

## Bible Story 19: SOLOMON, A MAN OF WISDOM

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 KINGS 1:5-6,28-39; 3:3-14; 5:1-5; 6:1,37-38; 7:51; 8:3-6, 9-23; 9:1-5; 11:41-43

**MEMORY VERSE:** **“I LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE HILLS - WHERE DOES MY HELP COME FROM: MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD, THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.” PSALM 121:1 NIV**

### BIBLE STORY:

When King David was very old, his son Adonijah wanted to be the next king, but King David had other plans. Obeying his father David, Solomon mounted the king's mule and rode to Gihon. The priest Zadok anointed Solomon, pouring oil on his head, and declared him the new king of Israel. Trumpets were blown and the people shouted: *“King Solomon reigns forever!”* Playing flutes and shouting with joy, the people followed after Solomon, their new king.

Solomon loved God and he sought to obey the advice of his father David, who passed away.

One night God appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked him,

***“What do you want me to give you?”***

*(1 Kings 3:5b).*

Solomon responded,

***“My Lord God, you have chosen me to be the next king, even though I am a youth who does not know how to govern. I am in the midst of your chosen people; so large that I cannot even count them. Therefore, please give me wisdom so that I will lead your people with justice, knowing right from wrong”*** (1 Kings 3:7-9).

God was pleased with his request, because he had not asked for riches nor a long life. Therefore God responded,

***“I will give you what you have asked. I will give you wisdom - knowledge, intelligence and discernment, such as no one has ever had before or after you”*** (1 Kings 3:12-14a).

Solomon became known as the wisest man who had ever lived. God also blessed him with honor and riches.

A dream of his father David was to build a temple to worship God. Do you remember that the Israelites united in the Tabernacle to worship God? It was mobile, easy to move during their journey through the desert, and simple, like a tent. King David wanted a beautiful, permanent house for the Lord, since they were now living in the Promised Land. The Lord did not permit David to construct this temple, because his reign was at a time of war. So David collected material for its construction.

Now there was peace in the land. In the fourth year of Solomon's reign, the Israelites began to construct the Lord's Temple in Jerusalem. They used the best material available, such as cedar wood, gold and silver. It took seven years to construct the beautiful Temple to honor God. When the Temple was finished, all the Israelites united. The Ark of the Covenant, with the Ten Commandments inside, was taken to the Temple. Then King Solomon prayed, dedicating the house of the Lord. God heard their prayers and declared the Temple holy, a place where His people could gather and worship Him.

Afterwards, Solomon built his own palace in Jerusalem. He reigned Israel for 40 years. Solomon wrote many proverbs, words of wisdom, and music that are found in the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs in the Bible.

### LIFE-LESSONS:

1. The Temple was constructed for the people to unite and worship God. Go to a church where you can worship the Lord.
2. The Temple was holy. God's church is holy. Always respect the house of the Lord. How? (Examples: during worship - pray, read the Bible, sing songs and listen; within the sanctuary - remain quiet so everyone can listen to the message.)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Who wanted to reign after David? What happened?
2. Do you always get what you want? How do you feel when you do not get it? How should we react whenever we do not get what we want?
3. Who became king after David? When God asked Solomon what he wanted, what was his request?
4. What was God's reaction to Solomon's request? What did he receive? How can you gain wisdom?
5. Why did King David and Solomon want to build the Temple? Why was King David not allowed to build the Temple? What did David do to help towards its construction?
6. When you are not chosen to be a leader, how can you support and help the leader that was chosen?
7. Why was Solomon chosen to build God's Temple? How long did it take the Israelites to build the Temple? What did Solomon and the Israelites do immediately after building the Temple? Did God hear their prayers? How did God bless the Temple?
8. Where do you go to worship God? What are some things you can do as you worship God in His sanctuary, the church? How can you show reverence and respect for the house of God, your church?
9. Who are some people that you can invite to go to church and worship with you?

**SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:**

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

**PRESENTATION:**

- If possible, put up a tent and have your Bible story inside the tent. Show pictures and discuss different types of churches and their structure. Also include churches that have no buildings, but meet in facilities, such as a home, community center, school, rented room at shopping mall, etc.
- Ask what it would be like to meet in a tent? What are the advantages and disadvantages?
- Then say, "Up until the time of the Bible story of King Solomon, the people worshiped God in the Tabernacle. What was it like?" (It was moveable, like a tent.) "Why did they have to have a moveable place to worship God?" (They were constantly moving through the desert and going towards the Promised Land.) "But now the people of God were living in the Promised Land and constructing their own homes. King David was getting old and his dream for many, many years was to build a permanent house where the people could unite and worship God. Listen as I tell you what happened."
- Tell the Bible story and apply the Life-Lessons.

construction, help plant grass, flowers, trees at its location, and pray for the church, its members and outreach for Christ.

**BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH:**

- Before your meeting, ask permission from your church to do one of these projects.
- After telling the Bible story, discuss the importance of taking care of the church. Ask for some suggestions on how to beautify and take care of their church.
- **Project 1:** As a group, make preparations to go and plant some flowers and/or a tree on the church grounds.
- **Project 2:** As a group, make preparations to go and help your church, such as cleaning up the church grounds by picking up trash.

**GAME: "GUESS WHO IT IS!"**

1. Form a circle and place one chair in the center. Under the chair, place a small object, such as an eraser, coin or rock. With a cloth, blindfold one person chosen to sit on the chair in the center. Someone quietly picks up the object, hides the object in his/her hand and goes back to his/her place. Next take off the blindfold and ask which one of his/her friends took the object. Once named, that person sits on the chair in the center. Repeat.
2. Call one person to stand in front of the group. Let him/her look at several objects that are on the table. Then blindfold that person. Remove one object. Next take off the blindfold and he/she must try and tell which object was removed. Repeat the process.

**HELP BEGIN AND/OR BUILD A CHURCH:**

- Help begin a new church in a needed area.
- Help with the construction work in building a church in your area or worldwide. Some examples are: help by giving money for the expenses, help personally to build its structure, help prepare food for the workers, help clean up the site of the

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1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	4 <sup>TH</sup>	5 <sup>TH</sup>	6 <sup>TH</sup>	7 <sup>TH</sup>
1 Kings 1:5-6, 28-29	1 Kings 3:3-14	1 Kings 5:1-5; 6:1, 37-38	1 Kings 7:51; 8:3-6, 9-13	1 Kings 8:14-23	1 Kings 9:1-5	1 Kings 11:41-43