Preschool–Grade 5

Solomon Craft

A night card where a dream cloud lifts to show an understanding heart · 1 Kings 3 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

Medium (left): a night card with a dark blue sky, a yellow moon and yellow stars, a green hill on the left with a gray stone altar and orange fire on top, and a light blue dream cloud glued by its top edge in the sky on the right, lifted a little to show a red heart under it. Harder (right): the same card with a brown treasure chest glued on the ground in the bottom right corner, its lid lifted to show yellow gold coins.

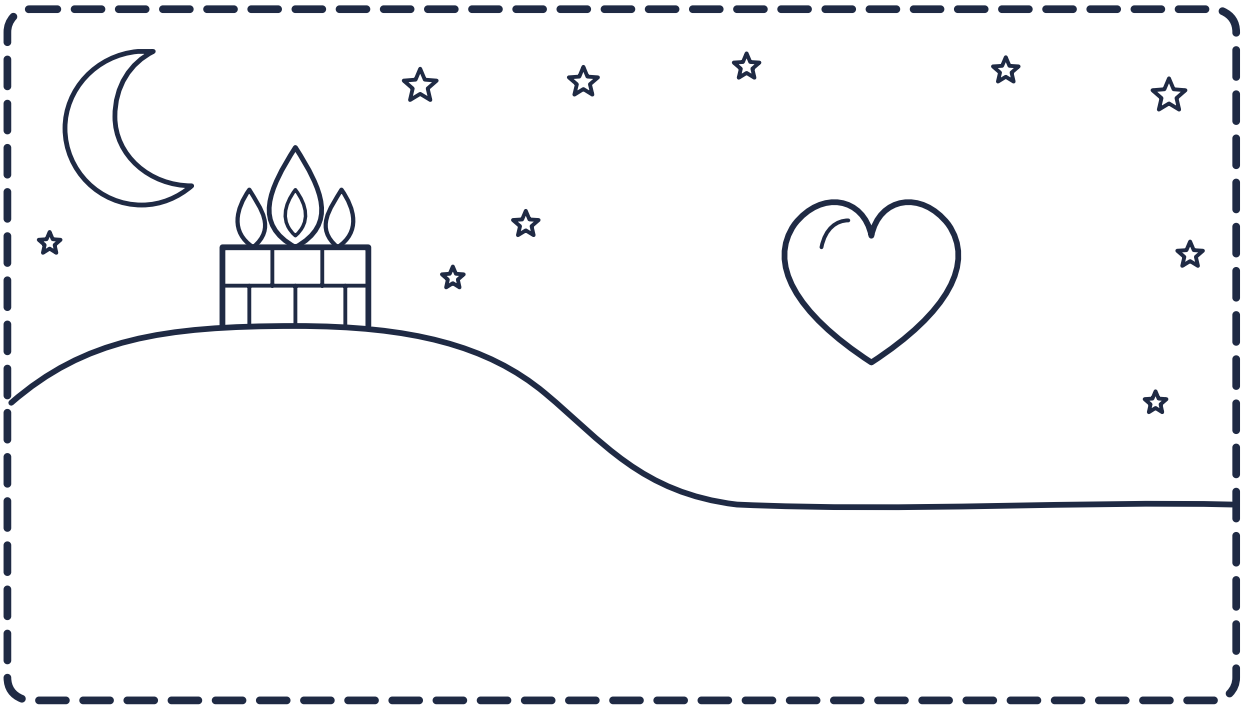
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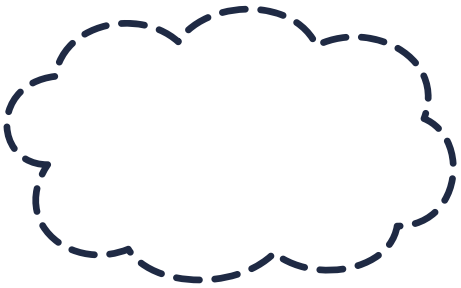
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Night card: color the sky dark blue, the moon and stars yellow, the hill green, the altar gray, the fire orange and the heart red

Gibeon by night (1 Kings 3:4–5). The heart is the understanding heart (3:9).



Dream cloud: color it light blue

Glue only its top edge, over the heart.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 1:5 (KJV)

Verse card: glue it on the back

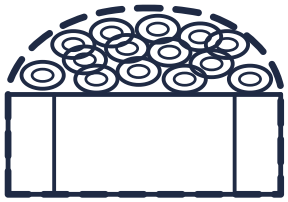
of the night card, the verse facing out.

Lift the cloud: God gave Solomon "a wise and an understanding heart" (1 Kings 3:12).

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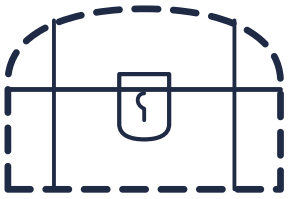
Name: _____

✂ Harder level



Open chest: coins yellow, chest brown

Glue it flat on the ground, bottom right.



Chest lid: color it brown

Glue only its top edge, over the open chest.

God also gave Solomon "that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour" (1 Kings 3:13).

How to add the treasure chest

1. Make the night card from page 2, with the verse card glued on the back and the dream cloud glued over the heart.
2. Color the coins yellow. Color the chest and the chest lid brown.
3. Cut out the open chest and the chest lid on their dashed lines.
4. Glue the open chest flat on the ground in the bottom right corner of the night card, under the cloud and away from the hill.
5. Put a thin line of glue on the back of the lid along its top edge only, and press it over the open chest so it closes the chest.
6. Lift the lid to show the gold coins. Solomon asked only for an understanding heart, and God said, "I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour" (1 Kings 3:13).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/solomon-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), dark blue, yellow, green, gray, orange, red and light blue crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a brown crayon.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's night card, dream cloud and verse card, and glue the verse card on the back of the night card. Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out the pieces and glue the verse card on the back. Kids color the card and the cloud. Help them glue the cloud on by its top edge. They lift the cloud to find the heart while you say, "Solomon asked God for an understanding heart!"
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, glue the verse card on the back and glue the cloud over the heart. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make it like the medium level, then add the treasure chest from page 3, with a lid that lifts to show the riches God gave too (1 Kings 3:13). They say James 1:5 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why there are no people: the craft draws no people. The altar and the night sky show the place and the time: "In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night" (1 Kings 3:5). The heart is what Solomon asked for: "an understanding heart" (3:9). The chest shows what God gave him that he did not ask for (3:13).

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** on the night card, color the sky dark blue, the moon and stars yellow, the hill green, the altar gray, the fire orange and the heart red. Color the dream cloud light blue.
2. **Cut:** cut out the night card, the dream cloud and the verse card on the dashed lines.
3. **Glue the verse card:** turn the night card face down. Glue the verse card on its back, with the verse facing out.
4. **Glue the cloud:** turn the night card face up. Put a thin line of glue on the back of the cloud along its top edge only, and press it over the heart. The cloud hides the heart and lifts up like a flap.
5. **Tell the story:** point to the altar at Gibeon (1 Kings 3:4). "In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee" (3:5). Lift the cloud: Solomon asked for "an understanding heart" (3:9), and God gave him "a wise and an understanding heart" (3:12). Turn it over and read James 1:5 together.

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the altar. Where did Solomon go to offer to the LORD? *(Gibeon, the great high place. He offered a thousand burnt offerings, 1 Kings 3:4)*
- Point to the moon and stars. When did the LORD appear to Solomon? *(In a dream by night, 3:5)* What did God say? *("Ask what I shall give thee," 3:5)*
- Lift the cloud. What did Solomon ask for? *(An understanding heart, to judge God's people and to tell good from bad, 3:9)*
- Did God like what Solomon asked? *(Yes. "The speech pleased the Lord," 3:10)*
- Lift the chest lid (harder level). What else did God give Solomon? *(Riches and honour, which he had not asked for, 3:13)*

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** high place = a hilltop place where people offered sacrifices; burnt offerings = gifts burned on the altar to God; discern = tell the difference; judge = decide what is right; honour = respect and a great name; lack = do not have enough; liberally = freely, with a big heart; upbraideth not = does not scold you for asking.
- **What the Bible says:** the LORD appeared to Solomon "in a dream by night" at Gibeon (1 Kings 3:5), so the card is a night sky. Gibeon was "the great high place," with an altar where Solomon offered (3:4), so the card shows a hill and an altar. The Bible doesn't say what Solomon saw in the dream, so the cloud is only a way to show "a dream." It doesn't describe a crown or a palace in this chapter, so the card doesn't show one.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and glue the verse card on ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Gluing the cloud:** glue only the top edge. If glue gets on the middle, the cloud won't lift; lift it once before the glue dries.
- **Harder level:** glue the lid by its top edge only, the same way as the cloud, so the chest opens and shuts.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free King Solomon Bible lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/solomon.

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