

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 27**  
**Solomon's Wisdom and His Temple (I KINGS 3, 6)**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. The people we learn about in the Word do both good and evil things, just as we ourselves do.
- B. The Lord can be with us and help us as long as we obey Him.
- C. All our conflicts and distresses come from trust in self or in others instead of in the Lord.
- D. An understanding heart is true wisdom, i.e., the ability to distinguish right from wrong and to choose freely to do right.
- E. Basic correspondences:
  - Saul = natural understanding of truth
  - David = spiritual understanding of truth
  - Solomon = truth obeyed from love

**II. Story Circle**

- A. Introduce the Story
  - 1. So far we have learned about 2 kings of Israel. What were their names? (Saul, David)
  - 2. Do you remember how Saul and David were different from each other? (David obeyed the Lord's orders; Saul did what he thought was best.)
  - 3. Today we're going to learn about the third king of Israel. His name was Solomon, and he was one of king David's younger sons. The Lord had told David through Nathan, the prophet, that Solomon should be king after him, so David had Solomon anointed before he died.
- B. Solomon's Wisdom

One of the things that Solomon was known for was his wisdom. Do you know how he came to be very wise? The Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "What shall I give you?" Solomon could have asked for long life or riches or victory over his enemies, but instead he asked for an understanding heart so he could judge the people wisely. The Lord was pleased with Solomon's answer, so He promised Solomon not only an understanding heart, but long life and riches as well, as long as Solomon remembered to keep His commandments. Solomon did keep the Lord's commandments, and he became so famous for his wisdom that even kings and queens came to see him and ask him questions.

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Here is a story from the Word that shows how Solomon used his wisdom to Judge people fairly.

1. Tell/Read the Story: Read I Kings 3:16– 28.
2. Ideas to Discuss
  - a. Who was the 1st king of Israel? (Saul) the 2nd? (David) the 3rd? (Solomon)
  - b. What did Solomon ask of the Lord? (an understanding heart)
  - c. What did the Lord promise him? (an understanding heart, as well as riches and long life)
  - d. What did Solomon have to do to be sure the Lord could keep this promise? (obey His commandments)
  - e. What was the problem that two women brought to Solomon? (Both claimed the living baby was hers and the dead baby belonged to the other.)
  - f. How did Solomon figure out which really was the mother? (He was wise enough to know that the real mother would stop him from killing the child, and that the false mother would not.)

### C. Solomon's Temple

The other thing Solomon is known for is the beautiful temple he built to the Lord at Jerusalem. His father, David, had wanted to build the temple, but the Lord had said he must not because he was a "man of war." David's main Job while king was conquering all Israel's enemies so the children of Israel could settle peacefully in the land of Canaan. By the time Solomon became king after his father, there was peace in the land. The name Solomon means peace. And because Solomon was given many riches by the Lord, he could pay to build the beautiful temple.

1. Tell/Read the Story

Read these verses from I Kings 6 to give the students an idea of the temple's grandeur: 1, 7, 18– 19, 22– 23, 28– 30, 38.
2. Ideas to Discuss Literal Sense
  - a. What were the outside walls of the temple made of? (stone)
  - b. What is said about the way in which it was built [v. 7]? (No tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.)
  - c. What were the inside walls made of? (cedar– an aromatic wood)
  - d. What was the whole temple overlaid with? (gold)
  - e. How long did it take to build the temple? (7 years)

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### D. Further ideas

Solomon was king of Israel for 40 years, and Israel was at peace during that time. Solomon was a good and wise king, and the Lord rewarded him. But when Solomon became old, he turned away from the Lord and worshiped other gods. So the Lord became angry with Solomon and said to him, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. . . .However, I will not tear away the whole kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

So after Solomon died, Israel was divided into two kingdoms, and the people in the northern part became very bad. Next time we'll find out what the Lord did about that.

### III. Enrichment Activities

#### A. Music

1. "If I Had a Wish," LORI'S SONGS FROM THE WORD II, Side 2, 6th song. (Listen to before Story Circle and during project time.)
2. "I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my ways," HYMNAL #169.
3. "All that the Lord has spoken," HYMNAL #245.
4. "Kol asher dibber Y'HOWAH," HYMNAL #246. (Hebrew version of #245)

#### B. Activities

1. Play the Block Game— a cooperative group game. You will need wooden blocks for this game. Kids and teacher sit on the floor with the blocks in a pile in the middle. The teacher asks questions about the readings (these could be taken from the story circle). If a child answers correctly, he or she chooses a block and begins a foundation for a structure. The structure grows with each question answered correctly. Introduce the game by mentioning that a strong foundation means a strong house. (The idea is not necessarily to build Solomon's temple, but to build a structure that is sturdy and made by the group.)
2. Solomon's Wish
  - a. Fold a piece of paper in half, then open it up. On the top half, list or picture spiritual things that you might want the Lord to give you. On the lower half, list or picture some natural things that you might want some day. Discuss which of these things are more important. Where would Solomon's wish be placed?

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### C. Project

1. An Understanding Heart
  - a. See attached project adapted from General Church Religion Lessons, Family Lesson on I Kings 3.
2. The Wisdom of Solomon
  - a. See attached project from Sunday School Projects and Activities created by Lori Odhner, Wendy Hoo, and Sonia Werner.
3. Building the Temple (3-5 year olds)
  - a. See attached project from Sunday School Projects and Activities created by Lori Odhner, Wendy Hoo, and Sonia Werner.
4. Building the Temple (6-8 year olds)
  - a. See attached project from Sunday School Projects and Activities created by Lori Odhner, Wendy Hoo, and Sonia Werner.

### IV. Teaching Aids

Illustration(s) of:

- A. Solomon as king
- B. Solomon's temple

### V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. SAUL, DAVID AND SOLOMON by Hugo Lj. Odhner, Chapter 8, "Solomon Succeeds David."
- B. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 3, "The Wisdom of Solomon" (I Kings 3), pp.174– 187.
- C. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 3, "Building the Temple" (I Kings 6), pp.188– 202.

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