The name *Solomon* means "peace."



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “If God said you could ask for anything you wanted and He would give it to you, what would you request? Why would that be your request?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Build a King” on the activity page.

SAY “When we completed the ‘build a king’ activity, we may have also thought about all of tangible things a king may need. But our assignment here was to think of the characteristics that make up a good king. You all came up with some great descriptive words of a king.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: IN MY DREAMS



Invite kids to sit in a circle. Select a kid to go first and they will complete the sentence, “In my dreams, I have seen...” (Remind kids not to share scary stuff.) Explain that kids can share things they have dreamed about or even things they would like to dream about. The next kid will complete the sentence, but before he adds his answer, he has to say the answer of the person before them. The next kid will have to repeat the answer of each kid before her before she answers, and so on. The last kid in the circle says all the answers before he answers the question.

SAY “We have all seen some unusual things in our dreams, haven’t we? Imagine God appearing to you in a dream. God came to Solomon in a dream, and today we are going to learn what they discussed.”

OPTION 2: DREAM DRAWINGS

Give each kid a large piece of paper and a pencil. Explain that they will all be drawing the same thing as they listen to your instructions. The catch is they will all have their eyes closed.

Drawing instructions:

- draw a large room
- add four columns in the room
- draw a throne in the middle of the room
- add a king on the throne
- write wise above the king’s head
- sign your name at the bottom right corner of your masterpiece

After they have completed the drawings, invite kids to open their eyes and share their drawings with others.

SAY “We may not be able to draw well with our eyes closed, but we can dream. In today’s story, we will learn about a dream Solomon had where God spoke to Him.”





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 2–3. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Gave Solomon Wisdom.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM

“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, so 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 offered sacrifices to worship 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. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use sign language:

Teach kids the sign language sign for king. Using a search engine, research the sign for “king.” Challenge them to listen closely and make the sign each time they hear the word king.

Act it out: Form kids into groups of three. Assign a kid in each group a role to play: David, God, Solomon. As you tell the story, invite kids to silently act out the part of each person.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ I have had some pretty memorable dreams, haven’t you? But, I have never had a dream where God appeared and told me to ask Him for anything. Even though Solomon’s experience was unique to him, we can come to God with our requests. We can freely approach His throne of grace and receive mercy and help in our time of need (Heb. 4:16).

Solomon requested wisdom. What are some other things Solomon could have asked for? Look at 1 Kings 3:11. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 3:11.]** Riches and a long life sound like great things to ask for don’t they? Wisdom may not have been the most exciting thing to ask God for, but it was an essential need for a king. Solomon wasn’t interested in making a name for himself; he was interested in obeying God and following his father’s instructions.

What was God’s promise to Solomon if he obeyed Him?? Look at 1 Kings 3:14. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 3:14.]** Obedience to God had a great reward. Just like His father, Solomon would be rewarded with a long life if He was obedient to the Lord’s commands. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Solomon was a wise king who wanted to follow 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. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 12, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Will God give you wisdom if you ask for it?
2. How can you use the wisdom that God gives you?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ Some American missionaries stay close to home to teach people about Jesus. Did you know that missionaries from other countries serve in the United States too? Victor and Ludmila Moura came to the U.S. from Brazil. ”

Lead kids to locate Brazil on a world map. Then play the missions video.

SAY “ Why did the Mouras come to the U.S. to be missionaries? (When they visited, they realized that lots of Brazilians who need to know Jesus live in the United States.)

When people move to America making friends or finding a church can be difficult. Victor realized that Brazilian churches were needed in America. ”