

27. Wisdom



BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

1 Kings 3,
2 Timothy 3:15-17

God gives Solomon wisdom



AIMS

To help the children reflect on the value of wisdom and to understand that true wisdom comes from God

Wisdom comes from God. He gave Solomon the wisdom to rule well as king, and he gives us wisdom as we get to know him through the Bible.



PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passages for this session and reflect:

- Why do you think Solomon asks God for wisdom?
- Is there a time when you have known God giving you wisdom?
- How does the Bible give us wisdom for living?

Take some time to pray for your group.



GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

▶ Under Pressure

You will need: a spray bottle filled with water

Get the group to stand in a circle and have a leader standing in the middle of the circle holding a water spray.

The leader chooses a category, e.g. fruits, sports, chocolate bars... They also have to choose an item from that category to be the taboo word, but they should not tell anyone what that word is.

Go round the circle with each person in turn saying an item

that fits with the category. If they say something that doesn't fit the category, if they say the taboo word, if they repeat something that has already been said, or if they hesitate for more than a few seconds, the leader sprays water in their face.

Choose a new leader to go into the middle of the circle (this can be one of the children) and pick a new category.

▶ Lateral Thinking Puzzles

Challenge the children to solve these tricky problems:

1. There are six eggs in a basket and six people each take one. How can it be that there is still an egg left in the basket?

Answer- The final person takes the egg in the basket.

2. A police officer sees a truck driver going the wrong way down a one-way street but he does not stop him. Why?

Answer- The truck driver is walking down the street.

3. Train A and Train B are travelling along a railway track 3000 miles long. Train A is travelling at 70mph from the east coast to the west coast and Train B is travelling at 80 mph from the west coast to the east coast. Which train will be furthest from the west coast when they meet?

Answer- They will both be the same distance from the west coast when they meet.

4. Sarah is trapped in a room which has three exits:
Door 1 - guarded by a deadly lion
Door 2 - the door is constructed from magnifying glass and the sun instantly fries anyone or anything nearby
Door 3 - on the other side are lots of poisonous snakes

Which door should she use?

Answer- She should wait until night time when there is no sun and use Door 2.

5. Five pieces of coal, a carrot and a scarf are lying on the grass. No-one put them there but there is a good reason why they are there. What is it?

Answer- Someone had built a snowman and used the items to decorate it. When it melted the items were left behind.

▶ One Big Story Recap

You will need: cards (from additional document: One Big Story Recap Cards)

Since this is the last session for year 1 of One Big Story, you may

want to take some time to recap the story so far.

Before the session, hide the cards around the room. If you have a large group you may want to split the children into teams. You could print the cards on different colours of paper for each group.

Get the children to go one at a time (or one child from each team) to find one of the cards and bring it back to the group. Their challenge is to find all eight cards and to sort them into the correct order as quickly as possible.



EXPLORING THE BIBLE

▶ Solomon's Story

You will need: baby doll, toy sword, cloak and crown

Imagine that you're at home in bed, you're fast asleep and you're dreaming. In that dream suddenly God appears before you and asks you "What do you want? Ask me for anything you want and I'll give it to you." What would you ask for? (Get some answers from the children.)

This actually happened to a man called Solomon. Solomon was one of the kings of the Israelites, God's people. Last week we heard about David who defeated the giant Goliath. David went on to be king and Solomon was his son, so after David died Solomon became king, and God appeared to him in a dream and asked him this question.

What do you think Solomon asked for?

As a king there were lots of things he could have asked for - for lots of wealth and riches, for a long life, to be really famous, to have the

power to defeat his enemies - but he asked for wisdom - help in knowing the right thing to do and to be able to make good and fair decisions as king. God was pleased and said he would give Solomon what he asked for.

Although this was a dream, it came true. God did give Solomon great wisdom and he needed it because he had some difficult situations to deal with and hard decisions to make as king.

Tell the story of the two ladies coming to Solomon arguing over the baby. You could have a cloak and crown for Solomon and a baby doll, and get some of the children to act it out, taking on the roles of Solomon and the two women.

One day, two women came to Solomon to ask him to settle an argument they were having.

One of them said to him, "King Solomon, this woman and I live in the same house. I gave birth to this baby and she had a baby a few days later. But during the night, while we were sleeping, her baby died. I was still sleeping and she took my baby from me and put her dead baby beside me. She says that this baby is hers and the dead baby is mine but she's lying. This is my baby!" But the other lady said, "No, this baby is mine. The dead baby belongs to her."

Both women kept on arguing and insisting that the living baby was hers. They wanted Solomon to sort it out for them. Do you have any ideas what Solomon could do? How could he solve the problem?

Solomon thought and then he said, "Bring me a sword."

His servant brought him a sword. (Give a sword to the king.)

Then Solomon said, “Cut this baby in two and give half to each woman.” *(Take the sword and raise it as if about to cut the baby in two.)*

Immediately the first woman cried out, “No, please don’t kill the baby. Give him to her if you have to, but please don’t kill him.”

The other lady said, “No, cut the baby in half. That will be fair.”

King Solomon said, “Don’t kill the baby. Give the child to the first woman. She is his real mother.” *(Take the baby and give it to the other woman.)*

The people were amazed by Solomon’s wisdom.

How did that help him know who was the real mother? She loved her baby and didn’t want him to be killed no matter what.

(Let the children playing the parts sit back down.)

Solomon was a good king and a wise king, but he was not a perfect king. The Israelites were still waiting for the perfect king to come – someone who was going to deal with the problem of sin that had begun so long ago when people disobeyed God. They were waiting for Jesus.



REFLECT & RESPOND

► Wisdom from the Bible

For Christians, wisdom starts with knowing God.

Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17 – **this is a letter from Paul, one of the leaders in the early church, to a younger man called Timothy. He writes about the importance of getting to know God more through the Bible.**

“You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong, and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:15-17 NLT)

As we get to know God more, he can give us wisdom for difficult situations we might face just like he did for Solomon.

Lead the children in prayer asking God to help them know him better and give them wisdom.

You could ask permission from the school to offer Gospels to the children who are interested so that they can begin reading the Bible for themselves. This might also be a nice gift for P7s who are moving on from the group. Session 24 of One Big Story contains an additional document:

Through Mark’s Gospel in 80 Days, which you could give the children along with a copy of Mark’s Gospel if you haven’t given them this already.



ADDITIONAL IDEAS

► Review One Big Story

You will need: flip chart paper, pens

If you have time, you could give the children a chance to reflect on what they have learned from One Big Story so far.

You could have sheets of flip chart paper with headings such as:

Stories I remember

Things I have learned about God

Questions I have

My favourite part

Give the children some pens and let them write their responses. You could either let them do this individually or they could discuss their answers in a group. If you have a large group, you could split them into smaller groups and give each group one of the sheets. After a couple of minutes you can get them to pass the sheet round to the next group until each group have had them all.

Make sure you take a note of questions the children have so that you can look at addressing these in the group at some point.