

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:3-28



Worship Theme:




God gives us wisdom.

Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will seek wisdom from God in their lives.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p>1 Let's Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p>Sing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" (track 19) • "Your Word Is a Lamp" (Psalm 119:105) (track 10) • "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 13) • "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 20) • "If Anyone Lacks Wisdom" (James 1:5) (track 21) • "The One and Only Lord" (Mark 12:29) (track 14) 	<p>KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>Songs From FaithWeaver</i></p>  <p>Classroom Supplies: CD player; 12 craft sticks, 3 ounces modeling clay, and 1 can of vegetables per 5 kids</p>

Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p>2 Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p>* Solomon's Wisdom Experience the story about Solomon's wisdom.</p>	
	<p>Ask Generously Ask for snack pieces and count each piece.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: Snack with small pieces</p>
	<p>* Secret Shapes Reveal a hidden shape.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: Rubber cement, paper, scissors, tissues, watercolor markers</p>

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	A New View Discover an optical illusion.	Classroom Supplies: 2 white chenille wires, 2 colored chenille wires, scissors, tape, heavy paper
	* Wisdom Storyboards Make storyboard panels of wisdom in Scripture.	Classroom Supplies: Bibles, paper, markers, tape
	It's a Riddle Solve riddles as a team.	Classroom Supplies: Poster board, marker, scissors

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
3 Let's Pray! <i>(up to 10 minutes)</i>	The Offering Offer their gifts to God.	Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls
	No Lack Sing a song about wisdom.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>Songs From FaithWeaver:</i> "If Anyone Lacks Wisdom" (James 1:5) (track 21)
	Lord, Make Me Wise Offer prayers.	Classroom Supplies: Pictures from "Wisdom Storyboards"



* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.

Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Let's Learn the Point! Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:3-28

After Absalom's revolt, David again won the hearts of the people (2 Samuel 19:14). Despite other opposition that arose from time to time, David continued to reign successfully for many years. But when David was old and near death, one of his sons, Adonijah, turned against David's wishes and set himself up as king. But David had Solomon, his second son with Bathsheba, anointed as king by Nathan the prophet and Zadok the priest. Adonijah quickly realized that Solomon was favored by the people and sought refuge from Solomon. Solomon gave him a second chance and allowed him to go home, promising not to kill him if he proved himself loyal.

David's charge to Solomon in 1 Kings 2:2-4 echoes the words of Deuteronomy 11. Apart from his sin with Bathsheba, David had consistently been obedient to God throughout his life, and he advised his son to do the same. God had promised David that his descendants would remain on the throne as long as they honored God. David's wish was for Solomon as well as for himself.

Once established on the throne, Solomon sought to follow the Lord. His habit of offering sacrifices at the "high places" (1 Kings 3:3) was questionable, however. The high places were altars left from the pagan worship prevalent in Canaan before the Israelites took over the land. Even though the law of Moses demanded that the Israelites not use pagan altars for worshipping God, it appears that this was a common practice in Solomon's time. After all, there was not yet a temple at which to worship. Gibeon was an important place of worship because the tabernacle and the bronze altar were kept there (1 Chronicles 21:29; 2 Chronicles 1:2-6). God must have honored Solomon's worship and sacrifices there to some degree because God appeared to Solomon there and offered Solomon whatever he wanted.

Solomon's request for wisdom pleased God. Solomon could have asked for power, riches, or fame; instead he unselfishly asked for what would help him best rule God's people. God honored Solomon's unselfishness by granting his wish and giving him power, riches, and fame as well. Solomon's response was to return to Jerusalem and again offer sacrifices to God.

The best-known example of Solomon's wisdom is related in 1 Kings 3:16-28. This story dramatically illustrates the creative wisdom God bestowed upon Solomon. The final verse of this passage relates the people's wonder when they witnessed their king's wisdom. Solomon had asked God for discernment in ruling God's people, and there was no doubt that his prayer was answered.

Devotion for Leaders

Jesus doesn't expect us to have all the answers. All we need to be wise is a willingness to constantly turn to Jesus, asking him for direction—just as Solomon turned to God.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Reread 1 Kings 3:16-28. Solomon needed wisdom to rule God's people well. What do you need wisdom for? What are the arenas in life in which you are struggling for answers? In James, Scripture says God generously gives wisdom to people who ask him. Why don't you take a minute and ask for wisdom right now?

Why We Worship for Leaders

Many times the issues we confront along our faith journey seem like riddles for which we don't have enough clues. But God, the author of our circumstances, sees the whole picture. He gives us his wisdom step by step, all along the journey, so that we can handle our challenges in a way that brings glory to him. In fact, wisdom can be seen as the gift that allows us to see things from God's perspective. We worship because God, who is all-knowing and all-wise, is faithful to his promise to give us the wisdom we need as we walk according to his ways.

Easy Prep for Leaders

A New View—Use chenille wires to make two arrows. (See the illustration on page 68.) Cut two chenille wires of one color in half, and twist the half pieces onto the ends of two white chenille wires. Point the "arrows" out on one wire and in on the other wire. This creates the illusion that one is longer than the other. Tape the arrows to a sheet of paper.

It's a Riddle—Make one 9x12-inch poster-board card for each group of five children. Write "Next clue, please" on one side of each card and "Ready to solve" on the other side of each card.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

Web Help—Get bonus leader tips and ideas at kidsownworship.com.



1 Let's Praise God!

Play *Songs From FaithWeaver, Fall 2010* as children arrive. Greet children by name, and say to each one, "Talk with your friends about your favorite riddle." If children need an example of a riddle, say, "What is white and black and read all over?" (The answer is a newspaper.)

When everyone has arrived,

Say **Hello, everyone! Today I asked you to think about your favorite riddles.**

Ask for volunteers to share riddles they thought of.

Say **Sometimes riddles give you the feeling that there's something you just don't quite "get." Sometimes our lives seem like riddles, and we get confused trying to find the right answers.**

Ask • **What is a situation you've been confused about?** (Answers will vary.)

Say **I have good news today! We serve a God who is wise—so wise that he knows all the answers to all our questions, all our concerns, and all our mysteries. God is the greatest! Let's sing a song to honor him.**

Sing "I Sing the Mighty Power of God."

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



Say ➤ **We can trust God to understand all our confusing situations. Better yet, we can trust God to help us with our confusing situations and take away our sins! That's why he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. God loves us and wants to help us live with him forever and know the right things to do. Let's do an activity to help us see how God works with us to give us wisdom.**

Have children form groups of five. Give each group a block of modeling clay, 12 craft sticks, and a can of vegetables.

Say ➤ **I have a particular job in mind that I want you to do with these items, so look at them carefully.**

Allow children to work with the items for about two minutes, then ask for guesses about what they should do with what they've been given.

Ask ➤

- **Why is it so hard for you to know the job I have in mind for you to do with these supplies?** (We can't read your mind; these things don't go together.)
- **How can you know what I want you to do with the supplies?** (We could ask you; we could do something and see if you say it's wrong.)

Say ➤ **You can really only know if you ask me. And I'm ready to tell you! I'd like each group to construct something with the clay and craft sticks that will hold the weight of the can. Are you ready to try?**

Allow the children to work with the materials, and allow them to ask you all the questions they want about constructing a sturdy support. There are many possible solutions, but the surest way is to lay the sticks on top of the spread-out clay and balance the can on top. If none of the groups comes up with a working solution within three minutes, even through questioning you, call for their attention and show them this solution.

Ask ➤

- **How much sense did the items I gave you make at first?** (None.)
- **How helpful was the information I gave you about what I wanted you to do?** (We knew what you wanted when you told us; you told us how the items go together.)
- **What helped you most to come up with a solution?** (You showed us; we tried a couple of things.)
- **How is this like or unlike being confused about your own situation?** (Sometimes I don't know how things fit together; sometimes I don't know what I'm supposed to do.)
- **How can we find out what to do when we're confused?** (Pray to ask God; ask someone who knows.)

Collect the materials.

Say God will always give us the wisdom we need. The Bible tells us that “if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5). The “without finding fault” part reminds me that it’s OK to ask God without being embarrassed. He guides us to the right path if we’re ready to listen to him. Let’s worship God as we sing.

Sing “Your Word Is a Lamp” (Psalm 119:105).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



Track 10

Say If God guides us, we can trust God’s wisdom to help us make right decisions in the real challenges of life—the things that confuse us and make us feel uncertain. We can be strong and courageous, just as God’s Word tells us to be.

Sing “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



Track 13

Say Without God’s help, we are often confused and sometimes frightened. With God’s help, we can make good decisions that really please him. We can always turn to God because he cares for each of us.

Sing “He Cares for You” (1 Peter 5:7).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



Track 20

Say To help us really remember God’s promise to give us wisdom, let’s sing a song that will help us learn James 1:5: “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

Who do you think is the “anyone” this verse is talking about? It’s talking about [list names of several individuals in the group].

Sing “If Anyone Lacks Wisdom” (James 1:5).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



Track 21

Ask • How do you feel when you make a poor decision? a good one? (I’m sorry when I make a poor decision; when I make a poor decision, I wish I knew more; I feel smart when I make a good decision.)

Say There are great rewards for making right decisions, and sometimes we feel pretty smart when we’ve made one. It’s important to remember that we are able to make good decisions because of the good God who helps us. Let’s turn all our attention to him and honor God as we sing “The One and Only Lord.” The words are from Mark 12:29 in the Bible.

Sing “The One and Only Lord” (Mark 12:29).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



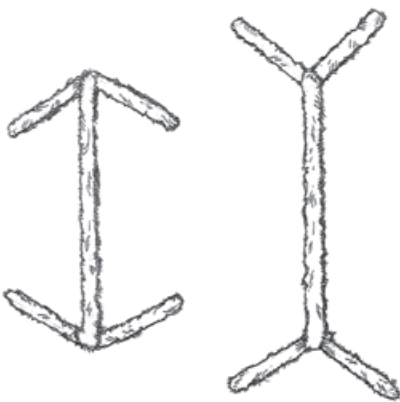
Track 14

Pray Lord God, thank you for the promise that you will give us wisdom. We feel safe knowing that you will help us when we are confused and show us your ways when we ask for your help. In Jesus' name, amen.

2 Let's Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 69-70

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.



Elementary Activities

A New View

- Ask**
- **When is wisdom important?** (When we have to make good choices; when we have tough decisions.)
 - **When can't we trust our own wisdom?** (When we don't know how to choose; when we don't know what will happen.)

Show the prepared optical illusion arrows, but don't hold them too close together. Ask the kids to tell you which white chenille wire is longer.

- Say** **Because I prepared these arrows, I know something about them that you may not be aware of.** Wait for kids to ask what you know.

I know that the white wires are the exact same length. Hold the arrows side by side so kids can see the wires are the same length.

- Ask** • **How is seeing the wires close together like getting wisdom from God?** (We can see how it really is; it's not so confusing.)

- Say** **You may have had some ideas about these wires, but until you saw them side by side, you couldn't be sure. In the same way, we may have some ideas about right and wrong, but if we don't have God's point of view—God's wisdom—we can't be sure our choices will honor him. God's Word tells us that he wants to clear things up for us and help us see things his way. He does that when we ask for his wisdom. He will always give us the new view that we need.**

(continued on page 71)

Extra Impact

Either before the session or during the week, make a small storyboard for each family. You can make the storyboard very simple, with a small picture—or write a card—to affirm families and remind them that God is with them and is ready to give wisdom when they simply ask for it.

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

Session 5

1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:3-28

Worship Theme:



God gives us wisdom.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Ask Generously—Bring a snack that comes in small pieces, such as miniature cookies or dry cereal.

Secret Shapes—Cut sheets of paper in half so you have one for each child. Brush a thin layer of rubber cement in a geometric shape on each sheet. Let the rubber cement dry thoroughly. (Use stencils for easier brushing.)

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo give the treats in “Ask Generously.”
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.



* Solomon’s Wisdom

Say When King David came to the end of his time to rule, he called his son Solomon to his side and told him that he would need to be a good king for the people of Israel.

Ask • What do you think it takes to be a good king?

Say Solomon knew that ruling Israel would be a hard job. So he asked the Lord for something he thought would make him the best king he could be. He asked for wisdom, which means being wise and knowing how to make smart decisions.

Ask • How do you think God felt when Solomon asked for wisdom instead of money or that everyone would like him? Why?

Say Let’s learn a rhyme that will tell us more about what happened when Solomon asked God for wisdom.

Repeat this poem several times before asking children the questions that follow. Encourage the children to chant the words with you.

Solomon, Solomon, what will you do?

(Shrug your shoulders.)

God has put his full trust in you.

(Point up.)

He wants you to be king of Israel,

(Make a circle shape with your hands, and put the “crown” on your head.)

To lead and take care of his people.

(Motion “come.”)

Solomon, Solomon, what will you need

(Shrug your shoulders.)

As you begin to take the lead?

(Motion “come” with your arm.)

Will you ask for money and diamonds and jewels?

(Motion as though passing out money.)

Or will you ask God for more important tools?

(Shrug your shoulders.)

Solomon, Solomon, God is so pleased.

(Point up.)

You asked him for wisdom to help you lead.

(Point to your head.)

And God was so happy with what you asked for

(“Draw” a smile with your index finger.)

That he promised to give you true wisdom and more.

(Point to your head, then hold your arms out to the sides.)

Solomon, Solomon, wisest of kings,

(Point to your head.)

Think of the blessings that serving God brings.

(Clap your hands in rhythm.)

* *Solomon's Wisdom (continued)*

- Ask** ▶ • What do you think are some good things that happen when we serve God?
- How do you think God's wisdom helped Solomon?

- What are some things you need help with figuring out?
- What can God do to help you?

Say ▶ God cares very much about helping us know how to live. He wants to give us his wisdom so that we can live in a way that honors him, just as Solomon did.

Ask Generously

Say ▶ The Bible tells us that God gives wisdom generously when we ask him. Today, instead of just getting a snack, we're going to practice asking! Have the children be seated at your snack area.

You may ask me for any number of our [snack] between one and [choose a limit]. Go to each child individually, and ask the child to tell you how many he or she wants. Encourage the children to count with you as you count them out. Go around the table several times, then put the snack completely away to end the distribution.

Ask ▶ • Why did I give [child's name] [the number requested]?

Say ▶ That's right. I was generous. I gave each of you what you asked for.

Ask ▶ • What words could we use to ask God for wisdom?

Say ▶ God says that whenever we ask for wisdom, he will give it to us generously. Let's thank God for his generous wisdom before we eat.

Pray ▶ Thank you, God, for this food. Thank you for being generous to us and giving us wisdom freely when we ask, just as I was able to give snacks generously. In Jesus' name, amen.

ALLERGY ALERT



Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

* *Secret Shapes*

Have the children sit at a table, and have the watercolor markers accessible. Give each child a paper with a rubber-cement design.

Say ▶ I have a secret shape for each of you. I'll tell you how to find the shape. As you follow my directions, you'll see it for yourself. If you have any trouble, you can ask me for help. First, use a marker to color all over the paper I gave you.

Show the children how to cover the page completely with a marker. They should be able to see the shape. Then show them how to use the tissue to rub over the shape and remove the residue of rubber cement. Be available to help the children as they ask for help.

Say ▶ When you first got your paper, it didn't look like there was anything on it. As you followed my directions and asked for more help when you needed it, you were able to see your secret shape more and more clearly. When we ask God for wisdom about something we don't see or understand, we have to follow the directions he gives us. And whenever we have trouble, we can ask him for help again. God has promised to give us wisdom, and we can depend on him for help every time we ask.

(continued from page 68)

* *Wisdom Storyboards*

Help kids form six groups. Give each group a large piece of white paper, markers, and a Bible. Assign one of the following Scriptures to each group, and help kids find the passages: 1 Kings 4:29; 1 Kings 4:31-34; 1 Kings 5:12; 1 Kings 10:23-24; Job 28:12-19; Psalm 111:10.

Say ➤ **When someone wants to write a picture book, the person may prepare a storyboard to communicate the ideas to a publisher. A storyboard uses pictures to tell a story. You're going to work as a team of authors to present a storyboard for a book about God's wisdom. Each of the Scriptures tells about one way God's wisdom was shown in the Bible. After you read your Scripture, draw a picture to show how your passage shows God's wisdom.**

Allow the children to work together in groups. Display each group's work, and ask groups to explain the significance of their contribution.

Say ➤ **The Bible tells us that when King David died, his son Solomon became king. God told Solomon to ask for anything he wanted. So Solomon prayed and asked God for wisdom. God was so pleased with Solomon's request that he promised to make Solomon wiser than anyone who had come before him and wiser than anyone who would come after him. He also promised Solomon great riches, even though Solomon didn't ask for riches.**

The Bible tells us that Solomon was known throughout the earth for his wisdom in deciding very complicated situations and that rulers from all over the land came to ask his advice.

Ask ➤

- **Why do you think Solomon asked God for wisdom?** (He thought wisdom would help him follow God; he thought wisdom would make him a better king.)
- **Look at all the different kinds of wisdom in our storyboard pictures. What are some ways you see God's wisdom at work in the world today?** (Missionaries and other people are helping people who don't know God; doctors learn new things about healing; people are taking better care of the earth.)
- **What are some ways you see God's wisdom at work in your life?** (My friend and I argued, but we apologized so we're still friends; I was having trouble in math, but my dad helped me, and I passed the last test.)

Say ➤ **In this storyboard, you might see a way you think God has given you wisdom. Maybe you can see a way you'd like God to give you wisdom. Let's take a minute to draw ourselves into this storyboard.**

Allow the kids to draw small pictures of themselves on the storyboard frames. Encourage them to be introspective about where they see themselves in the ongoing story of God's wisdom in the world.

It's a Riddle

Say ▶ It's important to understand that God is wise, and it's important to recognize that God makes his wisdom available to us if we just ask for it. Let's form groups of five to explore this idea. Help kids form groups of five, and give each group one of the poster-board cards you prepared.

I'm going to read you one clue to the answer of a riddle. In your group, discuss what you think the answer could be. If you're ready to make a guess, raise your card to show me the "Ready to solve" side, and I'll give you a chance to share. If your group needs another clue, raise the card to let me know that.

Here's the first clue: I am holes connected to holes.

Allow the kids time to discuss, then share the following clues in order. Play one or more rounds using the clues provided in the boxes below. Feel free to give additional hints that might be specific to your group after using the clues provided.

Riddle 1	Riddle 2	Riddle 3
<p>I am holes connected to holes.</p> <p>I'm strong as iron.</p> <p>I'm limp as a rag.</p> <p>What am I?</p>	<p>I have a neck but no head.</p> <p>I have two arms but no hands.</p> <p>I have no body of my own.</p> <p>What am I?</p>	<p>I go up at the same time I go down.</p> <p>My name is past tense and present tense, too.</p> <p>I'm a ride for two-by-two.</p> <p>What am I?</p>
Answer: An iron chain	Answer: A shirt or sweater.	Answer: A seesaw

When you've completed the riddles,

Ask ▶ • **What helped you most in figuring out answers to the riddles?**
(The clues; my friends' guesses; I already knew the answer.)

Say ▶ **You got some good input from friends, but you got the most helpful information when you asked the person who knew the answers. I was always available to help you solve the riddles every time you asked.**

Ask ▶ • **How is that like or different from asking God for help when we're confused?** (God always knows the answers; God is always available.)

• **When have you asked God to help you know what to do?**
(When my friend told me she was shoplifting; when I thought I might fail English.)

• **What have you learned about asking God for help?**

Say ▶ **We can depend on God to direct us and to give us wisdom when it's hard to make sense of our lives because God promises that he will give us wisdom when we ask.**

3

Let's Pray!

The Offering

Say

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, used his wealth to build a Temple for worship. When we give our offerings, we're making wise investments in the same way Solomon did. If you're "investing" money this morning, put your money in the offering bowl as it comes to you. If you're investing something else in building the church, such as your time or energy or loving a certain person in Jesus' name, touch your finger to the bottom of the bowl to represent that investment.

Take the offering.

No Lack

Say

Today we've talked about how God gives us wisdom—all of us. God gives wisdom to anyone who asks! We know that's true because God promised it in his Word. Before we leave today, we're going to sing about that promise.

Sing "If Anyone Lacks Wisdom" (James 1:5).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



Track 21

Lord, Make Me Wise

Ask the children to stand beside their self-portraits on the storyboard. If preschoolers did not participate in "Wisdom Storyboards," they can quickly go to a place near the storyboard, perhaps by an older friend.

Say

This storyboard illustrates God's wisdom as it's seen by the world. Some of you may have represented a way God has already helped you to be wise in using your talents. Others of you are dreaming of ways God can use you. As we close with prayer today, ask God to give you his wisdom about his plans for your life. I will pray. When I pause, join me in saying, "Lord, make me wise."

Pray

Lord, you've blessed each of these children with special talents and abilities. Pause to lead kids in saying, "Lord, make me wise." They have their whole lives ahead of them. Pause to lead kids in saying, "Lord, make me wise." Some will lead as Solomon did. Others will serve behind the scenes. Pause to lead kids in saying, "Lord, make me wise." Whatever you call them to, we know you offer your wisdom generously. Pause to lead kids in saying, "Lord, make me wise." In Jesus' name, amen.