Preschool–Grade 6

The Queen of Sheba

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God makes people wise.
Bible passage: 1 Kings 10. Read 1 Kings 10:1–13 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Blessed be the LORD thy God" *1 Kings 10:9 (KJV)*. **Blessed be** means praise.
You need: a Bible, a few beanbags or blocks to be "gifts," crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Kings 10. Pick one corner of the room to be "Jerusalem."

1. Opening game: Camel Walk (5 minutes)

Kids get down on hands and knees and walk like camels. Put a beanbag or block on each child's back. They walk slowly to the "Jerusalem" corner without dropping their "gift." Say: "Camels carry things a long, long way! Today we will hear a true story about a queen who came on a long trip with camels."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Kings 10. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

God made King Solomon very wise (1 Kings 3:12). *(Tap your head.)*
Far away, a queen heard about Solomon (1 Kings 10:1). *(Cup your hand by your ear.)*
She had hard questions to ask him (10:1). *(Scratch your head: hmm?)*
She came a long way with camels (10:2). *(Walk slowly in place.)*
The camels carried spices, gold and pretty stones (10:2). *(Hold out your hands full of gifts.)*
She asked Solomon all her questions (10:2). *(Hold up fingers, one, two, three.)*
Solomon answered every one (10:3)! *(Thumbs up!)*
Say it with me: "God made Solomon wise!"
The queen was so surprised (10:5, 10:7). *(Hands on your cheeks: wow!)*
She said, "Blessed be the LORD thy God" (10:9). *(Lift your hands up high.)*
Say it with me: "Blessed be the LORD!"
She gave the king gifts, and he gave her gifts (10:10, 10:13). *(Hand a pretend gift to a friend.)*
Then she went home (10:13). *(Wave goodbye.)*

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who made Solomon wise? *(God, 1 Kings 3:12)*
2. What did the queen's camels carry? *(Spices, gold and precious stones, 1 Kings 10:2)*
3. What did the queen say about God? *("Blessed be the LORD thy God," 10:9)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The queen said, 'Blessed be the LORD thy God.' That means 'Praise the LORD!'" Teach the motion: start with your hands low, then lift them up high over your head. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "1 Kings 10:9" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: Camel Gifts (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a camel (a big bump on its back is fine) with gifts on top. They color the gifts yellow for gold and bright colors for the pretty stones. While they color, ask: "Who made Solomon wise? What did the queen say?" Kids who finish early can do the Camel Walk again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Blessed be the LORD!
Thank You, God, for making people wise.
Help me be wise too. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the camel walk slow and silly, and let every child carry a gift. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks what the hard questions were: say the Bible doesn't tell us, but Solomon answered every one because God made him wise (1 Kings 10:3).

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