

Session 4

Solomon, the wisest man on earth

Children learn about the wisdom of Solomon

Scripture: 1 Kings 1–4

Supplies:

- Marbles or stones, beads, biscuits
- 2 bowls or bottles
- Copies of king Solomon on the throne
- A3 copy of proverbs or Bibles
- A3 copy of proverbs that can be drawn
- Cardboard/paper for each child
- Decorations and stationery



Welcome

So true, so true: The group leader says something like: I played netball as a child. Is this true?

If the children guess correctly, put a stone in their bottle. If they don't guess correctly, put a stone in the leader's bottle. See who has the most stones at the end.



Worship

Settle down ritual from Psalm 23

The children sit down with legs crossed and eyes closed. Let the children repeat this phrase 3x with you: "The Lord is with us". Now say: "Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I am not afraid. He leads me through dark times and cares for me."



Word

Ask: Would you worry if...

- you had to give a speech in front of the whole school?
- you had to run at the inter-schools and everyone told you to win?
- your parents said your school report must only have the best marks?

Solomon was the son of king David and his father had him anointed as his successor. Solomon loved God, but he was scared to be king. God came to him one night in a dream and asked him: "What do you want me to give you?" "Lord," Solomon answered, "You were always with my father. He was obedient and loyal to you. You made me king in my father's place. I am still so young and inexperienced. I'm worried. There are so many people; I can't be their leader on my own. Give me obedience to you and insight into everything, because without Your help I can't rule the nation."

God was very happy with Solomon's request and said: "It is good that you didn't ask to be rich, to live long, or to always defeat your enemies. This is why I'll make you the wisest man on earth. Always remain loyal to me. I will make sure that you are also rich, famous, and live a very long time."

Solomon was so excited that he arranged a big festival in Jerusalem.

The people soon realized just how wise Solomon was. He could easily see through peoples' lies and see the truth. He could also make very good decisions. All the Israelites were happy and safe and had more than enough to eat.

One day two women arrived at the palace. Each of them had a baby, but during the night one of the babies died. Now there was only one baby and both women said that it's theirs. The one whose baby died pretended that the other baby was hers. No one could tell who the baby belonged to. Only the mothers knew, but one of them was lying. Which one was lying? That was up to Solomon to figure out. He gave the baby to one of his soldiers and told him to cut the baby in half (he wasn't serious, he was testing them). He knew that he would be able to see who the real mother is because she would be the most concerned for her baby. And that's what happened. The woman who was lying, said: "Go ahead, chop him in half. Then neither of us have a baby!" The real mother said: "Please, don't hurt him! Give him to her instead. Just let him live." Solomon then knew that she was the real mother because she loved her baby and wouldn't let him get hurt. That's why he gave her baby back to her.

Kings came from far away to listen to Solomon because they could ask him anything and he would give them a good answer. Solomon wrote thousands of songs, poems, and proverbs. A lot of them are in the Bible.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how it feels to be so wise.
2. I wonder what you would ask God if He asked you what you really wanted.
3. I wonder what you would do if you were as wise as Solomon.



Working and Playing

- **Take a proverb home:** Children choose a proverb from the page or from the Bible. They copy it onto cardboard/paper and decorate it.
- **Draw a proverb:** Choose some proverbs that are easy for young children to draw. Read it to them and let them choose one to draw.
- **Complete the picture** of king Solomon and the two mothers. Add the mothers, baby and soldier to the picture.

Closing prayer to end the session



Proverbs 10:20

The tongue of the righteous is pure silver; the heart of the wicked is of little value.

Proverbs 6:6

Go to the ant you slacker!
Observe its ways and become wise.

Proverbs 10:1

A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son, heartache to this mother.

Proverbs 3:6

In all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 26:27

The one who digs a pit will fall into it, and whoever rolls a stone – it will come back on him.

Proverbs 26:2

Like a flitting sparrow or a fluttering swallow, an undeserved curse goes nowhere.

Proverbs

Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord will be praised.

Proverbs 28:6

Better the poor person who lives with integrity than the rich one who distorts right and wrong.

Proverbs 26:18,19

Like a madman who throws flaming darts and deadly arrows, so is the person who deceives his neighbour and says, I was only joking.

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another.

Proverbs 26:22

A gossip's words are like choice food that goes down to one's innermost being.