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# Solomon Becomes King

## Key Theme

- God demands obedience and trust.

## Key Passages

- 1 Kings 1:32–35, 2:1–4, 3:5–15, 4:29–31

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how Solomon would get God's blessings.
- Identify the source of Solomon's wisdom.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

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Students will place paper strips at 1 Kings 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Students will practice the memory verse by unscrambling the words on the Memory Verse Review Sheet and then reciting the verse to each other or to the class.



### Activity 1: Solomon Becomes King Class Notes

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Students will complete the Solomon Becomes King Class Notes as you study the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

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Solomon was anointed king. In a dream, God asked Solomon "What shall I give you?" Solomon responded humbly by asking the Lord for an understanding heart to rule the people. God was pleased and granted Solomon's request. God confirmed to Solomon that he would be blessed if he followed His commandments.



### Activity 2: Wisdom Relay

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Students will compete in teams to fill in their Wisdom Relay Worksheets by matching Bible verses about wisdom to the Scripture references.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO



### COME ON IN

- Cut paper into strips for each student to mark today's study passages in 1 Kings 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Memory Verse Poster
- Paper strips
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



### SOLOMON BECOMES KING CLASS NOTES

- Print one Solomon Becomes King Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Solomon Becomes King Class Notes for each student
- Solomon Becomes King Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



### WISDOM RELAY

- Print and cut one set of Wisdom Relay Reference Strips from the Resource DVD-ROM for each team of students (no more than 5 students per team). Print each set on a different color paper so teams will know which set is theirs.
- Print one Wisdom Relay Worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each team. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Wisdom Relay Reference Sheets—one set per team
- Wisdom Relay Worksheet for each team
- Wisdom Relay Worksheet and Answer Key



## Memory Verse

**2 Samuel 7:22** Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

Time marches on. That is true in our lives, and it was true for King David. After ruling over Israel for 40 years (1 Kings 2:10–11), David died, and his son by Bathsheba, Solomon, became the next king (1 Kings 2:12). This was according to God's perfect purpose and plan. David knew that the Lord had ordained this son to be the next king, that this son would have rest from his enemies, and that he would be the one to build a house for God's name (1 Chronicles 22:7–11).

This transition to the new king was not without drama. In opposition to God's will and David's desires, another son of David, Adonijah, presumed to be king. He took over the role without his father's knowledge—through treacherous means (1 Kings 1:18–19).

In response to Adonijah's attempted coup, David commanded that Solomon be taken away and anointed the next king (1 Kings 1:32–35). Because we know God had appointed Solomon as the next king, we know that Adonijah's attempt to overthrow God's plan was ultimately futile and absolutely selfish. He was not considering God's will or God's glory, but the glory he himself would receive as king. Before we judge too harshly, however, how often do we follow the same pattern—devising plans to please our own desires rather than God's?

After Solomon had become king, God appeared to him in a dream and asked Solomon, "Ask! What shall I give you?" (1 Kings 3:5). Solomon's reply reflected his humility and dependence on God. As a young king, Solomon requested wisdom from the Lord (1 Kings 3:7, 3:9). He knew that in order to judge the people according to God's will, he must be able to discern between good and evil. Only godly wisdom could accomplish that. God was pleased to give Solomon a wise and understanding heart such that he was the wisest man who ever lived (1 Kings 3:12).

God blessed Solomon with wisdom and blessed him way beyond that. In fact, Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches, honor, and wisdom (1 Kings 3:13). Solomon's blessings from God came with a condition—he was to walk in God's ways, keeping His commands and statutes as David his father had (1 Kings 3:14). God demanded obedience from Solomon. God demands obedience from us. And we have the perfect example in Jesus, who stands as the model of humble obedience to God's will—even being obedient

to the point of death on a Cross in order to redeem sinners (Philippians 2:3–8).

How would we answer God if asked, "What shall I give to you?" How would we respond? Is there a financial burden or disease that we would like to have relieved? Would our request be set first on accomplishing God's will for our lives? Or would we seek our own comfort and relief? Be encouraged. As the Lord renews our mind through His Word, our desires will be transformed. His Word, through the working of His Holy Spirit, will mature us to desire the things of God and trust His perfect plan for us regardless of the circumstances.

We serve the same God as the one who abundantly blessed Solomon. And He promises to give us the desires of our hearts as we align our hearts with His (Psalm 37:4).

God has blessed all His children with abundant gifts. You may not have the material wealth or immense wisdom of Solomon, but you can use what you have been given to bless your students. As you do this, remember that you are seeking to follow the example of Christ—the perfect servant.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Have you ever told someone that he or she had the wisdom of Solomon, or have you ever been given that compliment? This is only one of a multitude of phrases in our language drawn from the Bible, and one of several related to Solomon. These phrases, adopted by the world and incorporated into our everyday conversations, illustrate the influence God's Word has had on the cultures of the past and today.

Solomon's wisdom was a blessing from God and not the sole product of his own efforts to learn. As such, he was wiser than all of the men of the East or Egypt (1 Kings 4:30). Hearing of the fame of Solomon's wisdom from the Lord, the Queen of Sheba visited him:

Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her. And when

the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her. (1 Kings 10:1–5)

In 1 Kings 4:29–34, we also learn that Solomon spoke proverbs, wrote many songs, and studied the natural world. God's gift of wisdom to him was applied to these areas, much of which was recorded in Scripture for our benefit. Solomon's writings (much of the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and some of the psalms) remain an abundant source of wisdom and instruction. Although Solomon failed to heed much of his own advice, it seems that at the end of his life he had come to understand that chasing after anything but God was to chase a vain thing (see the book of Ecclesiastes).

Solomon ruled Israel for 40 years, but after his death, the kingdom would be torn in two. Solomon had wisdom to know what God commanded and desired for his life, but he often failed to do what he knew was right. We can learn a valuable lesson from Solomon's

life and seek, by God's grace, to be doers of the words recorded in Scripture and not just learn about them in a superficial way that, in the end, will only lead to vanity.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Lord, you are perfect in all your ways. You are wise. Thank you for this lesson's reminder that wisdom only comes from you. You've revealed your wisdom to us in your Word. Give me that perfect wisdom and the strength to follow all your ways. And thank you for reminding me that wisdom and humility are necessary to lead and teach others well. I humbly ask you for the ability to teach today's lesson clearly and accurately. Your Word is exciting. It is truth. It is life changing. Help me express that passion and pass it on to the students in my class. Fill me and use me for your honor and glory.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive ...

- They will mark their Bibles at 1 Kings 1, 2, 3, and 4 with strips of paper.
- They will recite the memory verse after they unscramble the words on the Memory Verse Review Sheet.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. Students should unscramble the letters of the missing words and then recite the verse to you or another student. Each week the verse will get harder to unscramble. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



# Solomon Becomes King Class Notes

## MATERIALS

- Solomon Becomes King Class Notes
- Solomon Becomes King Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils or pens

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.*

We will be completing the class notes as we study the Bible passages. Try not to work ahead. Fill in the blanks as we come to them. I'll let you know when to fill something in.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete our class notes, we'll learn more about Solomon—what he asked God for and how God blessed him.



# Studying God's Word

## READ THE WORD

We learned that David wrote many of the psalms so that he could praise and worship God! God gave David many reasons to praise and worship Him while he was king. But God promised David something very special. He promised David that his son Solomon would become the next king and would build the temple for God—a permanent temple that would house the ark of God.

- Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

Another part of God's promise to David included the promise that someone from David's family would one day establish a kingdom that would NEVER end. That someone would be amazing! He would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. That person from David's family, promised so long ago, is Jesus Christ the Lord. His kingdom will never end. He is the King of kings and will rule forever.

Today, we are going to see that God did make Solomon king after David died, just as He had promised.

Let's read 1 Kings 1:32–35 together. *Choose a student to read the passage aloud.*

1 Kings 1:32–35

## EXAMINE THE WORD

David is definitely moving forward to make Solomon king. Let's answer some questions about these verses so we can understand what's happening.

### Observe the Text

- ? Who was speaking in these verses? *1 Kings 1:32. King David.*
- ? Who did David call to come before him? *1 Kings 1:32. Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet.*
- ? Good. What were Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet to do? *1 Kings 1:34. Anoint Solomon king over Israel!*
- ? Take a look at our Roles of a Prophet Poster. Which role is Nathan the prophet doing? *Anointing the king.*

Yes, David wanted Nathan the prophet to anoint his son Solomon as king. And that is what he did. We're going to move ahead to 1 Kings 2:1–4. Assign readers. Read 1 Kings 2:1–4.

- ? What's happening to David in verse 1? *It is time for him to die.*

1 Kings 2:1–4

Yes. David was about to die. This was a final father-son talk between David and Solomon. David was passing on the promise he received from God—the promise that his son would be the next king. God had told David that the promise would be fulfilled if his son would do something.

- ? What was God now telling Solomon through David in verse 3? *1 Kings 2:3.*  
*Solomon was to keep the charge of the Lord; walk in His ways, keep His commandments, His testimonies.*
- ? So how will you answer #1 on your notes? What word will complete the answer? *Have the students complete #1 on their class notes—walk.*
- ? And how would Solomon be blessed if he obeyed God's commands? It is at the end of *1 Kings 2:3.* *He would prosper in all that he did and wherever he turned. Have students fill in #2 on their class notes—all.*

What a wonderful promise! God had blessed David. And God promised to bless Solomon. But God would demand obedience. David understood that and it was David's dying wish that Solomon would honor God by obeying Him.

### Discover the Truth

Just as God had promised, Solomon was made king. Solomon would now sit on the throne of David, be king in his place, and rule over Israel and Judah!

David told Solomon the very words that the Lord had told him, that Solomon would prosper and be blessed if he would walk in God's ways and keep His statutes and commandments. God promised blessing if Solomon would be obedient and continue to trust Him.  
God demanded obedience and trust from Solomon.  
God still demands obedience and trust from us.



### READ THE WORD

So Solomon became the new king! Let's read about one of his first encounters with God after he became king. I'm going to read *1 Kings 3:5–10* next. Follow along as I read. *Read the passage aloud slowly with expression.*

**1 Kings 3:5–10**

### EXAMINE THE WORD

That is an amazing portion of Scripture! Let's answer some questions about it so we can learn more about Solomon and his relationship with God.

► After filling in each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

## Observe the Text

- ? Who appeared to Solomon in a dream? *1 Kings 3:5. The Lord.*
- ? What did the Lord ask Solomon? *1 Kings 3:5. What shall I give you?*
- ? That's an incredible question from God! What did Solomon say next about himself? *1 Kings 3:7. I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.*

Solomon was saying that he realized he had a very big job ahead of him. He realized he wasn't as old as his father David. And Solomon understood that he didn't know how to be king as well as his father David.
- ? So what did Solomon ask God for? *1 Kings 3:9. An understanding heart so he could judge good and evil.*

Solomon could have asked God for anything! He asked for an understanding heart. Fill in #3 on the class notes. Have students fill in #3 on their class notes—heart.
- ? What did God think of Solomon's request? *1 Kings 3:10. He was pleased that Solomon would ask this.* Fill in #4 on your class notes. Have students fill in #4 on their class notes—pleased.

Yes, God was very pleased to grant Solomon his request for an understanding heart—for wisdom. But God also agreed to give Solomon more than that. Turn to 1 Kings 3:12–15 and listen. God was speaking to Solomon. Read verses or assign students to read.
- ? God told Solomon that he would have a wise and understanding heart. But God also was going to give Solomon something else. What was it? Look at 1 Kings 3:13. *Both riches and honor.*

Fill in #5 on your class notes. Have students fill in #5 on their class notes—riches, honor.
- ? And what does 1 Kings 3:14 tell us? What did God tell Solomon he must do? *Walk in My ways, keep My statutes and My commandments.*
- ? What is another word for God's statutes and commandments? Allow for discussion.

Another word is God's laws. Have students fill in #6 on their class notes—ways, laws.

1 Kings 3:12–15

- ? And according to 1 Kings 3:14, who was Solomon to act like? Whose example was he to follow? *His father David. Have students fill in #7 on their class notes—David.*
- ? What did Solomon do after his discussion with God? Look at the end of 1 Kings 3:15. *He offered up burnt offerings to the Lord in Jerusalem before the Ark of God. He made a feast for all his servants.*

Yes, Solomon wanted to honor the Lord by offering sacrifices and making a feast to the Lord. God had promised to bless Solomon with wisdom, understanding, honors, and riches!

### Discover the Truth

Very good! This is an important and exciting part of Scripture. We see how Solomon started his reign as king well. Solomon's request showed his humility and his respect for God. God was pleased with his request for wisdom because Solomon showed that he wanted to please God by being a good, wise king like his father David. And Solomon knew that the wisdom he requested would come from God—the source of all wisdom.

- ? Take a look at the Attributes of God Poster. When we say that God is wise what do we mean? *Does everything perfectly without mistakes.*

God is the only one that does everything perfectly, without mistakes. He is the only source for true wisdom. Solomon wanted the all-wise God to give him wisdom to rule the people well. And God granted that request.

- ? How will you fill in #8 on your class notes? *Have students complete #8 on their class notes—God, wise.*

God granted Solomon wisdom. Solomon knew that real wisdom could only come from God. Someone turn to 1 Kings 4:29–31 and read that for me. Assign a reader.

- ? What do these verses say about Solomon's wisdom and understanding? *God gave Solomon wisdom and his understanding was great. He was wiser than all men.*

Great. Complete #9 on your class notes. *Have students fill in #9 in their class notes—men.*

WISE

*(Refer to Attributes Poster)*

1 Kings 4:29–31





# Wisdom Relay

## MATERIALS

- Wisdom Relay Reference Strips—one set per team
- Wisdom Relay Worksheet for each team
- Wisdom Relay Worksheet Answer Key for your use

## INSTRUCTIONS

We are going to have a relay of sorts—it's a wisdom relay.

Divide the class into teams (no more than 5 students per team). Put complete sets of the *Wisdom Relay Reference Strips* for each team at the front of the room. When you say, "Go!" the first person on each team will run up to his reference strips at the front of the room. He will take one reference from the stack, go back to his team, they will look up the verse, and complete the worksheet by putting the verse reference on the correct line. The next team member will then get another reference strip and repeat. Teams will repeat until all the wisdom verses have been recorded onto the worksheet. The first team to complete the worksheet wins!

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Good job working together and completing your *Wisdom Relay Worksheets*. Let's see

what the Bible has to say about wisdom. You can answer these questions from your worksheets.

Assign students to read each verse from the *Wisdom Relay Worksheets* and then answer the questions, as a class or individually.

- ?
  - Where does Proverbs 2:6 say we get wisdom? *From the Lord.*
  - ?
  - What about James 1:5? Where should we go if we lack wisdom? *Ask God.*
  - ?
  - OK. Now in 2 Timothy 3:15. Where else can we get wisdom? *From the Holy Scriptures.*
  - ?
  - And in Romans 11:33, whose wisdom is being talked about? *God's.*
  - ?
  - And what does James 3:17 say about wisdom? *It is pure, peaceable, gentle, merciful.*
- Solomon asked for wisdom. Wisdom is from God and is something we gain through His Word and through our knowledge of God.



# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Solomon was anointed king of Israel and Judah, just as the Lord had promised David. Before his death, David reminded Solomon that in order to receive the blessing of God, Solomon must be obedient to God's Law. Solomon soon had an encounter with the Lord who asked him what he

wanted. Remember? Solomon humbly asked God for an understanding heart—for wisdom—to rule the people of Israel. God was very pleased with Solomon's request. He blessed Solomon with great wisdom and also wealth and honor. Then the Lord told Solomon to be obedient to His commands, as David had been.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

As king, Solomon could have asked God for anything. Yet his request was for an understanding heart. Solomon requested wisdom so he could be a good and godly king. God granted Solomon's request, and Solomon is known in history as the wisest man who ever lived! His wisdom came from God.

We, too, can be wise in the Lord. Solomon did not have the entire Bible to turn to for his wisdom, but we do! True wisdom comes from God's Word. That is where we need to go to get it. True wisdom takes study, dedication, and devotion to God and His Word.

Solomon also obeyed God. God blessed Solomon for his obedience. Christians, those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives, are called to obey God, too. If we obey with a humble and cheerful heart, we too will be rewarded by God. Our rewards may not look like Solomon's, but God promises to give us an abundant life, and to never leave or forsake us. And, those who believe in Jesus will get eternal life with Him forever in heaven! And that is #10 on the worksheets. You can complete it now. *Help students fill in #10 on their class notes—Lord, heart, eternal life.*

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**2 Samuel 7:22** Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for revealing His wisdom to us in His Word.
- Thank God for this lesson that reminds us the importance of obeying His Word.
- Ask God for wisdom and the ability to apply that wisdom to our lives each day so that we will please Him with our words, thoughts, and actions.

# Notes