

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 REJOICED WITH THOSE WHO SAID TO ME, 'LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.'
" PSALM 122:1 NIV

BIBLE STORY:

When King David was very old, his son Solomon became the new king of Israel.

One night, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked him, "*What do you want me to give you?*"

Solomon replied, "*My Lord God, you have chosen me to be the next king, even though I am young. Please give me wisdom so that I will be able to lead your people the right way.*"

God was pleased with his request and gave Solomon wisdom, knowledge on leading his people. Solomon was told that he must obey and keep God's laws, His commandments. Solomon became known as the wisest man who had ever lived. God also blessed him with honor and riches.

Solomon led the Israelites to build in Jerusalem the Temple, a place to unite and worship God. It took one, two, three, four, five, six, seven- yes, seven years to build. It was beautiful! When it was finished, all the Israelites united. The Ark of the Covenant, which had the Ten Commandments inside, was taken to the Temple. Then King Solomon prayed with the people, 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.

Solomon was king for forty years. He wrote many words of wisdom that are in the book of Proverbs in the Bible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

RETELL THE STORY:

Ask volunteers from the group to retell the story.