



wonder
inspire. equip. support.

Bible Passage: 1 Kings 2—3
(Solomon Asks for Wisdom)

REMEMBER VERSE

You always show me the path that leads to life.
Psalm 16:11a (NIRV)

The Lord Gives Wisdom

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Explore::

Welcome & Engage
10–15 minutes

Discover & Respond::

Large Group
30–40 minutes

Respond & Bless::

Small Group
20–35 minutes

ENVIRONMENT: COURSE CORRECTION

This environment flows out of Hebrews 12:11–13 and is the direct opposite of punishment. Instead, biblical discipline for a child encompasses: a season of pain, the building up in love, and a vision of a corrected path for the individual with the purpose of healing at its core.

Inspire

Last year at this time, I was thinking about getting married. My boyfriend and I had been dating nearly a year, and at face value, our relationship made plenty of sense. As we began to talk more seriously about marriage, I prayed adamantly for God's discernment in our relationship. Instantly, my soul felt unsettled. It was unexpected. It was upsetting. Most of all, it was frustrating because it didn't make sense to me. Relationally, *nothing* was wrong. Yet the more I prayed for God's wisdom and direction in our relationship, the more the restlessness built. Finally, I couldn't take it any longer. I called my boyfriend and explained how I felt God was leading me.

Pain immediately followed. I wanted so badly to be married, especially to someone with whom I was so close. But I had never felt so sure that I was following God's wisdom. I learned two things from this experience. First, God generously gives His wisdom to those who seek Him. Second, God's wisdom may not match the world's perception of wisdom. In fact, at first glance, God's wisdom sometimes seems like foolishness. It can be countercultural. In my eyes, I was making a wise choice. We were in love, and our community was strongly encouraging (borderline pressuring) us to get married. But when I sought the Lord for wisdom, I found the path I thought was so clear wasn't what God had planned for my life.

Even now, I think we could've had a strong and successful marriage. However, God's wisdom didn't provide for our relationship ending in marriage. Instead, I've seen God work powerfully through my singleness, through circumstances that couldn't exist in marriage. Through this process, I've learned to respect God's perfect wisdom. I rejoice in the fact that the Lord gives wisdom—generously.

NOTES:



Erika Abdelatif
TruWonder Team

Equip

The Lord gives wisdom if we seek it. In the third chapter of 1 Kings, King Solomon is revealed as a leader with a duality of heart. In his early years, Solomon followed the structure and path his father, David, had set before him. He showed a desire to reign over the Israelites with justice. As his kingship began, God approached Solomon in a dream. In this dream, God told Solomon He would provide whatever Solomon requested. Rather than requesting fame, wealth, or long life, Solomon's only desire was wisdom. He asked God for a "discerning heart to govern" (v. 9). He desired keen judgment and to rule justly. God gladly obliged and blessed Solomon with wisdom. But Solomon's heart soon became divided.

In Deuteronomy, God gave His people specific laws for the way they were to interact while in Egypt. He warned them against intermarrying with the Egyptians because they didn't worship the one true God. Alliances through marriage had the potential to lead their hearts astray, so He was trying to shield them from being lured into worshipping false gods. But Solomon didn't obey God. Chapter 3 begins by announcing that he arranged to marry Pharaoh's daughter. Furthermore, Solomon didn't destroy the high places (which the people of that region used to worship and make sacrifices to false gods), as was instructed in Deuteronomy. Instead, he made sacrifices to God at the pagan altars of worship. These practices ultimately led Solomon's heart away from God.

God granted Solomon wisdom. He also told Solomon, "If you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life" (v. 14). Despite the great gift God had given, Solomon ultimately chose not to obey the ways of the Lord. His life stands as a warning to each of us to keep our hearts focused solely on God and His commands, in order to not fall away from the fervent call upon our lives.

Further Resources

Thayers, Joseph. 1996. *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers.

Remember Verse Motions

Inspired by American Sign Language; demonstrated at www.signingsavvy.com and <http://www.commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm>

Support

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5).

God granted Solomon *chakam*—the Hebrew word for wisdom. *Chakam* is to be discerning or shrewd. In James 1:5, the word for wisdom is the Greek word *sophia*. The wisdom *sophia* alludes to having knowledge of a wide variety of matters, but specifically obtained by highly developed study and experience. This wisdom is shared in maxims and proverbs.

This week, ask God for His wisdom. Begin by spending a moment asking God to search your heart. Are there things preventing you from hearing His voice? Do you avoid quiet because you're fearful of what He might say? Ask Him to reveal and remove these obstacles. Then, begin to ask God if there are areas of your life causing you to diverge from the path He's put you on. Pray that God would give you His wisdom and intelligence in handling these circumstances. Pray and ask for His discernment and judgment. Pray for His wisdom to direct you in wise choices.

If you have time this week, make plans to meet with (or call) your mentor or someone more mature in the faith. As you spend time praying for God's wisdom in your life, be aware of any questions that may rise up in your soul. (For example: How do I discern God's wisdom in this situation?) As you meet with your mentor or friend, share your questions and spend time listening and considering their responses. Ask them to journey with you and pray for guidance in your specific situation.

Lesson Overview

Experience	Time	Summary	Supplies/Prepare (Master Supply List under Resource Tab)
Explore:: Welcome & Engage	10–15 min.	Exploration stations create space intended to transition children—to lead them from the external world into an environment where they can commune with God, just as they are with all that they are.	Focus Station: Wise Choices (per table) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wise Choices Cards (see Resource Folder) • card stock (Optional) Station 2: Stay on the Path (per table) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay on the Path Templates (see Resource Folder) • paint trays or shallow baking dishes (disposable or no longer used for food; 1 per 2–3 children) • washable tempera paint • marbles (1 per 2–3 children) • Explore bin
Discover:: Large Group	20–25 min.	Facilitate interactive games, songs, and storytelling, allowing children to participate in discovering God's Word.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chloe (puppet or person) • Chloe's Rules videos or scripts (see Resource Tab) • preschool program theme song • 2 worship songs (suggestion: "To Live for You," TruWorship <i>Songs from the Playhouse</i> and "He Knows Me," TruWorship <i>Your Love</i>) • optional: countdown video • Mail Time intro clip and image (see Resource Tab) • Remember Verse image and cards (see Resource Folder) • Mail Time envelope art printed and attached to a large envelope (see Resource Tab) • Bibles (your personal and large children's) • mailbox • Wardrobe of Wonder intro clip and image (see Resource Tab) • Wardrobe of Wonder • Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect (see Resource Tab) • optional: silly hats for prop/hat box • 2 small stools or chairs • What'sIt: Four Brightly Wrapped Presents (with removable lids; see image in Resource Folder) • The Big God Story intro clip and image (see Resource Tab) • props: large chair decorated like throne, crown • items for boxes: paper money (see Resource Folder), pictures of famous people (suggestions: people known to children, for example: Elmo, Lightning McQueen, Buzz Lightyear, the president/prime minister), picture of elderly person, and word WISDOM • video short: Wisdom (see Resource Folder)

Lesson Overview

Experience	Time	Summary	Supplies/Prepare (Master Supply List under Resource Tab)
Respond:: Large Group	10-15 min.	Create space for children to respond to the Holy Spirit in worship and community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • title image (see Resource Tab) or worshipful video loop • worship song (suggestion: "I'm Gonna Walk," Promiseland Music <i>Have You Heard?</i>)
Respond:: Small Group	15-30 min.	Further process the story through discussion and interaction with others, and respond to God in worship through creative expression.	<p>Connect: Wise King Solomon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none <p>Create: The Path That Leads to Life (per table/small group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • butcher paper (rolled out into a long section) • marker • 3-5 pairs of inexpensive flip-flop sandals (small size; alternative: cut sponges to footprint shapes) • washable paint • pie tins (or large, flat container for paint) • Create bin <p>Wonder Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessing/Remember Verse • HomeFront Weekly
Bless:: Small Group	5 min.	Bless the children that they may experience God fully and be a blessing to others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessing/Remember Verse • HomeFront Weekly



Explore::

10–15 min.

Host/Small Group Leaders



Exploration stations create space intended for wonder—to pique children's curiosity and allow them to engage in hands-on experiences as they begin their time in worship.



“The Wise Choices Cards were great.”

—International Church of Las Vegas

“I ended up doing this as a group activity on the carpet. It was a great activity and we had a lot of conversation.”

—Revolution Church

NOTES:

Invite children to participate at the Focus Station (or optional stations, if available). Explore the materials with the children and engage them in open-ended questions about their observations. This will encourage them to explore and form questions on their own throughout the lesson.

Station 1: Wise Choices

King Solomon was faced with making many choices in his important role for the people. He knew it was important to ask God for wisdom, and so God blessed him not only with wisdom, but with riches and honor.

SUPPLIES (per table)

- Wise Choices Cards (see Resource Folder)
- card stock

PREPARE AHEAD

Print two sets of Wise Choices Cards per table, one set for the children and one for the leader to reference.

SET UP

Place one set of cards on the table with the picture side facing up.

ENGAGE

Invite the children to join you at the Explore Station. Encourage kids to look through the cards and the pictures on the front of the cards. Hold up a card for the children with the picture facing the kids. Ask the children the questions on the back of the leader's set of cards. Together, discuss the responses the children share with you. Remember, this is an open-ended activity. Children's responses will vary and do not need to be redirected.

NOTES:

(Optional) Station 2: Stay on the Path

Sometimes when faced with choices in life, people will stray from the path God has for them. If we ask God for wisdom and listen to His direction for us, we'll be able to follow the path to life that God has made.

SUPPLIES (per table)

- Stay on the Path Templates (see Resource Folder)
- paint trays or shallow baking dishes (disposable or no longer used for food; 1 per 2–3 children)
- washable tempera paint
- marbles (1 per 2–3 children)
- Explore bin

PREPARE AHEAD

Print copies of the Stay on the Path Templates (younger and older versions). Gather remaining materials and place in an Explore bin.

SET UP

Place one Stay on the Path Template in each paint tray. Pour two to three drops of paint at the bottom of each page. Drop one marble in the paint of each tray. Place the trays in the center of the table.

ENGAGE

Welcome children to the Explore Station. Invite kids to investigate the items on the table. Encourage them to move the marble from the start of the path to the finish, keeping on the path as much as possible by tilting the tray from side to side. When children have finished, talk with them about their experience. Use the painted path the marble made as a point of discussion. **Look at the path your marble made going from one end of the tray to the other. Was it easy or difficult to keep your marble on the path? Why or why not? Did it work better to go fast or slow? What would help you keep your marble on the path?**


 Large
 Group
 SECTION

Discover::

20-25 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller



Children move into a large group setting and participate in discovering God's Word through storytelling, worship, and interactive experiences.

NOTES:

The following instructions have been condensed, but if you'd like more information about any of the components of the large group program, please see Putting It Together under the Resource Tab.

Ponder Point

The Lord Gives Wisdom

Chloe's Rules

Host/Worship Leader

Begin large group by using Chloe (a puppet or person) to review the rules of your program. It's a great time to remind children how we can all be part of a loving community through the words we speak, sitting with our small group, and sharing. Add a theme song to your program for a fun way to help give identity to your large group program. Also choose two upbeat worship songs from a worship album that fits. The supplies you'll want to gather for this section are the Chloe's Rules videos or scripts (see Resource Tab), Chloe (a puppet or person), your preschool program theme song, worship music (suggestions: **"To Live for You,"** TruWorship *Songs from the Playhouse* and **"He Knows Me,"** TruWorship *Your Love*; available on the Extras Tab for Premium, Unlimited, and Combo users; or iTunes), and a countdown video (optional).



Mail Time

Host/Worship Leader

Have children retrieve mail (the current Remember Verse from the Bible) from their mailbox. Review the meaning of the verse and any unfamiliar words with the children as they prepare to memorize it. Supplies to gather include the Mail Time intro clip and image, Remember Verse image (for projection and Mail Time envelope), Remember Verse cards (print and distribute along with HomeFront Weekly), Mail Time envelope art printed and attached to a large envelope, a Bible, a large children's Bible, and a mailbox.

REMEMBER VERSE

You always show me the path that leads to life.

Psalm 16:11a (NirV)

Remember Verse Motions

You always: Point both index fingers in the air toward heaven.

show: Begin with hands closed with fingers directed toward face in front of eyes. Extend arms, opening hands while saying "show."

me: Bring both thumbs in toward chest.

the path that leads: Palms facing one another, move hands from side to side giving impression of a winding road.

to life: Make the shape of an L with both hands. With index fingers facing one another in front of body, bring them up from waist to chest height.

Wardrobe of Wonder

Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader

Hide the What'sIt connected to The Big God Story in the wardrobe. Together as a community, the children will discover the identity of this object as they begin to ask questions from their observations and experiences. You'll need to have ready a Wardrobe of Wonder, Wardrobe of Wonder intro clip, image of the What'sIt, and sound effect (see Resource Tab), silly hats for the prop/hat box (optional), and two small stools or chairs. For this What'sIt you'll need four brightly wrapped presents (with removable lids; see optional image available in Resource Folder. See p. 11 for contents of boxes.).

What'sIt: Four Brightly Wrapped Presents

God appeared to Solomon in a dream. The new king was told to ask whatever he wanted of the Lord. When he asked the Lord for wisdom, God was pleased and blessed Solomon for the motives of his heart.

ASK

What did you find in the Wardrobe of Wonder today? Children will answer. **How do you think the four presents fit into the part of The Big God Story we'll hear today?** Allow children to respond; interact with their answers. **Well, it's time to find out because ...** Replace unopened presents in wardrobe for use in The Big God Story.

NOTES:

Prayer of Release

A **Prayer of Release** is a prayer asking God to remove any distractions that would get in the way of hearing from and responding to Him. As we pray, we dedicate this time to the Lord and quiet ourselves, so that we might hear specifically from Him. In this way, we are consciously laying aside our worries, successes, and requests for the moment. We ask to be filled with knowledge and understanding from Him, giving God His rightful role as teacher. Then as we move into Respond, we can better create space to interact with His Holy Spirit.

NOTES:

The Big God Story

1 Kings 2—3
 Storyteller

SUPPLIES

- The Big God Story intro clip and image (see Resource Tab)
- Bible (adult or children's to use during teaching)
- Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect (see Resource Tab)
- What'sIt: Four Brightly Wrapped Presents (with removable lids; see image in Resource Folder)
- props: large chair decorated like throne, crown (Note: Before service, place throne down center of stage.)
- items for boxes: paper money (see Resource Folder), pictures of famous people (suggestions: people known to children, for example: Elmo, Lightning McQueen, Buzz Lightyear, the president/prime minister), picture of elderly person, and word WISDOM (suggestion: number boxes 1–4 to aid in sequence of opening)
- video short: Wisdom (see Resource Folder)

Hello, friends. I'm so glad to see you today. The last time we were together we heard how God showed His goodness to King David. God gave the people a time of rest and peace from their enemies. He is so good. David wanted to show God how much he loved Him by building a special place of worship to the Lord. This was to be a special place where God's people could gather to worship God together. But God had different plans. Instead of David building the temple for the Lord, his son Solomon would be the one to build the new place of worship. But before we go any further, let's stop and ask God to teach us today. (Lead children in a Prayer of Release.)

A king is a very important person with a very important job. (Move to center stage and sit on throne.) **Although King David had been a very good king, the time came when David was ready to give his job to his son Solomon. He was to be the king of Israel—just like his dad had been!** (Put crown on head.) **David knew that a good king must follow God and love Him with all of his heart. He wanted his son Solomon to love God too. When Solomon became the king, he wanted to be a good king just like his father.** (Take crown off head; leave throne and sit closer to children.)

One night while Solomon was sleeping, God came to him in a dream. God said something *amazing* to Solomon. He said (open Bible and read 1 Kings 3:5b), **"Ask for whatever you want me to give you."** **Wow! God told Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted! I wonder what Solomon asked of God? If God told you that you could ask Him for anything, what would you ask?** (Interact with children's answers.) **I wonder what I would have asked of God?** (Tech: Cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect.)

“I loved the gifts boxes for The Big God Story, and the Wisdom video was excellent! Tommy should be on Sesame Street. I feel like our kids really understood what wisdom is and the connection to ‘the path of life’ that is our Remember Verse.”

—Mt. Paran North Church of God

NOTES:

Friends, the sound you just heard means we’ve found the What’sIt in The Big God Story! (Remove presents from wardrobe. Line them up along edge of stage/teaching space.) **What present do you think is inside each box?** (Allow children to answer.) **Let’s take a look.**

(Open first box; take out paper money and show children.) **This box is filled with money. Did Solomon ask God to give him lots and lots of money? Nooo.** (Open second box and show children pictures; discuss the people/characters in the box.) **He could have asked God to make him famous like these people today. Do you think Solomon asked God for fame? Nooo.** (Open third box; show children picture of elderly person and discuss idea of long life.) **Did he ask God for a long, long life? Nooo.** (Open fourth and final box. Hold word WISDOM for children to see.) **The word on this page says wisdom. Did Solomon ask God for wisdom? (Children answer.) Yes, he did. What is wisdom? (Encourage kids to answer.) Those are good ideas! Let’s take a look and discover more about this great word. (Tech: Cue video short Wisdom.)**

The new king wanted to be a good king! It wasn’t an easy job. He knew there were a lot of people to lead! And God’s people didn’t always choose to follow God or stay on the right path. Sometimes they chose *not* to follow the path the Lord made for them. Solomon wanted to help the people follow God and so ... the king asked God for wisdom! The Bible says, “The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for that. So God said to him, ‘You have not asked to live for a long time. You have not asked to be wealthy. You have not even asked to have your enemies killed. Instead, you have asked for understanding. You want to do what is right and fair when you judge people. Because that is what you have asked for, I will give it to you. I will give you a wise and understanding heart. So here is what will be true of you. There has never been anyone like you. And there never will be. And that is not all. I will give you what you have not asked for. I will give you riches and honor. As long as you live, no other king will be as great as you are. Live the way I want you to. Obey my laws and commands, just as your father David did. Then I will let you live for a long time” (1 Kings 3:10–14 NIV).

Friends, the Bible tells us that if we need wisdom, we can ask God. He will give generously! (James 1:5). **God will give us wisdom from above—God’s wisdom! That’s just what Solomon did. He asked God for wisdom, and God blessed him with lots and lots of wisdom! The Lord helped him understand what the people needed and how to rule them fairly! Only the Lord gives wisdom. Who gives wisdom?** (Wait for children to respond.) **Yes! The Lord gives wisdom.**

“The Big God Story was awesome with the gifts. The kids each got a turn unwrapping it and peeking at what was inside. It made the lesson come alive.”

—Revolution Church



Respond::

10–15 min.

Worship Leader



Children have the opportunity to respond to God and to what they have heard and experienced through His Word. Special attention should be given to create space for the Holy Spirit to minister to each child.

NOTES:

The worship response time in large group varies from week to week. Some weeks the children will respond in worship through music, while other weeks are designed for more specific interactive expressions of response. This time is intended for children to freely express their worship as God's Spirit leads them.

SUPPLIES

- title image (see Resource Tab) or worshipful video loop
- worship song (suggestion: "I'm Gonna Walk," Promiseland Music *Have You Heard?*)

Worship-through-Response

Friends, the Lord gives wisdom. And we need His wisdom every day so we can stay on the right path. When we ask God for wisdom, He will give it to us. God has everything we need. He knows all the things we need to know, and He has all the answers to every question! Sometimes we just need to be still and ask God for His wisdom. Let's take some time to be still and talk with God. Whatever you pray, it's between your heart and His. This is time just for you and God. Lead children in a time of prayer. Allow them to spend some time in quiet before the Lord. End this time in prayer. **Each day from the time the sun comes up until the sun goes down, we have everything we need to follow God. When we ask God for His wisdom, or understanding, He will give it to us generously.**

Lead kids in a song of worship (suggestion: "I'm Gonna Walk," Promiseland Music *Have You Heard?*).

Pray a corporate prayer of blessing and dismiss kids to small groups.

To streamline large group dismissal, try dismissing one age group at a time. Give the children and leaders cheerful reminders of exit doors as they're preparing to leave. This could be a fun time to bring Chloe back to help with moving into small groups. Use her to remind little ones to stay with their Small Group Leaders, wait patiently for their friends as they walk out together, etc.


 Small
 Group
 SECTION

Respond::

15-30 min.

Small Group Leaders



Children have an opportunity to reflect (within the faith community) on what they have heard, and to respond to God individually or corporately. This time is focused on the wonder of God and the foundational Truth of His Word.

NOTES:

Your small group time is designed to encourage conversations between you and your children about what God is doing in them. Some children will be more responsive when they're engaged in something artistic. Others will be more open once their bodies get moving. Choose from the options given here or use your own ideas. The Wonder Questions may be used to start conversations during any of these activities or in a quieter, more contemplative time.

Connect: Wise King Solomon

(Optional Game: 5-10 min.)

After a time of responding to God on a personal level, increase the energy by allowing time and space for children and leaders to connect with each other in a lively large-motor-skills activity. Fun challenges foster unique opportunities for conversation and help to develop your faith community.

ENGAGE

Today we're going to play a game called **Wise King Solomon**. To play this game, you have to listen very carefully. (Insert Small Group Leader's name) is going to pretend to be King Solomon. King Solomon will be in charge of telling us when it's time to go. Our goal is to get from one side of our room to the other. Both walls are safe, so we'll have to listen and pay attention in order to stay safe. King Solomon will tell us what to do when we ask for instructions.

To begin the game, we'll all need to put our hands on our heads, like we're wearing crowns, and say, "King Solomon, what time is it?" Then King Solomon will tell us what time it is. He'll say, "You made a wise choice and it's one o'clock." Then we'll all move one step away from the wall. If he says, "You made a wise choice and it's three o'clock," then we'll all move three steps away from the wall. If he says, "You made a wise choice and it's five o'clock," what do you think we'll do? Wait for children to respond. **Yes! We'll take five steps away from the wall. Now remember, the walls are safe, and we're trying to get to the other side. If we ask "King Solomon, what time is it?" and he says, "You made an unwise choice and it's time to run," then we'll have to run to the nearest wall very fast so he doesn't catch us. If he tags you, you'll have to sit down right where you are until the next round. Let's play!**

Practice with the children a few times and then play for a few minutes.

Remind the children of what they heard during The Big God Story. Debrief the game with the children. **Was it hard to listen to King Solomon? Why is it important to listen if we want to be wise? Who gives wisdom?**

“I bought feet die cuts and each kid wrote their name on a foot and added it to the path.”

—Mt. Paran North Church of God

“We cut out feet from thin foam and put handles on them for the stamps. It worked well.”

—Impact Christian Church

“The kids particularly enjoyed the small group Respond activity with the flip-flops and the paint. They really seemed to ‘get’ the Ponder Point.”

—Mountainbrook Community Church

NOTES:

Create: The Path That Leads to Life

Create is more than just a time to make a craft. It's a hands-on opportunity for children to give artistic expression to what God is doing within them. What is created can then become a physical reminder of time spent responding to God.

Today children will work together to make a “wisdom path.” This visual picture can help us remember to ask God for His wisdom, and it will keep us on the right path. God always shows us the path that leads to life.

SUPPLIES (per table/small group)

- butcher paper (rolled out into a long section)
- marker
- 3–5 pairs of inexpensive flip-flop sandals (small size)
- washable paint
- pie tins (or large, flat container for paint)
- Create bin

Alternative: Instead of flip-flops, use sponges cut into footprint shapes.

PREPARE AHEAD

Gather materials and place in a Create bin.

SET UP

Cover the table with butcher paper. Use a marker to write the words “The Lord God gives us wisdom” across the top of the page. Draw a wide, winding path across the center of the paper. This will help guide children as they create the path. Pour paint in pie tins and distribute the sponges or flip-flops evenly around the paint containers.

ENGAGE

God gave King Solomon wisdom when he asked for it. We can ask God for wisdom too. He gives us wisdom so we can have a clear path for how to live our lives. With God's help, and His wisdom, we can stay on the right path. Today we're going to step on a path to help us remember that God will give us the wisdom we need to stay on the path as we follow Him. Invite the children to create a wisdom path. Have each child take turns placing their hand in the flip-flop, dipping it into paint, and putting their “footprint” on the butcher paper. **Whenever we see this path, it can help us to remember that God will give us wisdom. We can use this wisdom as we follow Him each day with each choice we make. God will always show us the path that leads to life.** Remember to save the Create piece and place it in your gallery for the upcoming Remember & Celebrate.

Small Group Enhancements

Premium, Unlimited, and Combo users can find a quarterly TruWonder Timeline and images of people corresponding to each week's lesson on the My Lessons page under Extras > Small Group Enhancements. As you place the weekly people squares on the timeline, invite children to help you storytell. The provided questions will prompt further conversation about what children have been experiencing. They'll enjoy watching as the timeline fills week to week and their knowledge of The Big God Story grows.

Wonder Questions

Discuss the following questions with the children. Wonder Questions are meant to prompt further conversation about what children have been experiencing. They also invite children to ponder this truth and dwell with the wonder of God. Be sure to pause long enough after each question to allow the children time to wonder. Encourage them to share their unique perspectives with the group.

Today in this part of The Big God Story, King Solomon asked God for wisdom. He wanted to be a good king for God's people. The Lord was pleased with this request, so God gave it to Solomon generously. The Lord will give us wisdom too.

I wonder ... Why did Solomon choose wisdom instead of other things (riches, death to enemies, long life)?

I wonder ... What would I have asked God for?

I wonder ... How did God feel when Solomon chose wisdom?

I wonder ... How does God feel when people ask for wisdom today?

I wonder ... What wisdom does God want to give me today?


 Small
 Group
 SECTION

Bless::

5 min.

Small Group Leaders



A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance. A blessing can be offered in order to ask God's Spirit to overflow from the child's life in such a way that blesses others, while it can also be prayed over a child for the purpose of declaring God's protection, joy, or wisdom.

“When church got out early this week, it gave the leaders the opportunity to do the blessing with families.”

—Good Shepherd Church

Today, send your little ones out with a blessing by praying Scripture over them. The time of blessing is an opportunity for children to practice another physical posture of worship. Have children place their hands out in front of themselves, palms up as if cupping them together to hold water. This is a posture that demonstrates our expectancy in receiving what God has for each of us. Read the Remember Verse over the children and then close your time with a prayer of blessing. (You may choose to read through the Scripture more than once as God's Spirit leads you.)

Children, the Lord gives wisdom. If you need wisdom, ask God for it. He will give it to you. May you trust in God to show you the very best way to live. (reference Proverbs 2:6 and James 1:5 NIRV)

You always show me the path that leads to life.
Psalm 16:11a (NIRV)

home|front

HomeFront Weekly: Be sure to send home the HomeFront Weekly for next week's lesson! This preteaching tool for parents encourages families to spend time in God's Word together before children arrive at church.

HomeFront Monthly: Every four weeks we highlight one of the 10 environments. For each new environment, parents should receive HomeFront Monthly. This resource gives families ideas for how to create fun, spiritually forming times in their home—setting aside a sacred space for family in the midst of their active, everyday lives!

