

# THE WISE KING

Solomon Prays  
for Wisdom  
1 Kings 3:5–15;  
Proverbs 3:1–12  
969 or 968 BC

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

Wisdom is a gift from God.

### BIBLE VERSE

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.  
Proverbs 1:7

### LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God gives us wisdom and understanding.

### LAW & GOSPEL

In my sin, I am unwise, failing to trust in the Lord above all things.

**Jesus is wisdom personified. He gives me and all who believe in Him a share of His wisdom.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

When God invites Solomon to ask for what he desires most, Solomon prays for wisdom to carefully lead the people. Pleased with this selfless request, God grants Solomon great wealth and honor in addition to his desired wisdom. Solomon wrote and collected many of the wisdom writings that make up the Book of Proverbs.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read 1 Kings 3:5–15; Proverbs 3:1–12 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

**IN DEPTH** Read the section “Types of Proverbs” in *TLSB*, pages 996–97.

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Digital device
- Berries, orange slices, or other healthy food
- Ball of yarn

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

# LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

## BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs, using music found in the digital resource center or your own favorite songs.

## PRAY

Dear God, we're happy to be here to learn about You. Help us be wise in what we say and do. Thank You for Jesus, our Savior and source of wisdom. Amen.

## SAY

- Hi, children. I have a question. Do you know any wise people? What makes them wise? Today, we will hear about a king who wanted to be wise.**
- Is being smart the same thing as being wise? Today, we are going to learn about true wisdom and how we can receive it!**

# LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

## TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

### DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- FOR ACTIVE LEARNERS** After reading, review the who, what, and wow of this story through actions. Ask, **Who is the main character in this story?** (Have students pretend to be Solomon by pantomiming placing a crown on their heads and holding a scepter.) **What did Solomon do at the beginning of the story?** (Have students pretend to offer sacrifices at an altar.) **When he was tired, what did he do?** (Have students lay down on the floor or put their head on a desk as they pantomime sleeping.) **Wow! The next thing Solomon knew, God appeared to him in a dream! What did Solomon ask God for?** (Have students act out wisdom by tapping their heads.) **What did God do when Solomon woke up?** (Have students tap their heads again to show that God gave Solomon great wisdom.)
- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** After reading the Bible narrative, have students work in pairs or trios to read or listen to **1 Kings 3:17–28**. Then, have students take turns summarizing how Solomon used his wisdom to solve a very tricky situation. Discuss other scenarios when it would be good to have a wise leader.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- What did Solomon ask God for?
- What did God give Solomon?
- We receive the gift of God's wisdom through His Word. What are some ways that you can access this wisdom?

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion, using these key points.

- Solomon knew that, as king, he had a lot of responsibility. Instead of asking for riches and power, he asked God for the ability to know right from wrong so that he could serve Israel by being a wise leader.
- Pleased that Solomon did not have a selfish request, God blessed Solomon with wisdom and also riches and honor. God wants us to use our gifts to serve others instead of seeking selfish gains.
- We grow in wisdom when we read and study God's Word, the Bible; when we worship together in church; and when we have personal or family prayer and devotion time.



### CHRIST CONNECTION

Everything we need to know about God is revealed in Christ's work. We receive God's gift of wisdom through His Word.

# BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Have children do the actions in parentheses.

King David was a good king. (*Make a crown over head.*) He ruled over God's people for many years. David loved God (*Hug self.*) and taught his son Solomon to love God too. (*Hug self.*) When David was an old man, he said he wanted his son Solomon to become king after him. After King David died, the people shouted, "Solomon is our king. Long live King Solomon!" (*Make a crown over head.*)

But Solomon was still a young man when he became the new king. He wanted to be a good ruler for God's people, but there was so much he didn't know yet.

What do you think Solomon did?

Solomon did the best thing he could do. He gathered his helpers and the people and went to the tent-church that Moses had made long ago. He wanted to ask God for help. Solomon was thankful for everything God had done for him, so he brought many gifts with him. He put them on the altar to thank God.

That night, while King Solomon was sleeping, God spoke to him in a dream. God said, "Ask for anything you want Me to give you." (*Hold hands like praying.*)

What do you think Solomon asked for? He could have asked for money or a big house and lots of things. He could have asked God to make him strong and famous. He could

have asked God to let him live a long, long time. But he prayed (*hold hands like praying*), "Dear God, You have been good to my father, David, and You have made me to be the king in his place. Make me wise and good so that I will rule the people well."

God was pleased with Solomon's prayer. He said, "Because you did not ask for riches or a long life or anything else, I will make you a wise and good king. And I will make you rich too. If you obey Me, I'll give you a long life."

When Solomon woke up, he knew God had spoken to Him. Then, Solomon went to Jerusalem (*walk in place*) to thank God for His wonderful promises. God made Solomon wise and good. He helped him to be a kind and caring king (*make crown over head*) who ruled his people well. Solomon was the wisest king who ever lived. God also made him rich and great.

We think and say and do wrong things. We need God's wisdom and help too. God loves us and sent Jesus to be our Savior. (*Make a cross with your fingers.*) Because we are God's children, we want to do things that make God happy. God helped King Solomon know and do what is right. He will help us too. He makes our hearts (*fold hands over heart*) loving and wise through His Word.

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# BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

David ruled as king over Israel's twelve tribes for nearly forty years. He had many wives and many children from those wives. When the time came close for him to die, David chose his young son Solomon to be the next king. David must have told Solomon to pray and study God's Word so that he could be strong and walk in the ways of the Lord (see 1 Kings 2). Then, David died.

Solomon became king over the twelve tribes of Israel. He loved God and was careful to follow his father's instructions. One night after Solomon made many, many sacrifices, God appeared to him in a dream. The Lord told him, "Ask what I shall give you."

Solomon could have been selfish and asked for lots of money. He could have asked for a long life, or he could have asked God to kill all his enemies. Instead, he thought about the people who needed him. He thought how hard it was to be a king and how young he was. He knew he had a lot to learn, and he would have to make some really tough decisions. So he asked God to give him an understanding mind so he could clearly know what was right and what was wrong and lead Israel the way God wanted him to lead them.

God was very happy with Solomon's answer because the young man wanted to please God and take good care of the people of Israel. He could have asked for something for

himself, but he didn't. He wanted something that would help him lead God's people better. So God gave Solomon the understanding mind he asked for, and God gave him great wisdom.

No puzzle or riddle was too hard for Solomon to understand. He could listen to two people and figure out who was lying and who was telling the truth. He knew how to make good decisions and do the things that were best for God's people. Before long, people were coming from all around the world to talk to Solomon, to ask him questions, and to offer him wonderful gifts.

# LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

## Brain Talk

Search online for a video that explains to children how the brain works. Use a closed fist to show when the brain is able to make wise choices. Our “wise leader” is in charge. We feel happy and safe. We can think of good things to do. Open palm and spread fingers to demonstrate when the brain is in “fight or flight” mode. When we are sad or mad, we can’t solve problems. Talk about what to do to get the wise leader back (ask for help, pray, etc.).



## The Weight of the Crown

Have children draw and decorate a crown. Say, **King Solomon asked for wisdom because he wanted to be a good king. What does a wise king do?** (He cares for his people, protects them, helps them, makes good rules, listens to God.) **God makes us wise through His Word. He changes our hearts and helps us do good things.** Discuss ways children can be wise. Remind them of God’s forgiveness when they don’t act in wise ways.



## Wise or Foolish Game

Say, **Let’s play a game. I will say things children do. If you think it is a wise choice, show me a thumbs-up. If you think it’s a bad choice, show a thumbs-down.** Examples of situations: **I put my dirty clothes in the hamper. (Up) I don’t share my toys. (Down) I pick up my toys when Mom tells me to. (Up) I hit my sister. (Down)** Say, **God gives us a wise heart through His Word.**



## Move and Groove and Pray

Play songs from the digital resource center or online. Have children dance when the music is playing. Instruct them to pretend to sleep when the music stops. Ask, **What was King Solomon doing when God talked to him? (Sleeping) God talked to Solomon in his dream. How does God talk to us? (In the Bible) How can we talk to Him? (Through prayer)**



## Brain Boosting Snack

Serve “brain boosting” foods such as berries or orange slices. Tell children that healthy foods are good for our brains. They help us learn. God helps us grow wise through His Word.



## Web of Blessings

Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Roll a ball of yarn to a child. Child who receives the ball of yarn names a gift God has given him or her. Child holds the string and rolls the ball to another child. When everyone has received the ball and named a gift, the circle becomes a “web of blessings.” Thank God for all His gifts.



## Proverbs Power

Encourage students to skim the Book of Proverbs, or Proverbs 3:1–12 if time or attention is short, and select one proverb they like. Encourage students to memorize and share their proverb with their families. Have students write their proverb on a piece of drawing paper and illustrate it with stylized letters and pictures that show the meaning.



# LEAVE

## SAY

**Wisdom is a gift from God! God makes this wisdom available to us through His Word.**

## PRAY

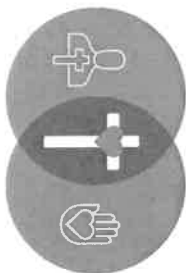
**Dear Jesus, thank You for paying the price for our foolish and sinful ways. Give us wisdom as we study Your Word and help us to share this wisdom with others. In Your name we pray. Amen.**

## THE WISE KING

LESSON 13

1 Kings 3:5–15; Proverbs 3:1–12

WISDOM IS A GIFT FROM GOD.



### CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

#### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God gives wisdom to me and all believers through His Word.

#### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I am able to use the wisdom and learning God gives me to serve Him in this world.

### GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

#### ADULT

I can analyze the text for what it shows me about God's gift of wisdom and rightly apply that to my own life.

#### YOUTH

I can describe the kind of wisdom that comes from God.

#### ELEMENTARY

I understand that God gives us wisdom and understanding.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God gives me wisdom.

### BIBLE VERSE

The fear of the LORD is the beginning  
of knowledge.

Proverbs 1:7

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

When God invites Solomon to ask for what he desires most, Solomon prays for wisdom to carefully lead the people. Pleased with this selfless request, God grants Solomon great wealth and honor in addition to his desired wisdom. Solomon wrote and collected many of the wisdom writings that make up the Book of Proverbs.

### TAKING IT HOME

- ▶ *On the Go*—God's glory filled the temple Solomon and His people built. How does God's glory fill your church when you gather as God's people to worship Him?
- ▶ *At Medtime*—How did making a treaty with a neighboring king before building the temple show Solomon's wisdom?
- ▶ *Something to Do*—It took seven years for the people to build the first temple in Jerusalem. Figure out how old each member of your family will be in seven years. What do you think God could help you accomplish in those seven years?
- ▶ *Before Bed*—Read part of Solomon's prayer to God at the temple's dedication in 1 Kings 8:22–30. Prayers can include adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication (ACTS). Work together to identify which parts of Solomon's prayer fit into each category. Then, say a prayer as a family following the ACTS model.



**Leader Devotion LESSON 13**  
**THE WISE KING—SOLOMON PRAYS FOR WISDOM**  
**1 KINGS 3:5–15; PROVERBS 3:1–12**

**BIBLE TRUTH**

Wisdom is a gift from God.

**BIBLE VERSE**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. Proverbs 1:7

**LAW & GOSPEL**

In my sin, I am unwise, failing to trust in the Lord above all things.

**Jesus is wisdom personified. He gives me and all who believe in Him a share of His wisdom.**

**DEVOTION**

Think about the toughest test you've ever taken. Maybe it was a college entrance exam, like the ACT or SAT. Maybe it was a final for a particularly tough class or an examination for a skilled trade. There is no way we can know everything on every exam. Even the smartest people in the world don't know everything there is to know.

It is even more complicated when it comes to living a perfect life. "Because of our human limitations, we are unable to perfectly fulfill the challenges we face. Yet, in Christ, we have forgiveness; we are a new creation and can do all things through Him who gives us strength and wisdom" (TLSB, p. 537).

**Pray:** O Lord God, keep me forever in Your care. Help me to always trust You and remain faithful to Your name. In Christ. Amen.

# LESSON 13 OPENING

## THE WISE KING—SOLOMON PRAYS FOR WISDOM

Good morning! My birthday is coming soon. I am working on a list of presents. Can I read what I have so far? First, I want a brand-new car. Second, I want a two-week vacation to Disneyland. Last, I want twenty-five golden retriever puppies. I need more ideas. Can you help me? *As the children share ideas, pretend to add them to your list. Keep taking ideas until you run out of space on the first side of the paper.*

I've run out of room. Let me turn it over. Hey, this side of the paper already has a birthday list on it. Is this your list of birthday presents? *Ask one of the children, with a suspicious expression.* Let me read from the list, and maybe you will recognize who wrote it. (1) Food for needy people in my neighborhood. (2) Greeting card for my friend who feels lonely. (3) Teddy bear for a sick little boy.

I didn't write this list. When I ask for birthday presents, I ask for presents for me that will make me happy. These are things that would help other people. *Pause briefly, and let the point sink in.*

There is nothing wrong with asking for things you want for your birthday. However, we are often so busy trying to get what we want, we forget that there are people who may need help. We can ask our parents for birthday presents, but we can also ask God to show us how to help other people. Do you remember the items on the list that I read? *If the children can't recall on their own, read a few from the list of helpful presents.* God loves all people, and He can use me and you to care for those who are hurting or don't have enough to eat.

*Refer to the list once again.* Look at that! There is one more item on the list of birthday presents. (4) A Bible, so I can tell others about Jesus. What a great idea! *Show the Bible to the children.* This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. God loved us so much that He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. Jesus died on the cross to wash away our sins. He rose from the dead on Easter morning. For Jesus' sake, God forgives our sins. One day, Jesus will return to take us to live with Him in heaven forever!

Today, we will learn about Solomon, a king who had the chance to ask for whatever he wanted! You'll learn whether Solomon made a wise choice. Let's pray.

**Pray:** Dear heavenly Father, we often ask for things that will make us happy, while forgetting the needs of others. Show us how we can help people. Thank You for the best gift of all, Jesus Christ. Remind us that sharing Jesus is the best gift we can offer to anyone. Amen.

### LESSON TEXT

1 Kings 3:5–15;  
Proverbs 3:1–12

### BIBLE TRUTH

Wisdom is a gift from God.

### FAITH FOCUS

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

### LAW & GOSPEL

In my sin, I am unwise, failing to trust in the Lord above all things.

**Jesus is wisdom personified. He gives me and all who believe in Him a share of His wisdom.**

### BIBLE VERSE

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### VISUAL HELPS

Pen, paper with list of "helpful" presents on one side as described in the script

Bible

Birthday party props (optional)

# THE WISE KING—SOLOMON PRAYS FOR WISDOM

## Unit 5, Lesson 13

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### True Wisdom

God gave Solomon wisdom to carefully lead His people.

**Directions:** Read or listen to Proverbs 3:1–12. Select a verse from this passage. Write the verse you've chosen in the picture frame. Then illustrate your verse to show the wise truth of God.

