

## Bible background

1 Kings 3:3-28

## Aim of lesson

To show that God was pleased with Solomon's choice of wisdom.

## Preparation required

You will need a doll, crayons and two parcels. One should be small and plainly-wrapped containing a small bag of sweets, the other larger and fancily-wrapped, but empty.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Let the children see the two parcels and ask each one which parcel they would like to be given. When they have all chosen, let them open the two parcels. Try and draw from them the idea that what appears more attractive is not necessarily the best choice, and that those who were greedy and chose the bigger one would have been disappointed.
2. See what the children can remember about David and remind them that he had been a good king who loved God. Explain that when he died his son Solomon became king, and describe his feelings of inadequacy emphasising that kings at that time were much more powerful than a modern king or queen.
3. Tell the children how God appeared to Solomon and offered him anything he wanted. Let the children say what they would ask for, and what they think Solomon might have requested. Tell them what he did choose and God's reaction to his unselfish choice. Read the rhyme to the children and do the top half of the activity sheet, circling wisdom and ticking the other gifts God gave Solomon.
4. Show how wisely Solomon ruled by relating the story of the two women and one baby. Use the doll and let the children act out the part of the women. Make sure they realise that Solomon had no intention of harming the baby, but made the threat to see the reactions of the women. Tell how highly Solomon was regarded by his people because of his wisdom.
5. Complete the activity sheet by drawing a baby in the arms of its true mother and colouring the women.

## Alternative activities

1. This is quite an abstract concept for young children to understand and they may not be able to grasp the implications of the story of the two women. Don't worry about keeping things very simple, if this is more appropriate to your class. You could compare the word wise to the idea of being sensible, which the children will more readily understand.
2. Make a collage picture of things Solomon could have chosen. This could include clothes, jewels, coins, a palace, horses etc. The worksheet has some ideas to help you. Add a suitable heading e.g. Solomon could have asked for anything he wanted. Make a second picture headed Solomon asked for wisdom to help him be a good king. Get the children to help you make a picture of king Solomon surrounded by smiley people.
3. Some of the activity ideas suggested for lesson 81 may also be suitable for use with this lesson.

## Relevance to the children's lives

Talk about praying and the kind of things the children ask for; which choices would please God, and why.

## Prayer

Help the children to make up a prayer in which they ask for something that helps other people.

## Verse

'God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight.' 1 Kings 4:29.

## Rhyme

### What Would You Like?

As Solomon slept one night in his bed  
God came to him in a dream and said  
Ask what you want, I'll grant your request  
So Solomon had to decide what was best.  
Would it be jewels, fine clothes, great wealth?  
Would it be honour and glory, or health?  
If it were you, what would you like,  
Maybe a car, a big house, a new bike?  
Solomon chose a much better thing  
He asked for wisdom to help him be king.