



Solomon Becomes King

5

Key Theme

- God demands obedience and trust.

Key Passages

- 1 Kings 1:32–35, 2:1–3, 3:5, 3:9, 3:12–13

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

Students will practice the memory verse by spilling out the Memory Verse Cards and putting them in the correct order. Then, they will recite the verse aloud to each other and/or to the teacher. (More cards have been added for Lessons 4 and 5. See the Resource DVD-ROM document.)



Studying God's Word

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 God's commandments.



Activity 1: What Is Happening? Charades

Without speaking, you and/or your students will act out the four events discussed during the lesson. The class will guess what is happening and then discuss/review the event. Use the Discussion Guide on the Resource DVD-ROM to review the events.



Activity 2: King Solomon Review

Students will play a review game to answer questions about today's lesson.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- If you haven't done this, print and cut out the Spill the Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each group of 2-3 students. If possible, print on cardstock.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Spill the Verse Cards for every 2-3 students
- Containers with a lid or small paper bags to hold the cards



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Print the four Solomon Becomes King Event Pictures from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during the lesson.
- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Four Solomon Becomes King Event Pictures
- Student Take Home Sheets
- Tape or poster putty



WHAT IS HAPPENING? CHARADES

- Four Solomon Becomes King Event Pictures used during the lesson.
- Print the What Is Happening? Charades Discussion Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Four Solomon Becomes King Event Pictures
- What Is Happening? Charades Discussion Guide



KING SOLOMON REVIEW

- Print and cut out the King Solomon Review Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Put question strips in a small bag.
- Print one King Solomon Review Answer Key from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- King Solomon Review Questions
- King Solomon Review Answer Key
- Small paper or shopping bag
- Music player

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 lesson key passages along 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.

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God’s Word.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will spill the Memory Verse Cards out and put the words from the memory verse in the correct order.
- They will recite the verse aloud to their group and/or for the entire class.

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. 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.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson Theme Poster 4. We have been talking a lot about King David. We learned last week that he wrote many of the Psalms.

? *Refer to Lesson Theme Poster 2. And before that, we learned that God had made him a special promise. Can you remember what the special promise was? Allow discussion.*

God promised David that his son, Solomon, would become the next king and would build a permanent Temple for God that would house the Ark of God.

But not only that, God sent the prophet Nathan to tell David that his kingdom would never end. His kingdom will never end because Jesus Christ, the forever king, is from David's family. This was a very special promise made to David. But before it could happen, Solomon had to be made king!

In our lesson today, we will see that Solomon did finally become the king of Israel. And the promise God made to David would begin to happen. I will be reading in 1 Kings 1:32–35. Turn there in your Bibles and listen **carefully**. *Help the students who have their Bibles find the passage. Encourage students to bring Bibles to class.*

➤ 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.

► Re-read the verses if necessary to get the students to answer from the text.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? **Who was speaking in these verses?** *1 Kings 1:32. King David.*
- ? **Who did David ask to come to him?** *1 Kings 1:32. Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah. Write these names on the board as you briefly discuss each one. Write “Zadok,” “Nathan,” and “Benaiah.”*
- ? **What did King David tell these men?** *1 Kings 1:33. Take Solomon, my son, on my mule, to the spring or river.*
- ? **And what were they supposed to do there? There are three things King David said. Can you tell me all three?** *Re-read 1 Kings 1:34. Anoint Solomon king over Israel! Blow the horn! Say, “Long live King Solomon!” Show the Event 1 Picture of King Solomon being anointed and tape it to the board.*

King Solomon was anointed with oil by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet. Usually the priest would take oil and pour it over the head of the future king, like in the picture.

- ? **When the men got back from the spring, what happened? What was Solomon supposed to do?** *Re-read 1 Kings 1:35. Allow discussion. Sit on the throne and be king in David’s place.*

Well, Solomon was now the anointed king. I’m going to read from 1 Kings 2:1–3. Turn there in your Bibles and listen carefully. King David was talking to his son Solomon. And something was about to happen to David. I think you can figure out what happened. *Read 1 Kings 2:1–3 aloud emphasizing die in verse 1.*

- ? **What happened to King David?** *1 Kings 2:1. It was time for him to die.*
- ? **What did he tell his son, Solomon, to do?** *1 Kings 2:2. Be strong. Prove yourself a man.*

David was telling Solomon to be strong, brave, and ready to be the king. It would not be easy for him. There would be battles and hard times ahead. This was a final father-and-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.

Refer to the Event 2 Picture. David was giving Solomon some final advice before he died. What else did David tell Solomon? Listen as I read. Re-read 1 Kings 2:3. Allow discussion.

David was telling Solomon to obey God’s commandments. And if Solomon would obey God’s commandments, he would be successful! *Put Event 2 Picture on the board with Event 1 Picture.*

What a wonderful promise! God had blessed David and promised his son would take over as king. And God promised that Solomon would be successful if he obeyed God.

Discover the Truth

Just as God had promised, Solomon was made king. Solomon would now be the king of Israel. David told Solomon he must obey God's commands. Then he would be successful. And then one of David's family would be king forever!

- ? Do you remember who that forever king is? Who is the one from David's family who will be King of kings—forever? *Jesus.*

The kingdom went from David to Solomon and would one day go Jesus! And Jesus will be king forever!



READ THE WORD

David died and Solomon became the new king! Turn in your Bibles to 1 Kings 3:5. Listen to this. I want you to tell me what happened in this verse.

Ready? *Read the verse aloud slowly with expression.*

1 Kings 3:5

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? What was going on in this verse? *Allow discussion.*
- ? Who appeared to Solomon? *The Lord.*
- ? And what was Solomon doing when the Lord appeared to him? *Sleeping. The Lord appeared to him in a dream.*
- ? What did the Lord ask Solomon? *1 Kings 3:5. What shall I give you?*

Wow! The Lord came to Solomon in a dream and asked what Solomon wanted! I want you to tell me what Solomon asked for. Listen carefully as I read from God's true Word. *Read 1 Kings 3:9.*

1 Kings 3:9

- ? What did Solomon ask the Lord for? *1 Kings 3:9. An understanding heart. Show the Event 3 Picture of Solomon sleeping. Put Event 3 Picture on the board.*

Solomon wanted an understanding heart. Solomon wanted wisdom, so he could tell good from evil. He had to judge the people—and he wanted to do it well. Yes, God was happy to grant Solomon his request for an understanding heart—for wisdom. But God also gave Solomon a lot more! Now turn to 1 Kings 3:12–13 and listen. This is God speaking to Solomon. What did God tell Solomon? What else was God going to give to Solomon? Something Solomon did NOT ask for. Listen carefully. *Read the verses.*

1 Kings 3:12–13

- ? Did you hear it? What else was God going to give to Solomon? *1 Kings 3:13. Both riches and honor. Show the Event 4 Picture of Solomon with many riches. Put it on the board.*

King Solomon was going to be wise and rich, and many people would like him.

Discover the Truth

This is an important and exciting part of Scripture. Solomon started off as king doing the right things. He wanted to obey God and he trusted God. He showed how much he respected God when he asked God for wisdom. Solomon wanted to please God by being a good, wise king like his father David. God granted Solomon's request. He gave Solomon wisdom AND gave him riches and honor, too.

Solomon knew that only God could give him the wisdom he needed. That is because God is wise. And no one could ever be as wise as God.

Wise

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

? Do you see wise on the Attributes of God Poster? Can someone read what it means to say that God is wise? Assign a reader or read the definition.

God is so wise. Everything God does is perfect! It may not seem perfect to us—but it is . . . because God can only do things perfectly. God is wise and he gave wisdom to Solomon.



What Is Happening? Charades

MATERIALS

- Four Solomon Becomes King Event Pictures used in lesson
- What Is Happening? Charades Discussion Guide

INSTRUCTIONS

Well, Solomon was made king. We studied four different events today. Now I want two of you to act out one event and see if we can guess which event it is. We'll do that for all four events.

Assign students to act out each of the four events discussed today. Students will act out the event without speaking. They may need your help determining what to do. If they cannot do the acting, you can do it and let them guess which event you are acting out.

After you have determined which event it is, take the picture off the board, read it, and review with the students what was going on. See the What Is Happening? Charades Discussion Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

This was an exciting lesson! Solomon was king. He was obedient to God, trusted Him, and pleased Him when he asked for wisdom. God gave Solomon wisdom, riches, and honor. King David's son was now the king. And over 1,000 years later, Jesus would be born. He is the King from David's family who will be the forever King. He is the King for all eternity.





King Solomon Review

MATERIALS

- King Solomon Review Questions cut into strips
- King Solomon Review Questions Answer Key
- Small paper or shopping bag
- Music player

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut the questions into strips and place them in a bag. Have the students sit in a circle. This game is like hot potato but no one will be out. Play the music and have the students pass the bag around the circle. Pause the music at random intervals. When the music stops, whoever has the bag will take a question out and answer it. If the student can't read, have him or her bring it to you to read. Allow the student to answer.

If the student doesn't know the answer, use the Lesson Theme Posters and the Solomon Becomes King Event

Pictures to give hints and/or have another student help to answer. Continue play until all of the questions are gone and everyone has had a chance to answer.

We are going to play a game to see what you remember from today's lesson. Explain how to play.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Great job. When we study God's Word we honor Him. The book of 1 Kings gave us a lot of information about King David, King Solomon, and the Lord God. Solomon asked God for wisdom. Wisdom is from God and is something we gain through His Word. God wants us to ask Him for wisdom, too!



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Solomon was anointed king of Israel, just as the Lord had promised David. Before David died, he reminded Solomon that in order to receive the blessing of God, Solomon must be obedient to God's Law. The Lord came to Solomon in a dream and asked Solomon what he would want God to give him. 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 more wisdom than he could imagine, as well as giving him riches and honor.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

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

God said He would bless Solomon if he obeyed and trusted in Him. God promises to reward all people who are willing to trust and obey Him with all their heart, soul, and mind. Christians, those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord of their life, are called to obey God's Law. If we obey with a humble and cheerful heart, we too will be rewarded by God. Our rewards may not look just like Solomon's, but we must trust that God will reward us according to His perfect will for us.



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.