

# 45. The Wisdom of Solomon

## *The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children*

### Notes for Parents & Teachers

#### 45. The Wisdom of Solomon

- a. This shows Solomon wasn't proud. Even though he was king, he knew he needed wisdom from the Lord to rule his people. And he cared about his people.
- b. It might be interesting to ask children what would happen if they were told they could ask for one thing and they would get it. You might prepare them for it by saying that this is a story about a king who could have asked for lots and lots of money or something, but he made a much better choice which would help lots of people. This might get them to think of something good they might choose.
- c. Ask them what Solomon must have thought when the Lord offered him anything if only he asked. What did he think? He thought, "I want to be the best king, who understands what was good and does it for his people."
- d. Notice that the Lord also gave him the things he might have asked for, like riches, and he was the best king.
- e. This story is easy to tell because of course Solomon had no intention of killing the baby. He absolutely knew that the real mother would never agree to having her baby cut in half. It showed he was very wise. He found a definite way to find out who the real mother was.



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## The Lord Gives Great Wisdom to King Solomon

King David had ruled over Israel for 40 years when he died. Solomon, his son, became king. Solomon loved the Lord, obeying the rules of his father, King David.

And the Lord God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, “Ask what I can give you.” Solomon said, “Now O Lord, you have made Your servant king but I am like a little child. So, give me a heart that hears, that I may judge Your people, and that I may understand between good and evil.” Then the Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this and the Lord said, “Because you have asked for this and not something for yourself nor have you asked for riches, I have given you a wise and understanding heart. I have also given you what you did not ask for—both riches and glory. There shall not be any king like you all the days of your life.”

And there came to King Solomon two women. One of them said, “Oh King, I and this woman live in the same house. We live there all alone, and we both had a little baby boy. On the third day this woman lay on her baby in her bed in the night and it died. So she got up and took my baby while I slept and put her dead baby in my bed. When I woke I saw she had my baby.” The other woman said, “No, my son is the living baby. Hers is the dead baby.” Then the first woman said, “No, your son is the dead one, mine is the living one.”

Then the king called for a sword and said, “Cut the baby in half, and give half to each woman.” The first woman said, “Oh my King, don’t kill the baby. Give it to her.” But the other woman said, “Cut the baby in half.” And then the king said, “Give the baby to the first woman, for she is the real mother.”

All of Israel heard how the king had judged. And they saw that the wisdom of the Lord was in King Solomon.

1 Kings 3

