

Wise King Solomon

The wisest person of all time



THEME: Wisdom comes from God

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 3:5-12

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A cup - the fancier the better!
- A (plastic) knife

PREPARATION: Before you begin, select 2 students to act as the “owners” of the cup.

SAY: This morning I brought with me a cup. Let’s pretend that this cup is very important to its owner and worth a lot of money. Now earlier, (*select a student’s name*) told me that this cup belonged to him/her and they loved it very much. But (*select another student’s name*) told me that this cup actually belonged to him/her and they, too, loved the cup. One of them is not telling the truth, because the cup can only belong to one person. Hmm . . . the cup doesn’t have anyone’s name on it so I have a bit of a problem trying to figure out who the cup belongs to, don’t I?

SAY: Well, I guess the only thing to do is to just cut the cup down the middle, then each of them will get $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cup. I can just take a knife and cut it right down the middle (*act as if you are going to cut the cup in $\frac{1}{2}$*) . . . does this sound like a good idea? (*Pause for reactions.*)

SAY: Today’s story is about King Solomon, who is considered to be the wisest person of all time. He had a similar dilemma. Maybe after hearing his story we can solve our problem. Solomon’s story goes like this . . .

Solomon was a teen-ager when he became king. He loved the Lord and the Lord was pleased with him. One night the Lord said to him in a dream, “Solomon, what would you like me to give you?” Solomon answered, “My God, I am very young and I don’t know how to rule. So give me the wisdom to rule your people in a right way.’

The Lord was pleased, so He said. “Because you have asked for wisdom and not for long life or riches, I will give you more wisdom than anyone who has ever lived. But I will also give you what you did not ask for, both riches and glory.”

SAY: That’s pretty great, right? Because he was not selfish, Solomon not only got his wish, but much more, too.

SAY: A short time later, two women come to Solomon with a hard problem. ‘This woman and I live in the same house,’ explains one of them. ‘I gave birth to a boy, and two days later she also gave birth to a baby boy. Then one night her baby died. But while I was asleep, she switched our babies and took my baby. When I woke up and looked at the child who had died, I saw that he was not mine.’

At this the other woman said, “No! The living child is mine!”

The first woman answered, “No! The living baby is mine!”

This is the way the women argued. What do you think Solomon would do?

Solomon sent for a sword, and, when it is brought, he said, “Cut the living baby in two, and give each woman half.”

“No!” cried the real mother. “Please don’t hurt the baby. Give it to her!” But the other woman said, “Don’t give it to either of us; go on and cut it in two.”

Finally Solomon spoke: ‘Do not hurt the child! Give him to the first woman. She is the real mother.’

Solomon knew this because only the real mother would love the baby so much that she would be willing to give him to the other woman just so he wouldn’t be hurt. When the people heard how Solomon had solved the problem, they were glad to have such a **wise** king.

SAY: The story of Wise King Solomon teaches us to think of God and others whenever we are faced with a hard decision or problem. When we look to the Lord, we will always make a wise choice.

(Hold up the cup again) I’m pretty sure that the real owner of our cup would have begged me not to destroy it by cutting it in ½, proving that they were the true and rightful owner.