

## GODLY WISDOM – SOLOMON

### Objective

The children comprehend what it means to be wise.

### Contents

- The origin and effect of Solomon's wisdom (1 Kings 3).
- The construction of the temple.
- Do we act in a manner that pleases God?



## Lesson Plan

### Lead-In

#### Teacher's Presentation

We know that the dear God is almighty. If he wanted to, he could fulfil all our wishes.

#### Question Prompt

Imagine God were addressing us directly now and asked us, "I will fulfil one wish for you. What do you wish for?" What wish would you have?

Let all children who raise their hand express their wish without evaluating what they say. Then tell the children that today we will talk about Solomon whom God asked about his wish.

### Implementation

#### Teacher's Presentation

When David had grown old, he appointed his son Solomon, who at the time was a little more than 20 years old, to be king. The young man was faced with difficult tasks. He also became the head of state, the highest judge and commander-in-chief.

God appeared to the young king in a dream and said, "Ask what I shall give thee" (1 Kings 3:5).

#### Bible

Discuss 1 Kings 3:9–12 with the children:

*"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked for riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; behold I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee."*

#### Discussion

Solomon knew that it was a great responsibility to lead and judge the people of Israel. He was a God-fearing man and asked God for a heart which could understand what is good and bad. Other translations of the Bible refer to a 'listening' heart that is able to differentiate between good and evil.

## Question Prompt

God gave Solomon a wise and understanding heart, but over and above that, he also gave him great riches and honour.

What is a wise heart?

Discuss that, from the story of Solomon, we are able to learn what it means to act wisely.

Compile the following points under the heading

## Board

**Those are wise who**

- In order to be wise, we must be able to listen with our heart in order to recognize what is good and evil. To attain godly wisdom, we have to pay attention to God's word.

## Board

**Those are wise who**

– heed God's word

- Solomon was aware that he was to be a tool in God's hand in order to lead the people of Israel according to God's will. He needed a wise heart to understand what God wanted.

## Board

**Those are wise who**

- heed God's word,
- understand what God wants

## Workbook, Text

- Even Jesus spoke about Solomon's wisdom (cf. Matthew 12:42). One example of his wisdom is the judgement he pronounced when two women were arguing about a child.

The children assume the various roles and read the section entitled 'Solomon, the Wise Judge'.

Solomon made a very wise decision here. By means of his command to divide the child, it became clear who really was the mother. This enabled him to pronounce a just judgement.

## Board

Those are wise who

- heed God’s word,
- understand what God wants, and
- find and recognize the truth.

Aided by the text on the board, apply the concept of wisdom to our life.

To have wisdom in the godly sense, it is firstly necessary to hear God’s timely word and move it in one’s heart.

This is the prerequisite for understanding what God wants.

His word is truth. Grasping godly truth leads us to knowledge. From this develops the ability to act wisely.

Solomon was able to pronounce a just judgement because he had a wise heart. We act wisely if we do not judge rashly or unjustly. In the sermon on the mount the Lord Jesus said, *“Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again”* (Matthew 7:1–2). As human beings we often judge rashly by not listening properly with our heart.

## Workbook

The children now transfer what is on the board into their workbook.

## Discussion

Examine the theme picture with the children and let them tell what they know about the construction of the temple.

## Workbook, Text

At that time, erecting such a structure was an unimaginable task. To give the children some idea about this, read the corresponding section “The Construction of the Temple” in the workbook. In the discussion that follows about this report, elaborate especially on the following:

## Discussion

- Already King David, Solomon’s father, wanted to build a house for the Lord. God, however, passed this task on to Solomon.
- Solomon’s might and wisdom as well as God’s help enabled him to fulfil this difficult responsibility.
- Solomon used the most precious materials in constructing this house of God.
- During Solomon’s reign his wisdom had significant impact. The people of Israel attained prosperity and success.

**Teacher's Presentation**

Add the following regarding the time of King Solomon's reign:

■ Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. A portion of these works are found in the following books of the Bible:

- The Proverbs,
- Ecclesiastes, and
- The Song of Solomon.

Also in these works it is possible to recognize the special wisdom with which God equipped this king.

■ During Solomon's reign, the kingdom of Israel expanded most significantly, and was at peace with its neighbours. The name 'Solomon' has the same linguistic root as the Jewish greeting *Shalom* (= peace).

■ Toward the end of his reign, Solomon permitted the practice of idolatry in the kingdom of Israel. God then announced that Solomon's descendants would no longer rule over ten of the tribes of Israel (i.e., the northern part of the kingdom).

**Conclusion****Workbook, Exercise**

The children work on the exercise.

From the psalm it follows that the fear of God is the prerequisite for being wise.

**Notes**


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