

# Solomon's Wisdom

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Wednesday Plan

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 3

MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 9:10

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*Real wisdom starts with honoring God.*

## For the Teacher

Wednesday night reinforces what the kids learned on Sunday. Don't re-teach the whole lesson — they heard it. Your job tonight is to make it stick through review, movement, and prayer.

### KEY TRUTH

Real wisdom starts with honoring God.

**Same bottom line as Sunday, by design.** Wednesday uses the exact same sentence the kids heard on Sunday. Repeat it. Have them say it back. Don't paraphrase or soften it — the repetition is the point. A kid who hears the same sentence twice in three days will remember it.

**Tonight is kinetic.** Sunday was reading and discussion. Wednesday is feet. The whole back half of class is *Solomon's Choice* — a sorting game where each kid picks between an immediate prize and a “wisdom-coded” option, the same kind of choice Solomon faced. They don't always pick the wise one. That's the lesson.

**What to skip.** Don't re-read 1 Kings 3 in full. The kids heard it Sunday. Tonight you'll only re-read 1 Kings 3:9 and the memory verse. If a kid wasn't there Sunday, give them a one-sentence catch-up (“God told Solomon to ask for anything, and Solomon asked for a wise heart instead of money — so God gave him wisdom and threw in everything else”), then move on.

**Energy management.** Wednesday is shorter than Sunday and built around a kinetic game. Kids will get loud and competitive when they realize the “prize” envelopes are real. That's fine — the game requires it. Bring them back down for the closing prayer and take-home card.

### MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Two paper bags or boxes labeled **A** and **B**, on opposite sides of the room
- Eight to ten “choice cards” prepared in advance (see *Solomon's Choice* below)
- A small visible prize for the **A** box (a candy, a sticker — one per kid)
- **A Wise Heart** prayer cards (printed in advance from this week's activities)
- Pencils

## 1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. Tell them:

### SAY

*On Sunday we learned one big idea, and we're going to learn it again tonight. I want you to say it with me: Real wisdom starts with honoring God.*

Have them say it back. Then again, louder. Then in a whisper.

Write it on the board.

Tell them tonight is going to be different from Sunday — they'll be on their feet, making choices like Solomon did. But first, a quick review.

## 2. The Story

**Quick Review**

ASK

*Who can tell me what God offered Solomon in his dream?*

Let two or three kids answer. Steer toward: *anything Solomon wanted.*

ASK

*And what did Solomon ask for?*

*A wise and understanding heart. Not money. Not a long life. Not victory over enemies. Wisdom.*

ASK

*What did God do when he heard Solomon's prayer?*

You're looking for: *He gave Solomon the wisdom — and threw in the riches and honor too.* If a kid says "he gave him money," push back gently — *what did Solomon ask for first? That's what God was pleased with.*

**Re-Read the Verses**

Have them open to 1 Kings 3:9. Read it aloud, slowly.

**1 Kings 3:9**

Then have them turn to Proverbs 9:10.

**Proverbs 9:10**

ASK

*Where does wisdom start, according to Proverbs 9:10?*

*With the fear of the LORD — honoring God. Taking God seriously before you decide anything.*  
Say the bottom line again, with them: *Real wisdom starts with honoring God.*

## 3. The Work

**Solomon's Choice**

Set up two boxes on opposite sides of the room before class — **A** on the left, **B** on the right. **A** has a small visible prize inside (a candy, a sticker — show the kids what it is). **B** is closed and unmarked. The kids can see one prize and not the other.

Tell them: *I'm going to read a card. Each card has two options — A or B. You walk to the side of the room you choose. After everyone moves, I'll tell you what each one was actually worth.*

The trick: **A** is always the obvious immediate prize. **B** is always the wisdom-coded option that doesn't pay off right now — but matters later. Kids will pile up on **A** for the first few rounds. That's the point.

**Round 1 — Solomon's situation.**

Read this card first.

- A.** A bag of gold today.
- B.** A wise heart that lasts your whole life.

Let everyone walk. Most will pick **A**. Then say:

## SAY

*That's exactly the choice God offered Solomon. He could have asked for the gold. He picked the wise heart. And because he picked the wise heart, God also gave him the gold. The kid who chooses what God values gets everything else thrown in.*

**Round 2 — Your situation.**

Read each card. Kids walk. After each, ask *what was the wise choice, and why?* Connect every answer back to honoring God.

**A.** Cheat on a quiz so you get a 100. **B.** Get a 78 because you actually studied and told the truth.

**A.** Tell a small lie so your parents don't get mad. **B.** Tell the truth and take the consequence.

**A.** Spend your whole night on a game. **B.** Spend ten minutes praying and reading a Proverb.

**A.** Roast the kid that everybody else is roasting. **B.** Sit with the kid that nobody else is sitting with.

**A.** Decide on your own without asking anyone. **B.** Ask a parent or a leader who loves God before you decide.

After each card: *Which one was the wise choice? Why? Did anybody walk to the foolish side? Why is it tempting?* Don't shame the kids who picked **A** — let them be honest. Solomon's friends would have picked the gold too. The point isn't *getting it right* — the point is *seeing the difference*.

**Round 3 — The verse.**

One more card. Read it slowly.

**A.** Be the smartest kid in your class. **B.** Honor God with every choice you make.

Let them walk. Most should head to **B** by now. Then read Proverbs 9:10 aloud one more time:

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.*

## SAY

*You don't have to choose between being smart and honoring God. But if you had to pick one — pick honoring God. Smart without honor is just Solomon's son next week. We'll see what that looks like.*

**Bringing It Back**

Gather the kids back to the middle. Ask:

## ASK

*Was there a card where you knew the wise choice but you walked the foolish way anyway? Why?*

Let a few kids be honest. Then say:

## SAY

*Choosing the wise way is hard. Solomon was wise because he asked God for help — not because he figured it out on his own. James 1:5 says if any of you lacks wisdom, ask God, and he'll give it to you. Every kid in this room can pray that prayer. You don't have to be a king.*

## 4. The Point

### A Wise Heart Prayer Card

Hand out the **A Wise Heart** prayer cards. Have each student fill in the prompt:

*God, give me wisdom when I \_\_\_\_\_.*

Tell them they can write or draw. They'll take it home and put it somewhere they'll see it during the week — by their bed, on the fridge, on a desk.

#### NOTE

While they fill out the cards, walk around. If a kid is stuck, ask them: "What's a hard choice this week?" Help them turn it into a sentence.

### Memory Verse and Closing

When they're done, have everyone come back together and turn to Proverbs 9:10:

#### SCRIPTURE

*Proverbs 9:10*

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

Read it together once. Then say the bottom line one final time, with the kids:

#### SAY

*Real wisdom starts with honoring God.*

Close in prayer:

#### PRAY

*God, Solomon asked you for a wise heart, and you gave it to him. We're asking you for the same thing. When we look at our prayer cards this week, help us remember to ask you before we decide. Teach us to honor you first — and trust that everything else we need, you'll take care of. Amen.*