

Adventures with GOD!

SOLOMON THE WISE (C.1.Fall.13)

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| Biblical Reference | Proverbs 1:7 |
| Key Verse | Proverbs 1:7 |
| Key Concept | True wisdom begins when we recognize who God is and give God honor. |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Explain why in reality Solomon wasn't that wise 2. Express what they can do to honor God and begin to have wisdom 3. Say the Bible Verse by memory |

LIFE APPLICATION

There are many examples of Solomon's wisdom, but sadly the man became a person who wasn't that wise after all because he followed his own desires that did not honor God. The children can learn life lessons from observing the tragedy of Solomon. They can choose to live a wise life because wisdom begins when we decide to honor God.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

| Activity | Materials | Time |
|----------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Opening Prayer | Candle | 1 minute |
| Bible Reading | Bible | 5 minutes |
| Review | Illustrations, games | 15 minutes |
| Activity | Worksheets, Bible, pens | 15 minutes |
| Bible Story | Bible, figures | 15 minutes |
| Conclusion | Bible verse, songs, snack | 15 minutes |
| Closing Prayer | Candle | 1 minute |

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INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this story? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

Review: Since today is the end of the trimester, it would be good to do a review by focusing on the events and lessons that stand out from the last couple of weeks. You may choose to have the students work on one last news report, reporting the news as they do on tv when it's the end of the year and they highlight the top stories of the year. You can also use one of the games they have played during the trimester. Create teams and have a trivia contest. Have the children help to think of the questions that the other team has to answer.

Activity: In the following pages of the lesson you will find a worksheet. Give one to each child and ask them to work on it independently. The focus of the lesson today is that Solomon, although he was wise in many senses of the word, stopped acting wisely in certain areas of his life. They can investigate what were some of the foolish things he did.

Bible Story: The story from today shows us that many times friendship can lead us to make unwise decisions. Solomon had many wives and friends and they lead him to make unwise decisions. They followed other gods. But Solomon, instead of insisting that they stop worshipping these gods, to have peace in their home, let them worship the idols even though he knew it was

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wrong. For this unwise decision, he came to have very serious problems in his family, with his children and in his kingdom. It would be good to have the students act out the story.

Conclusion: During this concluding time you can have a competition in teams. They can see who remembers the memory verses from the trimester or again you can ask them different key questions related to the Bible verses and what they have learned about God and God's people. To end the class, sing some songs, enjoy a snack, etc. Remember to thank God through prayer for all of the things you have learned through God's word this trimester.

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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WORKSHEET

Solomon was wise, but not that wise

Answer the questions below and come to a conclusion about Solomon's wisdom.

1. Read 1 Kings 3:1-2

Who did Solomon marry?

Was it a wise decision? Why?

2. Read 1 Kings 11:1-8

What did Solomon do that wasn't wise?

What did Solomon's many wives do?

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What did Solomon build for the women in his life?

How did God react at what Solomon did?

3. Read 1 Kings 11:9-13

What did God tell Solomon?

Who was used by God to punish Solomon?