Preschool–Grade 6

The Queen of Sheba

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: True wisdom comes from God. When we see God at work, we praise Him, and we can ask Him for wisdom too.
Bible passage: 1 Kings 10:1–13. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice." *1 Kings 10:9 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: What's Worth More? (5–10 minutes)

Read two things at a time. Kids point left for the first or right for the second to show which is worth more. 1) A bag of candy or a good friend. 2) A new video game or your family. 3) A pile of gold or knowing the right thing to do. 4) A big house or a heart that loves God. Talk about the answers. Say: "Today we will meet a queen who already had very much gold, but she traveled a long way to hear wisdom."

2. Bible story: The Queen Who Came to Hear Wisdom (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to 1 Kings 10. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Where Solomon's wisdom came from. When Solomon was a young king, God asked what He should give him, and Solomon asked for an understanding heart (1 Kings 3:9). God gave him "a wise and an understanding heart" (1 Kings 3:12).

The queen hears. Look up 1 Kings 10:1. Fame means what people said about him. **Prove** means test. People were talking about Solomon and about the name of the LORD, the God he served.

The trip. The queen came to Jerusalem with a very great **train**, a long line of servants and animals. Her camels **bare**, which means carried, spices, very much gold and precious stones (10:2). She **communed** with Solomon, which means she talked with him, about all that was in her heart (10:2). **Look up 1 Kings 10:3.** Solomon answered every question. Nothing was too hard for him.

What she saw. She saw Solomon's wisdom, the house he had built, the **meat** (food) of his table, how his servants sat and served, their **apparel** (clothes), his **cupbearers** (servants who brought the king his drinks), and his **ascent**, the way he went up to the house of the LORD (10:4–5). "There was no more spirit in her" (10:5): she was so amazed it took her breath away.

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What she said. She told the king the **report** (what she had heard) was true, but she had not believed it until she saw it herself (10:6–7). **Look up 1 Kings 10:7. Howbeit** means but; **exceedeth** means is greater than. She said his servants were happy to hear his wisdom every day (10:8). **Look up 1 Kings 10:9.** The queen praised the LORD for making Solomon king "to do judgment and justice," to do what is right and fair.

The gifts. Look up 1 Kings 10:10. A **talent** was a very heavy weight of gold. **Look up 1 Kings 10:13. Royal bounty** means gifts the king gave freely. Then she went home with her servants.

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The queen already had very much gold (10:2), but she came a long way to hear wisdom. Why do you think wisdom was worth the trip?
2. Solomon's wisdom came from God (1 Kings 3:12). Who do you go to when you have a hard question? How can you go to God?
3. The queen didn't believe it until she saw it (10:7). Is it hard to believe something until you see it? How does God help us believe?
4. When the queen saw Solomon's wisdom, she praised the LORD, not just Solomon (10:9). When someone is good at something, how can we thank God for it?
5. James 1:5 says God gives wisdom to anyone who asks. Where do you need wisdom this week?

Recall questions

1. To which city did the queen come? *(Jerusalem, 1 Kings 10:2)*
2. How many talents of gold did she give the king? *(An hundred and twenty, 10:10)*
3. What did King Solomon give her? *(All her desire, whatsoever she asked, and more from his royal bounty, 10:13)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **blessed be** means praise; **delighted in thee** means was glad about you; **judgment and justice** means doing what is right and fair. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The queen came a long way to hear Solomon. Jesus said, 'behold, a greater than Solomon is here' (Matthew 12:42, KJV). He was talking about Himself. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: each morning, ask God for wisdom for one thing you have to do that day (James 1:5).

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. 1 Kings 3:12: What kind of heart did God give Solomon? *(A wise and an understanding heart)*
2. 1 Kings 10:1: What did the queen hear about Solomon? *(His fame concerning the name of the LORD)*
3. 1 Kings 10:2: What did the camels carry? *(Spices, very much gold and precious stones)*
4. 1 Kings 10:5: Where did Solomon go up by his ascent? *(Unto the house of the LORD)*
5. 1 Kings 10:7: How much had the queen been told? *(Not even half: "the half was not told me")*
6. 1 Kings 10:8: Who did the queen say were happy? *(Solomon's men and servants, who stood before him and heard his wisdom)*
7. 1 Kings 10:9: Why did the LORD make Solomon king? *(Because the LORD loved Israel for ever, to do judgment and justice)*
8. 1 Kings 10:24: Who put wisdom in Solomon's heart? *(God)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You give wisdom to everyone who asks. Help us come to You with our hard questions, and help us praise You when we see what You do. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks what the hard questions were or where Sheba was: the Bible doesn't tell us her questions (1 Kings 10:1–3). Jesus said she came "from the uttermost parts of the earth" (Matthew 12:42), so it was very far away.

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