Preschool–Grade 6

The Queen of Sheba

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: True wisdom comes from God, so we praise Him for it.
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, 6 paper strips, a marker, tape, a few small "gifts" to carry (blocks, beanbags or yellow paper squares), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 paper strips (see part 4). Pick one corner of the room to be "Jerusalem." Put bookmarks in your Bible at 1 Kings 10:7 and 1 Kings 10:9.

1. Opening game: Hard Questions (5 minutes)

Ask the class questions that start easy and get harder and harder. "What color is grass?" "How many legs does a dog have?" "What is 10 plus 10?" "How many stars are in the sky?" "How many hairs are on my head?" "What will the weather be one year from today?" Soon no one knows the answer! Say: "Some questions are too hard for us. But God knows everything. Today we will meet a queen who came a long way with hard questions, and a king God made very wise."

2. Bible story: The Queen Who Came to Hear Wisdom (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Kings 10, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Solomon was the king of Israel. God gave Solomon "a wise and an understanding heart" (1 Kings 3:12). Far away lived a **queen**, a woman who ruled a land called **Sheba**. She heard about how famous Solomon was, and what people said about him and the name of the LORD (1 Kings 10:1). She wanted to **prove** him, which means test him, with **hard questions** (10:1).

So she came to **Jerusalem** with a very great **train**. A train here means a long line of servants and animals traveling together. Her camels carried **spices** (plants that smell and taste good), very much **gold**, and **precious stones**, which are costly, beautiful stones (10:2).

The queen talked with Solomon about everything that was in her heart (10:2). And Solomon answered all her questions. Not one question was too hard for him (10:3)!

The queen looked all around. She saw Solomon's wisdom and the house he built. She saw the food on his table, his servants and how they served, their clothes, and the way he went up to the house of the LORD (10:4–5). She was so amazed it took her breath away (10:5).

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The story continues: The queen said, "It was a true report that I heard in mine own land." Everything she had heard was true! She had not believed it until she came and saw it with her own eyes (10:6–7). **Read 1 Kings 10:7 from your Bible.** Point to the words "the half was not told me." Say: "That means, 'People did not even tell me half of how wise you are!'"

She said Solomon's servants were happy, because they stood near him and heard his wisdom (10:8). Then she praised God. **Read 1 Kings 10:9 from your Bible:** "Blessed be the LORD thy God..." Say: "She knew Solomon's wisdom came from the LORD, so she praised the LORD!"

The queen gave the king a hundred and twenty **talents** of gold, a lot of spices and precious stones (10:10). A talent was a very heavy weight of gold. And King Solomon gave the queen all she wanted, whatever she asked, and more gifts besides (10:13). Then she went home to her own land with her servants (10:13).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Why did the queen of Sheba come to see Solomon? *(To prove him, to test him, with hard questions, 1 Kings 10:1)*
2. What did her camels carry? *(Spices, very much gold and precious stones, 10:2)*
3. Could Solomon answer her questions? *(Yes, all of them, 10:3)*
4. What did she say after she saw it all? *("The half was not told me," 10:7)*
5. Who gave Solomon his wisdom? *(God, 1 Kings 3:12. That is why she said, "Blessed be the LORD thy God," 10:9)*

4. Memory verse: Gift Line Verse (5 minutes)

Tape the 6 strips up in order: *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.* 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 together. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The queen came a long way to hear Solomon's wisdom. Jesus said that someone greater than Solomon had come: Jesus Himself (Matthew 12:42). God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: when you don't know what to do, ask God to help you choose wisely (James 1:5). When He helps you, say, "Blessed be the LORD!"

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **queen of Sheba word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/queen-of-sheba-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/queen-of-sheba-craft), or **Gift Train:** the kids line up as the queen's long train. Each child carries one "gift" (a block or a yellow paper square for gold). The train walks slowly around the room to the "Jerusalem" corner. When each child arrives, they set down the gift and say, "Blessed be the LORD!" Then ask one question from part 3 and walk the train back home.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You give wisdom. Help us ask You for wisdom and make wise choices. We praise You, like the queen did. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks what the queen's hard questions were: the Bible doesn't tell us. It says only that she asked him about "all that was in her heart" and that Solomon answered them all (1 Kings 10:2–3).

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