

# THE KING WHO HAD IT ALL

**Bible Basis:** 1 Kings 3:1–15; 4:29–34; 2 Chronicles 9:1–9

**Key Verse:** Don't be wise in your own eyes. Have respect for the Lord. —Proverbs 3:7 NIV

**Bible Point:** God made Solomon a wise leader. God can make me wise, too.

**Resource:** *The Story for Children*, Chapter 13: "The King Who Had It All"

## STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

**Stuff You Need:** advertisements, such as store flyers that come in the Sunday paper or catalogs

Open up some ads and begin commenting on items you see. Talk about something you'd really like to have. Get excited about one item after another. If your group is small enough, let children look through ads and say what they'd like to have.

- If you could have anything you see in these advertisements, what would it be?
- If you could have anything in the world, what would it be?

Say, In our Bible story today, we'll find out what one king said when God asked him this question.

## STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

**Stuff You Need:** copies of *The Story for Children*, Bibles, *The Story Elementary Trading Card 11*, "yes" and "no" signs

Tell the story from *The Story for Children*, Chapter 13. You can also have children find 1 Kings 3 and mark it in their Bibles. Either you or a child in your class can read the Scripture passages listed throughout the story.

### Wise in God's Eyes

Recruit two volunteers from the class to help you with the story presentation. One will hold the "yes" sign and the other will hold the "no" sign. Whenever you pause to ask a question about Solomon, the sign holders should parade with the signs and encourage the rest of the children to call out answers.

**Saul was the first king of Israel. Then came David, a famous king who ruled for 40 years. Then came King Solomon, one of David's sons. From the start, Solomon was a very different king than David. No battles and bloodshed for him. Solomon wanted to make his kingdom great by using his brain.**

*Read 1 Kings 3:5. Now that's an incredible question, isn't it? Solomon could really have anything he wanted! Do you think Solomon made a careful choice? Pause for sign holders to wave signs.*

Solomon thought long and hard about this question. He definitely wanted to make a good choice. He could have asked to live a long life. He could have asked to be wealthy. He could have asked for God to kill his enemies. But he didn't ask for any of that. Instead, he asked for God to give him a wise heart to know the difference between right and wrong. *Read 1 Kings 3:10–12. Now Solomon had reason to boast about how smart he was and how wise he was. Do you think Solomon bragged to his friends? Pause for sign holders to wave signs.*

Solomon didn't get all proud and boastful. Instead, he was grateful for what God had done for him. He made the wise choice to go to Jerusalem and stand in front of the ark of the covenant. That was where God met with his people. Solomon made sacrifices to God because he knew his wisdom came from God.

Solomon became very famous for his wisdom. He knew about all kinds of things, from what rock badgers do in their free time to how to be truly happy in life. He solved arguments and figured out the best time to plant crops. Solomon could have kept his wisdom to himself. He could have made sure no one else ever learned how to be wise. But did he? *Pause for sign holders to wave signs.*

Solomon didn't keep his wisdom to himself. He was constantly thinking of wise things that people needed to know, and he wrote a lot of those things down in a book called Proverbs. Proverbs teach you wisdom. They help you understand wise sayings. Solomon's advice was, "Don't be wise in your own eyes. Have respect for the LORD."

The queen of Sheba heard about how famous and wise Solomon was. She also heard about how he served and worshiped the Lord. So she traveled from far away to test Solomon with hard questions. Solomon didn't have to answer her questions. After all, he was the one who was smart, not her. Do you think he answered her questions? *Pause for sign holders.*

The queen of Sheba asked Solomon about everything she wanted to know, and Solomon answered all of her questions. There wasn't anything that was too hard for the king to explain to her. So the queen of Sheba saw how very wise Solomon was. She said, "Back in my country I heard a report about you. I heard how wise you are. But I didn't believe those things. So I came to see for myself. You are twice as wise as people say you are."

God made Solomon a wise leader who could rule the people with choices that were fair and right. God wants to help us be wise, too. All we have to do is ask.

After you have told the Bible story, give each child a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 13*. Ask children to look at the picture and tell you about Solomon's wisdom. As a class, read the key verse from the back of the card or from the Bible. Ask:

- What have you learned about wisdom from the story of Solomon?
- Tell me about some times when you would like to have God's wisdom to know what to do.

Say, **God made Solomon into a wise leader, and thousands of years later he's still famous for being wise. But God has enough wisdom for us, too, and will share it with us if we ask.**

Collect the cards for now. You'll send them home with the children later.

## STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help your class explore the lesson further.

### OPTION 1: Wise Eyes

**Stuff You Need:** copy of Wise Eyes Activity Sheets, coins, checkerboard, small items for playing pieces

**Optional:** paper and markers

If possible, copy the game cards on cardstock ahead of time. Cut apart the game cards. As many as eight children can play this game on one checkerboard. (If you have a large class, you might prefer to have each player draw a column of eight squares on a sheet of paper.) Each player will move a button or other small item through the squares of one column on the board, beginning on the first square. Players will draw a Wise Eyes card and read the situation. Be prepared to help younger children read. Then have them flip a coin to see if they make the wise choice. Heads means yes, a wise answer; move ahead one square. Tails means no, not a wise answer; stay on the same square. Recycle the cards as necessary to keep playing. After the game, talk about:

- **Tell me about something that happened in your life when you had to make a wise choice.**
- **How does having respect for the Lord help us to be more wise?**

Say, **Solomon is an example we can learn from. When you face a tough decision, remember how much Solomon wanted to make decisions that pleased God.**

### OPTION 2: Solomon's Temple

**Stuff You Need:** pictures and descriptions of Solomon's temple

**Optional:** construction paper, safety scissors, pencils, ruler

Before class, find drawings online or in books of what Solomon's temple might have looked like. In Chapter 13 of *The Story for Children*, Solomon builds a temple for God. Let children look at pictures of what people think it might have looked like. Children may like to construct a class model of Solomon's temple.

### OPTION 3: A Man of Wisdom

**Stuff You Need:** A Man of Wisdom Activity Sheet, crayons

Give an activity sheet to each child. Ask **Who is this man?** (Solomon) **Why is he so special to us and our faith heritage?** Color the picture of Solomon.

**Option 4: Wise Solomon's Crown**

**Stuff You Need:** construction paper, tape, markers, glitter, sequins, stones, etc., crown template

1. Print out a simple crown templates on construction paper.
2. Using safety scissors, have children cut out their crowns.
3. Hand out markers, glitter, etc., and let students decorate their crowns as they wish.
4. When children are done decorating, have them tape the two ends together to make a circle the size of their head.

**STEP 4: GOING HOME**

Pray in small groups asking for God's wisdom. Encourage children to pray for a specific situation in which they need wisdom. Make sure each child takes home a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 13*, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents' Page.