



Grace Church Elementary

Camp Grace

LESSON 37

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Wisdom and humility. God blesses us to bless others.

Bible Character(s): Solomon

Scripture Reference: I Kings 3 and 10



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read I Kings 3 and 10. We

have finished our study of David. David reigned over Israel for forty years. It is time for Solomon to reign, but he was not confident in his abilities. Solomon asked God for help and wisdom. The Lord was pleased with Solomon's request. Solomon was not self-serving, but rather he prayed for God's wisdom to equip him for the job he had been given. God blessed Solomon and he became wealthy and famous. The Queen of Sheba traveled 1200 miles on camels to question him. Solomon shared his wisdom and riches with her. Do you ask God to equip you for the job He has given you? Do you humble yourself before God and allow Him to use you for His glory despite your weaknesses? Do you recognize His blessings? How do you share your blessings with others and look for ways to serve?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Wisdom is...

Supplies:

Set of "Wisdom is" cards (1 set per bin)

Write "wisdom is the ability to know what is right and true" on the white board and, as a group, have the class put the cards in order to form the phrase. If time allows, erase the board and ask individual volunteers to put the cards in order (with help from classmates as needed!).



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE

by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today, we will see Solomon go to the Lord when he felt weak or unable to do what the Lord asked him to do. We will talk about what wisdom is and look for ways to grow in wisdom. We will also see, through Solomon sharing his blessings, that God blesses us so that we can bless others.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group today? What did Solomon ask God for? (Wisdom.) What did Solomon do with the wisdom God gave him? (He shared it with others; people came from all over to hear his wisdom.) What does God want us to do when He blesses us with gifts? (He wants us to share His blessings with others.)

Does anyone remember what we learned about last week? (Last week we learned about how David worshiped God.) **Did David worship God while also being distracted by others?** (David did not care what others thought about him when he worshiped because he worshiped God from his heart.) **What is worship?** (Worship is acknowledging God and responding to who He is and what He has done. We worship God when we focus on Him and His word with all our heart.) **King David was a great example of having a heart that desired to worship and bring glory to God.**

This week we are going to see that David's reign as king has come to an end. David reigned over Israel for forty years. In 1 Kings 2, David dies, but he left his throne to one of his sons, Solomon. He gave Solomon a charge to take courage, be a man, and obey God. Solomon watched his dad rule and followed in his father's footsteps as he tried to love the Lord and obey His commandments.

Wish List



The purpose is to show that sometimes we have selfish desires, but Solomon desired wisdom above all else.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Wish List” side (1 per camper)

Give out the worksheets and have campers write down or draw pictures of three things they would ask for if they could ask God for anything.

Tie It Together

 What kinds of things did each of you ask for? (Allow answers.) Are your wishes good things? How do you think God would respond to what you're asking for? Today we are going to see a man who God allowed to ask for anything he wanted - King Solomon. We are going to see what he asked for and how God responded to it.

Let's begin reading the Bible in 1 Kings 3 [NLT].

1 Kings 3:5-10

5 That night the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

6 Solomon replied, "You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne.

7 "Now, O LORD my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. 8 And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! 9 Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"

Solomon had the opportunity to ask for anything he wanted. What did Solomon ask for? (Allow responses.) He asked for wisdom and an understanding heart so that he could lead the Israelites well. Solomon humbled himself before God, knowing that he could not rule as King all by himself. How do you think God responded to Solomon's humility and his request? Do you think God gave him wisdom? (Allow responses.)

Let's continue reading the Bible and find out.

1 Kings 3:10-14

10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. 11 So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies—12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! 13 And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! 14 And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life."

Solomon humbled himself, voiced his weakness, and asked for help. He could have asked for something that would have brought him riches, but he chose to put the good of his people above himself and ask for help in ruling them.

Think about the things you wrote down. Were they things for you? Did you think about others, or did you ask for something that would make yourself feel good? (Allow responses.) Solomon placed himself under God and others in order to live in the way that God wants us to live.

Soaking Up the Wisdom of God



The purpose is to reinforce that Solomon had an unselfish heart when he asked God for wisdom.

Supplies:

Medium sized rock (1 per bin)

Large bowl (1 per bin)

Heart-shaped sponge (1 per bin)

Bottle of water (1 per bin)

Put the rock in the bowl and pour water over the rock. Point out that it doesn't soak up any water. Next, take the rock out and put the sponge in the bowl of water. Point out how the sponge soaks up the water.

Tie It Together

God placed Solomon as the next king of Israel, even though he was very young. Because Solomon did not know a lot about leading a nation, he asked God to give him the wisdom he needed to rule. Solomon loved the Lord with a humble heart and he realized that he could not rule a nation on his own. The sponge is like Solomon's heart. The sponge could soak up water (wisdom). Solomon had a teachable spirit, so he could soak up the wisdom that God gave him and rule the nation of Israel. If Solomon's heart had been selfish and hard like a rock, he would not have been able to soak up the wisdom that God gave to him. Solomon asked God for help to be king rather than trying to rule the people in his own strength.

God blessed Solomon with wisdom to rule his nation and with wealth and fame (which he did not ask for). Solomon became a well-known king all over the world. The Queen of Sheba heard of Solomon's wisdom and wealth and came to ask him questions. It is thought that the Queen of Sheba ruled the area that most likely included modern day Yemen.

(Show the campers the map of the Middle East with a line from Yemen to Jerusalem.) **The Queen of Sheba traveled more than 1200 miles on camels to see Solomon and ask him questions. That is like traveling from Greenville, SC to San Antonio, TX!**

Let's read the Bible to hear more about her visit in 1 Kings 10.

1 Kings 10:1-9

1 When the queen of Sheba heard of Solomon's fame, which brought honor to the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. 2 She arrived in Jerusalem with a large group of attendants and a great caravan of camels loaded with spices, large quantities of gold, and precious jewels. When she met with Solomon, she talked with him about everything she had on her mind. 3 Solomon had

answers for all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. 4 When the queen of Sheba realized how very wise Solomon was, and when she saw the palace he had built, 5 she was overwhelmed. She was also amazed at the food on his tables, the organization of his officials and their splendid clothing, the cup-bearers, and the burnt offerings Solomon made at the Temple of the LORD.

6 She exclaimed to the king, "Everything I heard in my country about your achievements and wisdom is true! 7 I didn't believe what was said until I arrived here and saw it with my own eyes. In fact, I had not heard the half of it! Your wisdom and prosperity are far beyond what I was told. 8 How happy your people must be! What a privilege for your officials to stand here day after day, listening to your wisdom! 9 Praise the LORD your God, who delights in you and has placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king so you can rule with justice and righteousness."

God blessed Solomon with wisdom, and Solomon shared his wisdom with the Queen of Sheba. The Queen saw how God had blessed him, and she gave praise to God. We can share our blessings with others just like Solomon shared his blessings. Everything we have comes from God. He wants us to share with others in order to bring glory to His name.

Gift List



The purpose is to identify the gifts that God gives us to share with one another.

Supplies:

White board

Ask the campers to think of gifts that God gives us to share with others. To get them started thinking of ideas, ask them about what gifts they saw used in Big Group today - musical talents, gift of singing, gift of teaching, gift of drama, prayer, etc. Help them think of gifts they possess and use in their daily lives.

Tie It Together



God gives us gifts to use to build others up. Solomon shared his gift of wisdom with many people of his time, as well as with us. He wrote a book full of wisdom called Proverbs. Have the campers find the book of Proverbs in the Bible.

Gifts Shared



The purpose is to share the gifts God has given us.

Supplies:

Small gift box/bag (1 per camper)

Piece of paper (1 per camper – a half-sheet may be enough)

Give each camper a gift box or bag and a piece of paper. Have them cut the paper into strips and on each strip, get them to write different gifts (love, money, toys, skills/talents, friendship, kindness). The strips of gifts will go in the gift box and each day they can pull one piece of paper from the box and share that gift with someone that day. (You may want to write some of the ideas on the board to help them know how to write/spell words.)

Tie It Together

 What are some gifts that God has given you? How can you share those gifts with others? (Allow responses.) This gift box is a reminder that God wants you to share the gifts and blessings He has given you to others so that He is glorified. Use the strips of paper with different gifts on them to give you an idea of how you can share your gifts every day.

Solomon's Steps

 The purpose is to use Solomon as a model for growing in wisdom so that we can please the Lord.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Solomon’s Steps” side (1 per camper)

Each finger has a step that Solomon took. Go over these with the campers and have them write the steps on the fingers.

1. Fear the Lord – obey His commandments (Psalm 111:10)
2. Acknowledge weakness – humble yourself
3. Pray – ask God to help and give you wisdom
4. Read God’s Word
5. Memorize and meditate on God’s Word (Psalm 119:11)

Tie It Together

 Solomon shows us how we can grow in wisdom. If we have fear of the Lord, we will obey His commandments. Psalm 111:10 says, “Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.” Next, we need to humble ourselves by acknowledging our weaknesses. We cannot live to worship and bring glory to God if we do not recognize that only He is good. We are sinners who deserve nothing; God is worthy of and deserves all our praise. In order to grow in wisdom, we must go to God in prayer and ask him to help us. We need to read God’s Word to learn more about who God is and understand how we can live like His Son Jesus. And lastly, we need to memorize and meditate on God’s Word. Psalm 119:11 and 13 says, “I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” We can grow in wisdom and understanding of how God wants us to live our life so that we can bring glory to Him.

Wrap It Up

Read James 1:5 with the campers.

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.”

How do we grow in wisdom? (Allow responses.) We ask for wisdom in prayer. We learn God's Word and put it in our hearts. We share our blessings with others. God provides us with blessings that we can use not for our own glory, but for His.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help you seek wisdom from Him, and open up opportunities for you to share the blessings He has given you with others.



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