

LESSON 9

KING SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM



OBJECTIVES

1. To learn that God gives wisdom to those who ask unselfishly.
2. To understand the importance of living wisely.
3. To discover the different ways we can obtain wisdom.

MEMORY VERSE

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

(Ephesians 5:15-16)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, Lord, for bringing us before You on this holy Sabbath day.
2. Open our hearts and mind to know You and Your word so that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
3. Teach us to live a life that is pleasing and glorifying to You.
4. May You guide us through this lesson and help us apply its teaching to our lives.



Overview

1. **Get the Scoop: Live from Jerusalem**
2. **More about Wisdom**
 - a. What is wisdom?
 - b. How do I gain wisdom?
 - c. What do the wise do?
 - d. What are the benefits of having wisdom?
3. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—The Holy Bible
4. **Life Application**—Living Wisely
5. **Activity**—Scattergories



Background Knowledge for Teachers

King Solomon was the third king of Israel and the wisest man who ever lived. He was the author of Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon, as well as most of Proverbs and some of Psalms. According to the Bible, Solomon "spoke three thousand proverbs: and his songs were one thousand and five" (1 Kgs 4:32).

Early in Solomon's life, he recognized his need for wisdom to rule his kingdom, but by the time Solomon asked for wisdom, he had already started a habit that would affect his personal life—he sealed a pact with Egypt by marrying Pharaoh's daughter. She would be the first of hundreds of wives married for similar reasons. His actions remind us how easy it is for us to know what is the right thing to do and yet not do it.

As Solomon went through life pursuing the meaning of life, the Book of Ecclesiastes records his last reflections after he had come full circle. The meaning of life is to know God, fear Him, and obey His commandments. That is true wisdom.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Starting at E2, students may not be interested in asking for wisdom as Solomon did. However, we should encourage them not to crave for material things, which only bring immediate pleasure and fun. But rather, they should be interested in asking God for wisdom. While Solomon asked only for wisdom, he received everything else, too. If our students take the time to figure out why Solomon wanted wisdom and see how it helped him in every practical situation, they will also see how it can relate to their own lives.



Opener

5 Minutes

If you were given a wish, and you could ask for absolutely anything you wanted and it would be granted to you, what would you ask for? [Ask students to share their responses.]

In our lesson today, we will learn about what King Solomon asked for. Solomon asked God for something quite unusual, but it was by far more important than riches, computer games, good grades, beauty, or power. This request affected the way he lived his life and how he governed his kingdom.



Vocabulary

circumspectly: acting in a carefully thought out way, after thinking of possible risks



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

A. Get the Scoop – Live from Jerusalem

MA: *(Speaking to the camera)*

Hello, I'm Michael Angelo and I'm reporting for CGN (Christian Good News). Today, I'm in the royal palace in Jerusalem where I will be talking to King Solomon. You may already have heard about King Solomon's great wisdom and understanding, but what you may not know is how it all started. I'm here to find out more.

(MA turns to King Solomon)

MA: King Solomon, it's an honor to meet you. Everyone near and far has heard so much about you and your astounding wisdom.

KS: I didn't start out this way (chuckles). I was 30 years old when I became king. As you know, my father King David was a God-loving and upright king, and he did a good job governing this nation. I had humongous shoes to fill.

MA: But now you are known to be the wisest and most prosperous king of the East. Kings, queens, and great men from different lands all come to listen to your wisdom. You have written many proverbs and songs, and you have an amazing knowledge about the animals, birds, snakes, fish, and trees. Where did you get this vast wisdom?

KS: At the time, I was a new king, and I had gone to offer sacrifices to God at Gibeon.

MA: Record has it that you offered one thousand burnt offerings. That's an incredible amount! After that, you had an extraordinary experience. Can you tell us about that?

KS: That night, God appeared to me and told me to ask Him for anything that I wanted and He would give it to me.

MA: Now out of a zillion things you could have asked for, what did you end up asking for?

KS: I asked for wisdom.

MA: That's an unusual request. Why did you not ask for longevity, great wealth, or military power? These are important to a king, too.

KS: Oh, you are right, and everyone wants these things. But wisdom is what I needed most. You know, running a country is a great honor, but it's a huge responsibility, too. On top of that, this great nation belongs to God. I was young and knew little about leading God's people.

MA: So, how does wisdom help you govern God's people?

KS: Wisdom enables me to make wise judgments, to choose correctly. It also helps me know the difference between right and wrong.

MA: Now, do you think that what you asked for pleased God?

KS: Oh, yes! God was pleased that I didn't ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of my enemies. As a result, God gave me a mind wiser than anyone has ever had or will have.

MA: Looking around your kingdom, there are some splendorous buildings that you have built. There's the temple of God, the royal palace, the wall of Jerusalem and many other cities. We've also heard that your throne is made of pure gold and that there is no other throne like it in all the world. When you eat and dine, you do so out of cups and plates made of solid gold. Your stables are full of horses and chariots, and ships come in from foreign lands laden with gold, silver, and treasures. All this shows that not only are you wiser than all the kings of the earth, but you are the richest king, too.

KS: Yes, God gave me what I asked for, which was wisdom. But what you see are the things that I didn't ask for, which are riches, honor, and longevity. God gave those to me, too.

MA: King Solomon, is there any advice that you can give to our viewers?

KS: God said to me that as long as I obey His commandments and laws, He would continue to protect and bless my kingdom. For our viewers, let me just say this: fear God, obey His commandments, and you will lead a very happy life.

MA: King Solomon, it has been an honor and a pleasure talking to you. Thank you for your time. Once again, this is Michael Angelo from Jerusalem, reporting for CGN.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Why did Solomon want wisdom more than anything else?** Solomon recognized that he would require God's wisdom to enable his kingdom to be strong and blessed by God.
- 2. Why did Solomon's request please the Lord?** Solomon's focus was on being the kind of king that could lead God's people; he did not focus on being rich or powerful. His focus was God-centered and not self-centered.
- 3. Have you ever been in a situation where you didn't know what to do and needed wisdom?** [Ask students to share.]

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet and ask students to complete it as you go through the next section.

B. More about Wisdom

Out of all the things Solomon could have asked for, he asked for wisdom. Let's dig deeper into the Bible to find out more about wisdom and its importance in our lives.

1. What is wisdom?

Today, people commonly believe that if you are smart, have a lot of knowledge, get good grades, and are talented, then you are someone with wisdom.

The Book of James 3:15-18 tells us there are two kinds of wisdom: worldly wisdom and God's wisdom. Worldly wisdom may enable someone to be smart and accomplished in the world, but such wisdom does not enable a person to know God or to live a life pleasing to Him. Worldly wisdom comes from the devil and brings with it selfishness, envy, disorder, and every other evil practice.

On the other hand, true wisdom comes from heaven. It enables us to know God and His word. True wisdom means knowing God's will and obeying it. It means living a life pleasing to Him. It's knowing right and wrong and making correct choices. A person who has God's wisdom will be pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, merciful, bear good fruits, and so on.

2. How can I gain wisdom?**FOR TEACHERS**

Ask students to read the verses on their own and fill in the blanks on the worksheet. Go over the answers as a class when they have all finished this section. The answers are listed in order below.

a. From Asking God

[Read James 1:5.] God is the source of wisdom. The same wisdom that God gave King Solomon is available to us if we ask Him.

b. From the Word of God

[Read Psalms 119:97-100.] God's word makes us wise. Through reading, meditating upon, and memorizing God's word, we can be wiser than our enemies, wiser than our teachers, and even wiser than the aged.

c. From Fearing God

[Read Proverbs 9:10.] When we fear God and follow God's commandments, we will gain wisdom.

d. From Receiving Instruction

[Read Proverbs 9:9.] It is often hard to listen to someone who corrects us or tells us something "for our own good." But when we humble ourselves and listen to the instructions of our parents and our teachers, we will become wiser.

e. From Nature around Us

[Read Proverbs 3:19.] When we look at the animals, birds, fish, trees, and plants around us, we will discover that it is a very wise and loving God who made everything. The more we learn about God's creation, the wiser we will be.

3. What do the wise do?**FOR TEACHERS**

Ask students to read the passage and fill in the chart. After all the students have finished the chart, ask some volunteers to share their answers.

Read Ephesians 5:15-20. This passage talks about some of the behaviors of the wise and foolish. List down these behaviors in the chart below.

The Wise

Walk carefully
Make good use of time
Understand God's will
Are filled with God's Spirit
Sing hymns and songs to God
Give thanks always to God

The Foolish

Walk as fools
Do not understand God's will
Are drunk with wine

4. What are the benefits of having wisdom?**FOR TEACHERS**

Ask students to read the verses, and then fill in the blanks.

- Prov 3:16; 4:8-9
We will have long life, riches, honor, and glory.
- Prov 3:23
Wisdom will keep us from harm and evil. We will be able to discern what is right and wrong and not be led astray.
- Prov 8:35; 2 Tim 3:15
We will receive eternal life.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; he asked for wisdom so he could lead God's people in a way that was pleasing to God.
2. False; we can gain wisdom through asking God, fearing God, meditating upon and reading the Bible, receiving instruction, and looking at nature around us.
3. True.
4. Solomon did not ask things for himself. His focus was on God and helping his people.
5. Ask God, fear God, read the Bible, accept instruction, learn from nature.
6. A wise person would walk and act carefully, make good use of time, know God's will, be filled with God's Spirit, sing songs to God and give thanks always to God.
7. Answers may vary.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Bible

The Holy Bible is the source of wisdom. It is inspired by God, and through reading, meditating upon, and memorizing the word of God, we will gain wisdom to lead our lives according to God's will, to receive salvation, and to be equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:15).



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **Why did Solomon ask for wisdom?** He asked for wisdom so he could lead God's people according to God's will.
2. **What else did God give Solomon besides wisdom?** He gave him riches, honor and long life.
3. **How would wisdom help Solomon govern God's people?** Wisdom would enable Solomon to make wise judgments, to choose correctly, and to know the difference between right and wrong.
4. **What are some of the ways we can gain wisdom?** We can ask God for wisdom, fear God, read the Bible, listen to instruction, and learn from nature.
5. **Why did Solomon's request please God?** Solomon did not ask for things for himself. His focus was on God and helping His people.
6. **Name some examples that show how God answered Solomon's prayer.** King Solomon became the wisest and most prosperous king of the East. Kings, queens, and great men from different lands came to listen to his wisdom. He wrote many proverbs and songs and had great knowledge about the animals, birds, snakes, fish, and trees. He built many marvelous buildings and properly ruled his kingdom.
7. **What are some of the behaviors of a wise person?** A wise person will walk and act carefully, make good use of each opportunity, know God's will, be filled with God's Spirit, sing songs to God, and give thanks to God.
8. **Do you think wisdom is important to your life? Why?** Answers may vary. Possible answer: Yes, because wisdom will help us make decisions that are pleasing to God.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Living Wisely

Sometimes, there are some people who are very knowledgeable and know a lot of facts and information, but they don't know God nor fear Him. These can also be people who know the right choice to make, but don't make it, and thus make bad choices as a result. To God, such people are without true wisdom. In fact, the Bible calls such people foolish.

On the other hand, there are people who may not be very smart or accomplished in the world, but they know God, fear him, and follow His ways. In God's eyes, these are the people with true wisdom.

[Make copies of the statements and scenarios provided on the Life Application Worksheet. Make one copy of per two students. Cut each set of statements and scenarios and put it in a plastic bag. Have students work in pairs. Give each pair a set of statements and scenarios. Have students read each scenario and match it with the corresponding statement. After the students have finished matching, discuss the answers with the students. The answers are in parentheses below.]

Answers

- Asks God (#1)
- Receives instruction (#4)
- Make good use of time (#7)
- Sings songs to God (#10)
- Fears God (#2)
- Learns from nature (#5)
- Understands God's will (#8)
- Gives thanks to God (#11)
- Reads the Bible (#3)
- Walks carefully (#6)
- Is filled with God's Spirit (#9)



Activity

Scattergories

10-15 Minutes

Materials

- Blank paper
- List of categories
- Plastic bag or container
- Pencils
- Set of alphabet letters, excluding W, X, Y, and Z
- Timer

Preparations

1. Write each letter of the alphabet, leaving out W, X, Y, and Z, on a small piece of paper, and place the letters into a plastic bag or container.
2. Post the categories on the board. A list of categories has been provided below, but it may be modified as needed.

- A type of food
- An animal
- A country
- Things in the church
- A Bible book
- A five-letter word
- Name of a person in the Bible
- A place in the Bible
- A color
- Things in a forest
- Things in the ocean

3. Set a timer for thirty seconds.

Instructions

1. Pass out a blank sheet of paper to each student.
2. Explain to students that they have thirty seconds to write down words that start with the key letter and fit in the category. For example, if the key letter is P and the category is "country," answers may include Pakistan, Portugal, Poland, and so on.
3. Pick a letter from the bag or container, start the timer, and have students think of an answer starting with the key letter for all the categories.
 - a. An example for "B": Banana, Barnabas, Baboon, Bethlehem, Brazil, Blue, Bible, Bears, [No Bible book starts with "B"], Barracuda, Break
4. After all the categories are answered, have students read out their complete list, one student at a time.
5. As each student reads out answers, other students may raise their hands if they have also written down that answer (i.e., two students have the same answer). That answer must then be disqualified and crossed out. After the student has finished reading the list, the student circles the answers that have not been used by anyone else and adds up the number of circled answers for that round.
6. Give each student the chance to read their list aloud, even if they're the last student to read.
7. Repeat the process with other letters for a set number of rounds. The student with the most number of points after all the rounds wins. After this, you may want to start a new game by posting a new category list.

Note: There are cases in which a word does not exist for a category, such as "B" for Bible book. In that case, the teacher can choose to award students who recognize that it doesn't exist, or choose not to score that category at all.

KING SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM



What is
WISDOM?

Read the Bible verses, and then fill in the correct answers using the choices below.



How can I
gain
wisdom?

- From Nature around Us
- From Fearing God
- From Asking God
- From Receiving Instruction
- From the Word of God

- a. James 1:5 _____
- b. Psalms 119:97-100 _____
- c. Proverbs 9:10 _____
- d. Proverbs 9:9 _____
- e. Proverbs 3:19 _____

Read Ephesians 5:15-20. This passage talks about some of the behaviors of the wise and foolish. List down these behaviors in the chart below.

The Wise

The Foolish

The Wise	The Foolish



What do the
wise do?

Read the Bible verses then fill in the blanks.



What are the
benefits
of having
wisdom?

- a. *Proverbs 3:16; 4:8-9*
We will have _____, _____, _____, and _____.
- b. *Proverbs 3:23*
Wisdom will keep us from _____ and _____.
- c. *Proverbs 8:35; 2 Timothy 3:15*
We will receive _____.

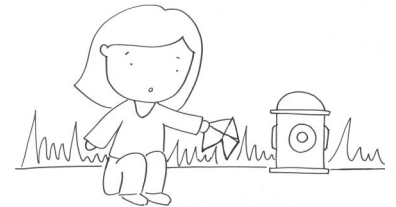
Living Wisely

Statements

- Asks God
- Reads the Bible
- Learns from nature
- Make good use of time
- Is filled with God's Spirit
- Gives thanks to God
- Fears God
- Receives instruction
- Walks carefully
- Understands God's will
- Sings songs to God

Scenarios

1. Jesse was walking along the street when she noticed a folded envelope lying on the ground. She picked it up and found \$50 inside. She looked around to see if anyone had dropped it, but there was no one around. She wondered what she should do with it. "Finders keepers!" she decided, as she stuffed the money into her coat pocket. But by the time she got home, Jesse wasn't so sure if it was right to keep the money. She decided to go to her room to pray.



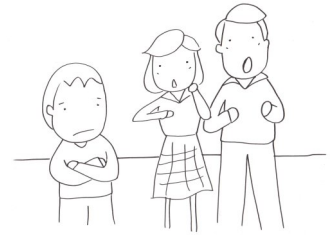
2. Tracy had a lot of friends. Sometimes, they didn't always do what was right. When she was around them, she made bad decisions, too. She knew that God was not pleased with some of the things she did. Tracy decided to hang out more with friends that would help her follow God.



3. Trent knew that he should read the Bible, but he often didn't understand what he was reading. However, he still kept trying. He read it in small parts, and he asked questions when he didn't understand. In his prayers, he asked God to help him understand His word.



4. James had gone to his friend's house after school for a couple of hours without letting his parents know. When he got home, his parents, who were angry and worried, told James that he needed to ask them before he could go next time. James rolled his eyes and didn't seem to care what his parents were saying.



5. Ella's RE class was having a day out at the zoo. This was Ella's first time there, and she especially enjoyed watching the flamingos. Ella realized that it took a very wise, creative, and humorous God to create all these different animals.



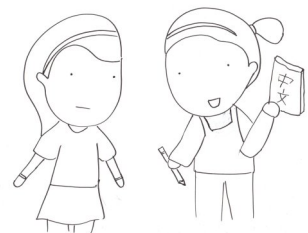
6. Samantha loved being popular, wearing name brand clothes, and hanging out with her friends. Going to church and reading the Bible didn't mean much for her. Besides, her friends, favorite magazines, and TV shows told her how to act anyway.



7. Eric has a big test at school the next day, but his friends have come around to try out his new computer game. Eric knows that he should be studying for the test, but one game leads to another, and another. By bedtime, Eric is feeling very nervous because now he has no time to prepare for the test.



8. Helen tells her friend Peggy that she will no longer be able to attend RE class on Saturdays because she has to go to Chinese school. Peggy reminds Helen that going to church on the Sabbath is a commandment. Helen says that learning Chinese is important, too, and that it would be useful to her in future. Besides, God is a loving God, and He will overlook little things like that.



9. Tom felt that going to church was boring. Whenever his teacher talked about God, he would tune her out and think about his computer games instead. He had not always been like this. At the last SSC, he received the Holy Spirit, and even after returning home, he spent a lot of time praying each day. Lately though, Tom seldom prayed and was spending more time playing games.



10. Sasha's grandma had been living with her family since she was born. Every day, her grandma busied herself taking care of the family, cooking delicious meals, and cleaning the house. Even though she was tired from these chores, Sasha noticed that her grandma never complained. In fact, she seemed happy every day, and Sasha could hear her grandma humming hymns to herself as she went about doing her work.



11. Nicky was scheduled to play the piano for the first time at church. Although he had practiced very hard, he was still very nervous. He prayed to God to give him a calm heart. Nicky played well, and in his prayer, he thanked God for helping him through it.



E2 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 9—King Solomon Asks for Wisdom

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Ephesians 5:15-16)

True or False

1. Solomon asked for wisdom because he wanted to be smarter than the other kings. _____
2. We can gain wisdom through reading more books, getting better grades, and hanging out with smart people. _____
3. Wisdom would enable Solomon to make wise judgments, to choose correctly, and to know the difference between right and wrong. _____

Short Answer

4. Why did Solomon's request please God?
5. How can we gain wisdom?
6. What are some of the ways a wise person would behave?
7. Give an example of how wisdom would help you in your daily life.