

Justice Is Done!

April 26, 2020—Lesson 9

Background Scripture: 1 Kings 3:1-28 • **Lesson Scripture:** 1 Kings 3:16-28

Key Verse: When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice. (1 Kings 3:28)

Faith Block: God gives me wisdom!

Lesson Objective: The children will have opportunities to praise God for giving us wisdom when we ask for it.

Materials Needed: *Picture Lesson Cards*, Bible, rug, markers, crayons or coloring pencils, line-art coloring pages related to today's lesson, a stuffed animal, blocks, books, other toddler toys, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children's Resource Kit [lesson 9 materials]).

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A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ Prior to class, secure a large stuffed animal.

Welcome: Greet the parents as they bring their children into the room. Engage any children who arrive early—with blocks, books, and other toddler toys—in order to maintain their attention. Gather the children and help them settle down when you are ready to begin class.

Opening Worship and Activity: Tell the children that it is prayer time. Let them know that prayer time is when we talk to God. Tell the children to bow their heads and close their eyes, and then lead them in prayer.

Have the children sit down at the classroom table or let them sit on an area rug on the floor. Select two children as volunteers.

Say: God gave King Solomon wisdom to solve problems. In today's lesson, two women claim one baby! (*Present the stuffed animal and let the two children both pull on the stuffed animal, pretending to engage in a tug-of-war.*)

Ask: How do you think the king discovered who the real mother was? (*Pause for responses.*) Let's read our story to see!

Prepare the class for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story: Hold up the lesson 9 Picture Lesson Card where all the students can see it. Point to the images and see if the children can name the artwork shown. Assist as needed.

Say: God gave King Solomon great wisdom.

Read or tell the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

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One time, two women each had a baby. One woman's baby died. Each of the women claimed that the living child was hers. King Solomon gave an order to cut the child in two and give half to each woman. The true mother begged for the child's life. She even said to give the child to the other woman. The second woman did not care if the child was cut in half. King Solomon gave the baby to the real mother.

All of Israel heard the story and knew that God was with King Solomon. God had given Solomon great wisdom.

C STACKS OF FUN

A Read-aloud Poem: Refer to the lesson 9 Bible Story Application (*page 67*) and teach the children the read-aloud poem "A Wise Choice."

☺ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** Present Pax to the class. (See the *Early Elementary* teacher book, *pages 35–36*, for suggestions on how to present Pax.) The script for Pax appears below.

Pax: Hello, girls and boys! In today's Bible story, who made King Solomon the wisest man that ever lived? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, God did! Will God give us wisdom too? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! Now, let's thank God. Repeat after me: "Thank You, God (*pause*), for wisdom." Good job, boys and girls.

Let Pax wave good-bye and/or hug the children.

D CLOSING BLOCK

Review the lesson with the children by emphasizing parts of the Bible story. Or retell the Bible story, using the Picture Lesson Card. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you. Afterward, say the prayer on the Picture Lesson Card. Distribute the Picture Lesson Cards to parents/guardians when they arrive to pick up their children.

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Faith Block: God gives us wisdom when we ask for it!

Lesson Objective: The children will hear about the wisdom of King Solomon that he received from God.

Materials Needed: *Preschool* student books, Bibles, star-shaped stickers, markers, pencils, crayons or coloring pencils, paper, transparent tape, a praise and worship CD and CD player (or other media device), (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 9 materials]).

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A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ Prior to class, clear a space in the classroom for ease of movement.

Welcome: Greet the children and parents with a warm and inviting smile. Thank the parents for bringing their children to class and tell the children how glad you are to see them.

Opening Worship and Activity: After the students are seated, open the session with prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings. Briefly tell the children that they will hear a story of how a king helped to settle a serious argument.

Say: God gave a man named Solomon wisdom to make good choices. We are going to play a game called “Solomon Says.” In this game, the leader will say what to do and you will follow it. But you will only do it if the leader says, “Solomon says” *first*. Let’s practice.

When it is clear that the children understand the rules, play the game, emphasizing the words “SOLOMON SAYS” before the command. (Example: Say, “Solomon says, ‘smile at someone.’” [*Everyone should smile at someone else.*] Then say, “Clap your hands.” [*No one should clap their hands because you did NOT say, “Solomon says” first.*]) You may allow the children to take turns being the leader who gives the commands after you.

Play this game until it is time to start the lesson. Then prepare the children for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story: Say: Let’s listen carefully to this story about two women, a baby, and King Solomon.

Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

Justice Is Done!

Two women came to King Solomon arguing over one baby. One said, “My son is alive, yours is dead.” The second woman said the same thing.

Solomon knew how to find the truth! He told his servants to bring a sword. Then he said, “Cut the child in two. Give half to one woman and half to the other.”

The woman who loved her child said, “Please, give her the living child. Don’t kill him!” But the other woman said, “Cut him in two!”

The king replied, “Give the child to the first woman. Don’t kill him. *She* is his mother.”

People were amazed at Solomon’s wisdom!

Bible Story Application: Refer to the lesson 9 Bible Story Application (*page 67*) and teach the children the read-aloud poem “A Wise Choice.”

☺ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** If you purchased Pax the Penguin, use the script printed in the *Early Elementary* teacher book for lesson 9 (*page 54*). See suggestions on how to present Pax on *pages 35–36* of this teacher book.

C STACKS OF FUN

Which Babies Are the Same?: Have the children complete the activity. They may match up the babies by drawing lines connecting the matching pair, or by circling the two that are the same. Help them realize why the two baby boys in blue are the same and are different from the other two babies.

Solomon Shows Wisdom and Justice: Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible story with them.

D CLOSING BLOCK

Say the Key Verse, and let the children repeat it after you. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you: “God gives us wisdom when we ask for it!” Then close the class session with prayer.

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Background Scripture: 1 Kings 3:1-28 • **Lesson Scripture:** 1 Kings 3:16-28

Key Verse: When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice. (1 Kings 3:28)

Faith Block: God gives me wisdom to make good choices!

Lesson Objective: The children will begin to understand the importance of making just decisions in everyday life.

Materials Needed: *Early Elementary* student books, Bibles (NIV translation), index cards, pencils, coloring pencils, crayons, markers, happy-face stickers, masking or transparent tape (to post attendance chart), reward stickers, puzzles or coloring pages, a praise and worship music CD, CD player, sturdy white card stock, scissors, tape, a stapler, craft jewels, other decorating items, tacky glue, a basket, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 9 materials]).

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A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ If you purchased Pax the Penguin, decide whether you or someone else will be the puppeteer. It is important that the children not see Pax placed on or taken off the puppeteer’s hand; this must be done discreetly and out of the children’s view.

✂ Prior to class, on index cards, list easy words that the children can relate to and act out (i.e., *airplane, teacher, preacher, racecar driver, dog, firefighter, nurse, doctor, etc.*). There should be one word per card. Then put the cards into the basket.

Welcome

Welcome the students and their parents or guardians. Take attendance, placing a sticker beside the name of each child (that is present) on the attendance chart. Engage early arrivers with activities until you are ready to begin class.

Opening Worship and Activity

Lead the children in prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings.

Say: Raise your hand if you made good choices last week! (*Pause for action.*) Good job, boys and girls. It is not always easy to make good choices. Sometimes, you want to do things your way. But we must pray for wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to see right from wrong and to make the right choice. Let’s play a game of “Acts of Wisdom” to see how wise you are at deciding what someone is doing. Each of you will pull a card from the basket. I will whisper in your ear what is on the card. You then have ten seconds

to decide the best way to act out what is on the card. The class must guess what you are pretending to be.

Once the game instructions are understood, play until everyone has had a chance to be the actor. Then prepare the children for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story

Say: In today’s Bible story, King Solomon asked God for wisdom to help his people. He needed wisdom to decide what is right and what is wrong. Listen for me to say “King Solomon”; when you hear it, say, “wise king.”

Read the Bible story to the children, pausing slightly after saying “King Solomon” so the children can complete the action as instructed. Then review the story with them afterward.

Justice Is Done!

Two women argued that one baby boy was their son. King Solomon listened to their argument. Then he ordered that the baby be cut in half!

One of the women said, “No, don’t kill him!” But the other woman said, “Cut him in two!” King Solomon then knew who the real mother was. It was the woman who did not want the baby to be harmed. She loved him.

King Solomon decided not to kill the baby. He gave the baby to the woman who showed concern and love for the baby. People were amazed by King Solomon’s wisdom from God!

Bible Story Application

Refer to the lesson 9 Bible Story Application (*page 67*) and teach the children the read-aloud poem “A Wise Choice.”

☺ Words from Pax the Penguin

If you purchased Pax the Penguin, make preparations to present him to the class. Create a distraction so that you or your assistant can discreetly bring out Pax. The script for Pax appears below.

Pax: Hello, everyone.

Teacher (and Children): Hello, Pax.

Pax: You won't believe what happened to me this week! We had a math test. And the cool boy in school who sits beside me asked if he could cheat off of my paper.

Teacher: Oh no! What did you do, Pax?

Pax: At first, I thought I could get in good with the cool crowd if I helped him. Then I remembered that the Bible says that you should not lie or cheat. So, I told him no.

Teacher: That was a very wise choice, Pax. Boys and girls, what helped Pax to make the wise choice to say "no" to the cool boy? *(Pause for responses from the children, which should indicate that God helped him make the good choice.)*

Pax: Yes, it was God's Word that helped me. We must know God's Word so we can make good and wise choices every day. So, pay close attention in classes like this one. I've gotta go . . . see you next week.

C STACKS OF FUN Make Wise Choices

Read the activity instructions to the children; make sure they understand the assignment. Then allow time for the students to complete the activity. Assist as needed. Afterwards, review the answers as a class, and discuss why the choices were either good choices or bad choices. (A line should be drawn from the sign to each of the following: class paying attention to the teacher; girl helping her mom with the laundry; a line should not be drawn to any of the other pictures.)

Solomon Shows Wisdom and Justice

Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible lesson with them.

📄 Make a Wisdom Crown

Refer to the reproducible activity (*page 75*) and, using sturdy white card stock, make a copy of the page for each student in your class. Distribute the template and some decorating items to the children. Allow them time to color and decorate the parts of the crown. Once they are done with the decorating, cut out the parts of the template and help the children glue craft jewels to the crown (perhaps where indicated by the diamonds on the template). When done, tape or staple the crown pieces together (overlapping if necessary) to fit the child's head.

D CLOSING BLOCK

Say: In today's Bible story, we heard how wise King Solomon was in returning a baby boy to his real mother. Because of Solomon's wisdom, he figured out which woman was the true mother. We need God's wisdom to help us do what is right. Pray and ask God to give you wisdom to do and say what is right and helpful to others. Make wise choices this week!

Read the Key Verse to the children and ask them to repeat it. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you; then prepare the students for the closing prayer.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for Your wisdom. Help us to use wisdom when we make choices. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

As you wait for parents or caregivers to come for your students, here are some suggestions for things to do to keep the children occupied while they wait: (1) Have the children review their lesson leaflets, completing any unfinished activities. Make sure each child's name is written somewhere on his/her leaflet. (2) Allow the children to help clean up the classroom before leaving class. (3) Allow for quiet play time if you have a room with an activity area. (4) Offer crayons and coloring sheets or paper for the children to draw on or allow them to work on puzzles together.

Reproducible Bible Story Applications

April 26, 2020

Lesson 9 : May 10, 2020

Lesson 11

A READ-ALOUD POEM

A Wise Choice

Two women faced King Solomon
with one baby to give;
They both had a child, but one did not live.
Each woman said that the live baby
belonged to her;
The wise king said, "Cut the baby in half;
half to her and half to her."
The real mother said, "Do not hurt the baby;
don't cut it in two."
King Solomon ruled, "Because of what you said,
the baby belongs to you."

May 3, 2020

Lesson 10

A READ-ALOUD POEM

Obey God!

The people did not do what was right—
they did not obey.
When they heard God's voice,
they went the other way.
No one would listen or do what was good;
Zephaniah told them that God hoped they would.
God would not leave them; He was right there!
God shows love and justice; He is always fair.
God will remove the proud, the humble people
there would be;
They will do what is right and no wrong
that God would see.

A SING-ALONG

Blessings for Jerusalem

(Sing to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore.")

The man said, "God still loves you."
Hallelujah!
Jerusalem is God's place.
Hallelujah!
Streets will be filled with people.
Hallelujah!
Nothing is impossible.
Hallelujah!
God will give the people peace.
Hallelujah!
Just remember to do good.
Hallelujah!

Early Elementary Activities

LESSON 9 EARLY ELEMENTARY

Make a Wisdom Crown

