Preschool–Grade 6

King Solomon Asks for Wisdom

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

Main point: Solomon asked God for help. I can ask God for help too.
Bible passage: 1 Kings 3. Read the whole chapter yourself before class.
Memory verse: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God" *James 1:5 (KJV)*. **Wisdom** means knowing the right thing to do.
You need: a Bible, a small box or gift bag with a paper heart inside, 6 to 10 more paper hearts, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put one paper heart in the box and close it. Hide the other hearts around the room. Put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Kings 3:5.

1. Opening game: What's in the Box? (5 minutes)

Shake the closed box. Let the kids guess what's inside. Then open it and hold up the heart. Say: "A heart! Today we will hear a true story about King Solomon. God told him, 'Ask for anything!' And Solomon asked for a heart that understands."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Kings 3. 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.

Solomon was King David's son. Solomon was the new king (1 Kings 3:7). *(Stand up tall like a king.)*
Solomon loved God (3:3). *(Hug yourself.)*
He went to a place called Gibeon to give offerings to God (3:4). *(Walk in place.)*
At night, Solomon went to sleep (3:5). *(Lay your head on your hands.)*
In a dream, God said, "Ask what I shall give thee" (3:5). *(Cup your hand by your ear.)*
Solomon said, "I am just a child. I need help" (3:7). *(Shrug your shoulders.)*
Solomon asked for a heart that understands, to know good from bad (3:9). *(Make a heart with your hands.)*
Say it with me: "Give me an understanding heart!"
God was happy with what Solomon asked (3:10). *(Big smile.)*
God made Solomon very wise (3:12). *(Point to your head.)*
God gave him riches too (3:13). *(Hold out full arms.)*
Say it with me: "I can ask God for help!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who talked to Solomon in a dream? *(God, the LORD, 1 Kings 3:5)*
2. What did Solomon ask for? *(A heart that understands, 3:9)*
3. Was God happy? *(Yes! 3:10)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God.' **Lack** means you don't have enough. **Wisdom** means knowing the right thing to do." Teach the motions: shrug your shoulders for "if any of you lack wisdom," then fold your hands to pray for "let him ask of God." Say it three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "James 1:5" 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: Heart Hunt (5–10 minutes)

Kids hunt for the paper hearts you hid around the room. Each time a child finds one, everyone says, "I can ask God for help!" Count the hearts together. Then give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big heart and color it red.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for helping me.
Help me know what is right. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let every child find at least one heart. If they get wiggly, play What's in the Box? again with a different thing inside. The story of the two women and the baby (1 Kings 3:16–28) is left out of this level on purpose. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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