

The Old Testament

Lesson 31 - The Wisdom of King Solomon

Aims

- * to learn about the wisdom of King Solomon
- * to learn what wisdom means

Materials

- * Bible Story - 1 Kings 3:16-28
- * Visual aids - a picture from the story
- * Worksheets
- * Wisdom Tree - tree pattern, A4 construction paper, paper clips, scissors, pencils, pens, tape.

Key word

- * wisdom - Deep understanding. The ability to make good judgement. (to know how to do good things, and avoid saying and doing wrong things)

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction
2. Story - Solomon's Wisdom
3. Questions about the Story
4. How can you be wise?
5. Activities - worksheets, act out the story, make a wisdom tree
6. Review the aims
7. Prayer

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1) Introduction

If God came to you in a dream and told you that you could have anything that you want, what would you ask for? Today we are going to learn about a man that could have asked for anything he wanted. He was the king of a country. What do you think he asked for?

2) Story - Solomon's Wisdom

After David's death, his son, Solomon, became king. God spoke to Solomon in a dream and told him to ask for anything he wanted. Solomon did not ask for selfish things but instead, he asked for wisdom so he could be a good king for the people. God granted Solomon his request. He judged many cases such as the time two women claimed that they were the mother of a baby. When Solomon said he would cut the baby in two so each woman would have an equal share. To save the baby, the real mother said that the other woman could have the baby. By this Solomon knew who the real mother was. These types of judgment and the great Proverbs that Solomon wrote made him famous for his wisdom.

3) Questions about the story

Who came to Solomon in a dream? - *God*

What did God say to Solomon? - *"Ask for whatever you want me to give you."*

What did Solomon ask for? - *Wisdom so he could be a good king*

Why were two women fighting? - *They both had babies. One mother had rolled over in bed and killed her baby. She secretly took the other baby and replaced it with her dead baby*

What did King Solomon say? - *Cut the baby in half*

Why did Solomon say this? - *to find out who the real mother was*

How did the two mothers react? - *The first mother accepted this. The second mother was ready to give the baby away to save his life*

Who was the real mother? - *The second mother*

What can we learn about Solomon from this story? - *He was very wise*

4) How can you be wise?

- Wisdom is when someone knows how to do good things, and avoids saying and doing wrong things. Instead of asking for money or long life, Solomon asked for wisdom to know the difference between right and wrong
- If we let God teach us, we too can grow up to be wise people.
- Wise people do good things and avoid doing wrong things.
- What are some good things that you do? What wrong things do you do?
- How can you choose to do good things? You can ask God to help you choose to do good things, and to say "No" to doing wrong things. If you keep on doing this, then with God's help you will become a wise person.

5) Activities

* Worksheets

a) Solomon's Dream - What did Solomon ask God to give him? Find out by solving the code.

b) Solomon's Wisdom - Colour the picture

* Act out the story of the two women. You could use a crown and a doll as props.

* Make a Wisdom Tree

Fold three pieces of A4 construction paper in half. Cut out the wisdom tree pattern. Stack the sheets of folded paper on top of each other. Paper clip the wisdom tree pattern securely to the fold. Cut out the wisdom tree on all three sheets of folded paper. Open the trees and tape the folds together. On the tree write some wise phrases.

6) Review the lesson aims

* to learn about the wisdom of King Solomon

* to learn what wisdom means

7) Prayer

Ask God to help us make wise choices today in the things we are going to say and do.

wisdom

The Wisdom of King Solomon



David was very old. He had been king of Israel for forty years. He had been a good king who tried to serve God. Even when he made mistakes, David was always sorry and tried to do better. The Lord knew that David had a good heart.

David was about to die. He told his son Solomon to be the new king.

“Always follow the Lord, Solomon. Obey His commands,” David told his son. And then David died.

Solomon became the new king. He wanted to be a good king and he wanted to follow God. Solomon wanted to be a good king like his father. He worshiped God and prayed to him. One night Solomon had a special dream. It was like a dream but it was also different from a normal dream. This dream was real.

The Lord came to Solomon in the dream and said, “ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

What do you think Solomon asked for? He was already very rich because his father had left him with all of his riches. Do you think he asked to be famous? What do you think he asked for?

Solomon did not ask for any of those things. Solomon did not ask for anything for himself. Solomon asked for something that would make him be a good king.

“Oh, Lord, I want to be a good king. I want to serve the people and help them. Please give me a wise heart so that I can always tell the difference between right and wrong. Help me to be a wise king for the people,” prayed Solomon.

The Lord was very pleased with Solomon. “Solomon, I will give you even more than you asked for. I will give you a wise heart. You will be wiser than any man that has ever lived. You have not asked for riches and fame but I will give them to you anyway. If you follow me you will also have a very long life.”

Things happened just as the Lord said. Solomon became known everywhere as a very wise ruler. He was also very rich and famous. People came from everywhere to talk to Wise King Solomon. They would tell Solomon their problems and he would give them wise advice to help them.

Once, there were two women who were having a fight. They lived in the same house with each other. Each of the women had given birth to a baby. Each of the babies would sleep in the same bed with their own mother.

One of the mothers said, "One night this other woman rolled over on top of her baby and it died. She quietly snuck into my room and put her dead baby beside me in my bed. She took my baby and put it in bed with her. When I woke up I found the baby dead beside me. At first I thought my baby had died. Then I looked closely and I knew that it was not my baby. She has my baby and I want it back!"

"No!" argued the other woman, "It's my baby!"

"No! It's my baby."

Everyone looked at Solomon. How could he ever know which woman the baby belonged to? But remember, God gave Solomon special wisdom.

Solomon ordered one of his servants to bring him a sword. "I order that the baby be cut in half with this sword."

One of the women said, "Okay, that's fair. The baby should be cut in half. That way neither of us will have more than the other."

The other woman looked very sad. "No, do not cut the baby in half. I would rather the other woman have my baby. I do not want my baby to die."

Then Solomon knew who the real mother was. He told his servant to give the baby to the woman who did not want the baby cut in half. He knew that a real mother would never want her baby cut in half.

Solomon got what he asked for. He was wiser than anyone before or after. Thousands of years have passed, and still he is thought of as the wisest man who ever lived. He is also famous, because he built a wonderful temple for God, where the special box of God's laws (the ark of the covenant) were kept.



Solomon's Dream



What did Solomon ask God to give him? Find out by solving the code below

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a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m

■	□	□	□	□	◆	◆	◆	❖	◆	⊠	⊠	⌘
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

Solomon's Dream

Colour the picture

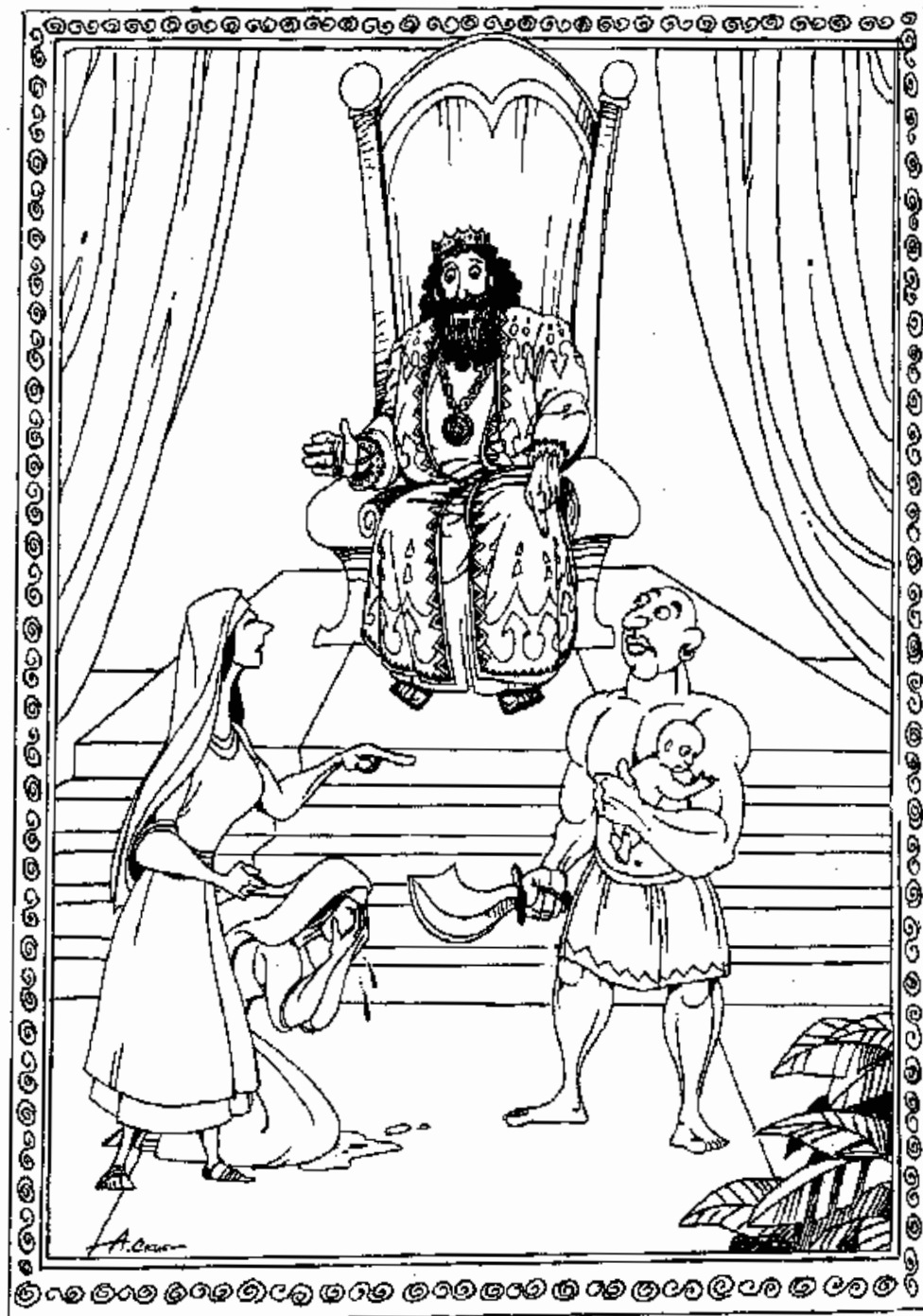


Solomon's Wisdom

Colour the picture



Solomon's Wisdom



The Wisdom Tree

Materials

Copy of tree pattern, three pieces of A4 construction paper (white or coloured) paper clips, scissors, pencils, biro pens or felt tip pens, tape.

Directions

Fold three pieces of A4 construction paper in half. Cut out the wisdom tree pattern. Stack the sheets of folded paper on top of each other. Paper clip the wisdom tree pattern securely to the fold. Cut out the wisdom tree on all three sheets of folded paper. Open the trees and tape the folds together. On the tree write some wise phrases. For example, "Obey God," "God gives wisdom," "Pray every day," "Live for others," "God is Good," "God loves (your name)."

