

Lesson C2.2 - Ask God for Help



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: 1 Kings 3:3-15

► Bible Characters: Solomon, God

While the people had demanded a king, Saul proved not to be a good one in the end. So God decided to choose someone to replace him, a shepherd boy who ended up as King David. Years later, King David had a son, Solomon, who (unlike Saul) became known for his great wisdom. But how did Solomon become wise? He relied on God.

Brief Bible Background

► Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament

► Scripture Section: Monarchy

God's people settled in their own land and were united for the first time under the reign of three great kings, Saul, David, and Solomon. Rivalry and competition caused conflict among the royal families.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of the **Alphabet Song**.

Welcome everyone today!

Now let's settle down and pray.

Thank you, Lord, that we are here.

Keep us healthy through the year.

Help us listen, learn and grow.

Teach us all that we should know. Amen!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Raise your hand if you have ever been given a job that felt too big. When we are in a situation like that, what can we do? **Ask God for help!** Say that with me: **Ask God for help.** It's wise to turn to our parents and other caring adults, but we must not forget to **ask God for help** either. Sometimes he will give us good ideas, and other times he will send good people to help us.

What are some big jobs you have had to do? How did you handle it? (*Call on volunteers.*)

In today's story, a young king had a huge job. He wanted to do it well. What would we tell him? **Ask God for help!** Did he do that? Let's hear our story and find out!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: After King Saul died, there was another king called David. David's son, Solomon, was the next king after that. Solomon was young. He wanted to be a good king and help people, but he did not know how to do that.

Read the caption: One day, long ago, King Solomon had a dream. In it, God said, "Ask me for anything you'd like me to give you."

- What is Solomon doing in this picture? [Resting and listening to God.]
- If God told you to ask for anything, what would you say? [Call on volunteers]



Picture 2

Tell the children: Solomon answered God by thanking him. He remembered how good God had been to his father, King David. He was grateful to be king.

Read the caption: Solomon said, "O Lord, I am a young king. I want to serve you. Please help me know good from evil. Help me to be wise."

- Why is Solomon kneeling in this picture? [He is showing respect to God. Even though Solomon is the king, he recognizes that God is the king over everyone.]
- Do you think what Solomon asked for was a good idea? Why or why not? [Call on volunteers to give their responses.]

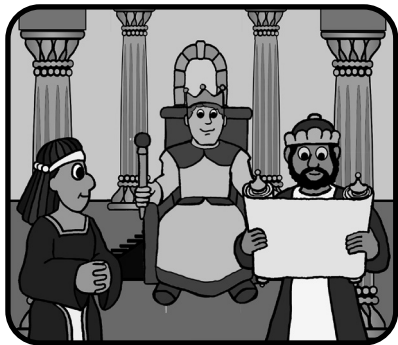


Picture 3

Tell the children: Solomon knew that being a king was a big job. He knew that he still had much to learn. That's why he asked to be wise. He wanted to lead God's people well and make good decisions for them.

Read the caption: God was happy with Solomon. "You didn't just ask for riches or long life for yourself," God said. "I will answer your prayer."

- Why do you think God was happy that Solomon didn't just ask for things for himself? What did that show? [It showed that Solomon really cared about the people he was leading. He was putting their needs above his own wants.]



Picture 4

Tell the children: Just as he promised, God gave Solomon wisdom. And because King Solomon put God first in his life, God also gave him wealth and a long life.

Read the caption: With God's help, Solomon became a very wise king. He made good decisions and led his people well for many years.

- Look at the people in this picture. What do you notice? [They all look happy.]
- Why do you think they are happy? [The people have a good king who treats them well. Solomon has a good relationship with God, so he is leading them well. Everything is as it should be!]

Remember today's message: **Ask God for help!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*When Solomon became the king,
God told him, "Ask for anything."
And so the king gave it some thought
before he asked for what he ought:*

*"O Lord," he said, "Please make me wise
So I can govern and advise.
"I want to do what's good and right,
so I'll be faithful in your sight."*

*Pleased with what he heard that day,
God said, "I'll do what you say!
"And since you asked not for yourself,
I'll give you honor, too, and wealth!"*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Craft: A Wise Leader...**Materials:**

- White board and dry erase marker
- Paper
- Pencils,
- Markers or crayons

**Instructions:**

Solomon wanted to know the difference between good and evil. He asked God to make him *wise*.

Ask kids to think of some other things that a wise leader might do. Write their ideas on the board. Suggestions could include: Pray to God, think before speaking, treat people kindly, listen to good advisors, be fair, etc. Next, give each person a piece of paper, a pencil, and some markers or crayons. Invite everyone to draw a wise leader doing one of the things from the list. When they are done, invite them to explain why they chose that particular action, and how it might be helpful.

Lots of people want to be in charge. But a good leader looks to God for help, as Solomon did. God is the one who makes people wise and guides their actions.

h. Song (optional)

Sing this song to the tune, "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." You can look on YouTube or Vimeo to hear the tune and also to hear it sung as a round.

To sing as a round: Once kids know the basic song, let them try singing it in a round. Have one side of the room be group A. The other side can be group B. When group A gets to the end of the first line, cue group B to begin singing the song. Both groups will continue singing until they finish the song.

I'm the King

I'm, I'm, I'm the king! *

Help me, Lord, I pray!

Heavenly, Heavenly, Heavenly God above,

Make me wise today!



(* Group B starts the round here)

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- **Start: King Solomon was a young king. One day, God told him he could ask for anything he wanted. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us,

For teaching and for helping us,

For always watching over us,

We love you too.

Amen!