Preschool–Grade 6

The Queen of Sheba

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Seek wisdom from God, and when you see Him at work, give Him the praise.
Bible passage: 1 Kings 10:1–13. Students read it out loud themselves. Background: 1 Kings 3:5–12.
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)* and "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." *Proverbs 2:6 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read 1 Kings 3:5–12, 1 Kings 10:1–13 and Matthew 12:42. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

1. Opening game: Where Would You Go? (5–10 minutes)

Read each question. Students call out where people their age usually go for the answer (a friend, the internet, a parent, a teacher, the Bible, prayer). 1) How do I fix this math problem? 2) What should I do when a friend is being treated badly? 3) Is God real? 4) What should I do with my life? Ask: *Which questions need more than information? Who has wisdom for those?* Say: "A queen once traveled a very long way because she had hard questions."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Background (tell it): God appeared to young King Solomon and said, "Ask what I shall give thee" (1 Kings 3:5). Solomon asked for "an understanding heart" (1 Kings 3:9) to judge God's people, and God gave him "a wise and an understanding heart" (1 Kings 3:12).
Read out loud: 1 Kings 10:1–13. Students take turns, a few verses each. Verses 11–12 are a side note about King Hiram's ships and almug trees; read them, then come back to the queen. Old words in this passage:

- **fame... concerning the name of the LORD** (10:1): what people said about Solomon and the God he served; **prove** (10:1): test
- **train** (10:2): a long line of servants and animals; **bare** (10:2): carried; **communed** (10:2): talked
- **meat of his table** (10:5): food; **attendance of his ministers** (10:5): how his officials served; **apparel** (10:5): clothes; **cupbearers** (10:5): servants who brought the king his drinks; **ascent** (10:5): the way he went up to the house of the LORD
- **no more spirit in her** (10:5): she was breathless with amazement
- **howbeit** (10:7): but; **exceedeth the fame** (10:7): is greater than what people said
- **judgment and justice** (10:9): what is right and fair; **talents** (10:10): very heavy weights of gold; **royal bounty** (10:13): gifts the king gave freely

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. The queen heard of Solomon's fame "concerning the name of the LORD" (10:1). What do people hear about God from the way you live?
2. She came "to prove him with hard questions" (10:1) and talked about "all that was in her heart" (10:2). What hard questions are in your heart? Who can you bring them to?
3. She said, "I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it" (10:7). Why do people often need to see it for themselves? How can your life help someone see?
4. She praised the LORD, not just Solomon (10:9). Why does it matter who gets the credit for wisdom and gifts?
5. Jesus said, "behold, a greater than Solomon is here" (Matthew 12:42). What does it mean that Jesus is greater than the wisest king who ever lived?
6. Proverbs 2:6 says the LORD gives wisdom, and James 1:5 says to ask God for it. Where do you need wisdom from God right now?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in 1 Kings 10:9 and Proverbs 2:6: **blessed be** means praise; **delighted in thee** means was glad about you; **judgment and justice** means what is right and fair; **giveth** means gives; **cometh** means comes. Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say 1 Kings 10:9 this week; keep working on Proverbs 2:6 next week too.

5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "The queen came from far away to hear Solomon, but Jesus said, 'behold, a greater than Solomon is here' (Matthew 12:42, KJV). God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. What is one hard question in my heart that I want to bring to God?
2. Where have I seen God at work this year, and have I given Him the praise for it?
3. Write a short prayer asking God for wisdom (James 1:5) for one choice you face this week.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: when something goes well, say out loud who it came from: "Blessed be the LORD."

7. Prayer

"Dear God, You give wisdom, and out of Your mouth comes knowledge and understanding. Give us wisdom for the choices in front of us, and help us give You the praise. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a student asks about the queen's questions or where Sheba was: stay with what the Bible says. It doesn't record her questions, only that "Solomon told her all her questions" (1 Kings 10:3). Jesus called her "the queen of the south" who "came from the uttermost parts of the earth" (Matthew 12:42); the Bible doesn't put Sheba on a map.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post