

THE KINGS

Date: 5.5.24 | Title: God Gives Solomon Wisdom | Scripture: 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12, 45-46 and 3:1-28

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.

High School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins. Jesus gave his life for us on the cross and He is the only way for salvation.



MEMORY VERSE

"Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn." 1 Kings 2:3

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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Soon after David marries Bathsheba, the consequences of his sin begin to reverberate throughout his family, imprisoning all of them in a web of deceit, betrayal, and death. David's repentance was real, but there were still consequences for his actions. In 2 Samuel 13-20 the judgement pronounced on David is unleashed.

Later, we see God's remarkable mercy when the Lord blesses and loves the second son of Bathsheba and David, Solomon (12:24-25). One might think that any son of what began as an adulterous union would never be the one to succeed David, but through God's grace, Solomon was specially loved by the Lord and named king.

"When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, 'I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn' (1 Kings 2:3). These parting words to Solomon echo God's words to Joshua after Moses' death in Joshua 1:6-9 as both stress faithfulness in obedience to the Mosaic Law found in Deuteronomy. God himself speaks directly to Solomon twice, reiterating what David declared: if you obey, you will be blessed, but if you disobey, bad things will happen. (1 Kings 3:14; 9:4-9).

In 1 Kings 2:10-12 we read that after David's forty-year reign in Israel, he dies and is buried. "So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established." God is doing for Solomon what he had done for David. (2 Samuel 5:12 and 1 Kings 2:24). "Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David." (1 Kings 3:3). Solomon sacrifices many burnt offerings to the Lord. One night, God comes to him in a dream and says, "Ask, what I shall give you." (3:5). Solomon acknowledges that God has shown "great" and steadfast love" to David, his father. He also tells God that he is "just a little child" who does not "know how to go out or come in". Solomon recognizes that he is in the midst of "God's chosen, a great people, too many to number." (3:8). Solomon asks for "an understanding mind to govern God's people, that he may discern between good and evil" (1 Kings 3:9). Solomon seems to feel inadequate in view of the great task that confronts him, confessing ignorance. Solomon wants to hear God's voice advising him on how to rule, to make decisions that reflect God's heart for His people.

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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

“It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.” (3:10) Since Solomon does not ask for long life or riches or the life of his enemies, God gives him “not only great wisdom but wealth, honor, and respect, as well as a largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore” (4:29) It is the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of true wisdom (Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 15:33). The wise and discerning mind given to Solomon by God is a supernatural gift. In the possession of such wisdom Solomon is unparalleled in Israelite history.

The Israelite king is the highest court of appeal and the foundation of all justice (1 Kings 3:28). Solomon, the new possessor of wisdom, has no problem seeing through the words of two prostitutes who come to him seeking a solution to their situation. The conclusion of this legal case reveals that the Lord has granted Solomon’s request for wisdom. Through Solomon’s understanding of human nature, the identity of the true mother is rightly ascertained, and Israel realizes that the wisdom of God is in their king, Solomon.

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LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Tell the story: Use the Background Info for Leaders to help teach 1 Kings 2-3. The Message version of the Bible provides a summary of this text that can be helpful in re-telling this story.

Re-tell the Bible Story: put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.

**TELL
THE
STORY**



Attributes of God: Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today's story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

Read directly from Scripture, use the message, or the summary provided in the lesson

Share the GOSPEL: Matthew 12:42 references Jesus, the greater Son of David, who will outshine Solomon in both wisdom and glory. That greatness would later be demonstrated by His sacrificial atonement on the cross, and through His everlasting reign as king.

Re-Tell
The Bible Story

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

“You used to be a shepherd, David, but I made you a king. I helped you defeat your enemies, and My people now live peacefully in their own land. I promise you, David, that you and your descendants will be kings. When you die, one of your sons will be king. He will be a strong king, and no one will be able to take his kingdom away from him. He will build a house for ME. I will love him, and I will never leave him. When your son dies, his son will be king. Someone in your family will be king forever.

Nathan told David everything God said. David went into the tabernacle. He sat down and prayed: “God, I don’t deserve anything You have done for me, and You promise to do so much more! You are so great! There is no one like you! You chose the Israelites to be your own people. You rescued them from slavery in Egypt. God, please keep your promises. I know Your words are always true.

God promised David that future kings of Israel would come from David’s family, and David’s kingdom would last forever. God kept His promise by sending His Son, Jesus, as one of David’s descendants. Jesus is our King who will rule over God’s people forever.

Re-tell the Bible Story: put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.

Attributes of God: Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today’s story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

Share the GOSPEL:

God promised David future kings of Israel would come from David’s family, and David’s kingdom would last forever. God kept His promise by sending His son, Jesus, as one of David’s descendants. Jesus is our King who will rule over God’s people forever!

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

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QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students support their answers by sharing evidence they took from Scripture.

- 1. What was David’s advice to Solomon in 1 Kings 2:2? Why does he give this advice? (2:4)**
- 2. Where can we find the Law of Moses? What book of the Bible?**
- 3. What does 1 Kings 3:3 tell us about Solomon?**
- 4. What happened when he was sacrificing at Gibeon? What question does God ask him?**
- 5. What is Solomon’s response to God’s question? Why does he need/want this?**
- 6. How does God respond to Solomon’s request in 3:10-14? What extra things does God give Solomon since he didn’t ask for superficial or selfish things?**
- 7. Re-tell the story of the two prostitutes with the one baby.**
- 8. What is Solomon’s solution for this situation? How does he know who is telling the truth?**
- 9. What is wisdom? Where does it come from? How can we get it? Why is it important for us today?**

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PRAYER PROMPTS

God thank you for being our source of wisdom! Thank you for being a king who is greater than Solomon. Help us to seek You and Your wisdom in all things!

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Bible Skills Practice: Encourage your students to not only know the order of the books of the bible but also the different divisions they come in.

The Torah: Genesis - Deuteronomy | **History:** Joshua - Esther | **Poetry:** Job - Song of Solomon | **Major Prophets:** Isaiah - Daniel | **Minor Prophets:** Hosea - Malachi | **Gospels:** Matthew - John | **Acts** | **Paul's Letter:** Romans - Philemon | **General Letters:** Hebrews - Jude | **Revelation**

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

We will have no mission focus for the remainder of the school year. As we pray through what our next focus will be, please continue to give generously.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this week's verse with the students in your group. You can use the first letter of each word in the verse to help with this. For example, the unit verse would look like this:

BSASYAMAKTCOTLYGWIHWAKHSHCHRAHTAIWITLOMTYMPIATYDAWYT - 1 Kings 2:3

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Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

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Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?