

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power



KING SOLOMON-WISER THAN ANY OTHER

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



KING SOLOMON-WISER THAN ANY OTHER

Memory Verse:

But if any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He is generous to everyone and will give you wisdom without criticizing you. (James 1:5 NCV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Solomon was

#2 - Discover what faith led Solomon to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

1 Kings 1:5-52, 2:1-12 (Supplemental Scripture)

1 Kings 3:1-28

Proverbs 1



KING SOLOMON-WISER THAN ANY OTHER

1 Kings 3

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Solomon

His Heroic Feat: Asks God for wisdom

Asking God for wisdom may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

In our last lesson we talked about King David and how he had a heart like God's. In our lesson for today we find King David as a very old man who was very sick. He had promised his wife, Bathsheba, that their son, Solomon, would be the next king. "Since it was almost time for David to die, he gave his son Solomon his last commands. David said, 'My time to die is near. Be a good and strong leader. Obey the LORD your God. Follow Him by obeying His demands, His commands, His laws, and His rules that are written in the teachings of Moses. If you do these things, you will be successful in all you do and wherever you go.'" (1 Kings 2:1-3 NCV)

While Solomon was king he built a palace and a wall around the city of Jerusalem. He also built the Temple of the Lord. Solomon provided a good example for the people of worshipping God and sacrificing to Him. One night, after he had offered a sacrifice, God appeared to Solomon in a dream. "God said, 'Ask for whatever you want me to give you.'" (1 Kings 3:5 NCV) Solomon answered God by talking about God's kindness to his father David. Then, Solomon acknowledged that it was God who made him king. "But I am like a child," Solomon said, "I don't know how to do what must be done. . . I ask you to give me a heart that understands, so I can rule the people in the right way and will know the difference between right and wrong." (1 Kings 3:7b-9 NCV)

God was pleased with Solomon's request. "So God said to him, 'You did not ask for a long life, or riches for yourself, or the death of your enemies. Since you asked for wisdom to make the right decisions, I will do what you asked.'" (1 Kings 3:11-12a NCV) God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding. God made Solomon wiser than anyone who had ever lived or who would ever live! And then, God told Solomon that He would also give him what he hadn't asked for, riches and honor.

One day some time after that, two women came to Solomon. One of the women told Solomon that they both lived in the same house. They had both just had babies, but during the night, the other woman had rolled over on her baby and he died.

Then, she switched the babies, giving her dead baby to the other woman. The thing is, when the woman woke up, she looked at the baby and knew he wasn't hers. The two women argued before King Solomon. Then, King Solomon spoke, "One of you says one thing the other says the opposite." And with that, King Solomon sent one of his servants to get his sword. When the servant returned, he ordered the servant to cut the baby in half so that each woman could have part of the baby. You see, King Solomon never intended to harm the baby. King Solomon wanted to see what the women would do. One of the women spoke up. She said, "Please, master, don't kill him! Give the baby to her!" (1 Kings 3:26 NCV) The other woman agreed, though. "Then King Solomon said, 'Don't kill him. Give the baby to the first woman, because she is the real mother.'" (1 Kings 3:27 NCV)

News of King Solomon's wisdom spread. We can read from King Solomon's wisdom today. Many proverbs of wisdom are found in the book of Proverbs. The book of proverbs opens by saying that "these wise words of Solomon" teach you how to be wise and self-controlled. Most important, though, is that "knowledge begins with respect for the Lord." It is a "fool" who hates wisdom and discipline.

Which category do you fall into? Wisdom comes from God. If you don't have it, all you have to do is ask.

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Solomon asked God for wisdom. You can, too.

Our memory verse says, "But if any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He is generous to everyone and will give you wisdom without criticizing you." (James 1:5 NCV)



NEXT WEEK
Elijah: Fire Falls From
Heaven

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Solomon

His Heroic Feat: Asks God for wisdom

Asking God for wisdom may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

King David had a son named Solomon. Solomon became king after his father, David. While Solomon was king he built a palace and a wall around the city of Jerusalem. He also built the Temple of the Lord. Solomon worshipped God. One night, after he had offered a sacrifice, God appeared to him in a dream. "God said, 'Ask for whatever you want me to give you.'" (1 Kings 3:5 NCV) Solomon thanked God for being kind to his father David. Then, Solomon thanked God for making him king. "But I am like a child," Solomon said, "I don't know how to do what must be done. . . I ask you to give me a heart that understands, so I can rule the people in the right way and will know the difference between right and wrong." (1 Kings 3:7b-9 NCV)

God liked Solomon's request. "So God said to him, 'You did not ask for a long life, or riches for yourself, or the death of your enemies. Since you asked for wisdom to make the right decisions, I will do what you asked.'" (1 Kings 3:11-12a NCV) God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding. God made Solomon wiser than anyone who had ever lived or who would ever live! And then, God told Solomon that He would also give him what he hadn't asked for, riches and honor.

One day some time after that, two women came to Solomon. They both lived in the same house. They had both just had babies, but one of the babies died. One claimed that the babies had been switched. The two women argued before King Solomon. Then, King Solomon spoke, "One of you says one thing the other says the opposite." And with that, King Solomon sent one of his servants to get his sword. When the servant returned, he ordered the servant to cut the baby in half so that each woman could have part of the baby. You see, King Solomon didn't want to harm the baby. King Solomon wanted to see what the women would do. One of the women spoke up. She said, "Please, master, don't kill him! Give the baby to her!" (1 Kings 3:26 NCV) The other woman agreed, though. "Then King Solomon said, 'Don't kill him. Give the baby to the first woman, because she is the real mother.'" (1 Kings 3:27 NCV) King Solomon knew that the real mother would rather give her baby away than have him killed.

"When the people of Israel heard about King Solomon's decision, they respected him very much. They saw he had wisdom from God to make the right decisions." (1 Kings 3:28 NCV)

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make paper crowns. Write the memory verse on each crown.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "I Stand in Awe," "Our God is an Awesome God," "Trust and Obey" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Make a "W-I-S-D-O-M" acrostic. Describe wisdom with words that begin with each letter. Review the memory verse as you work.
- **For more training:** Encourage your students to read through the book of Proverbs. There are 31 chapters in Proverbs, one for every day of the month!
- **For more training:** Wisdom does not assure obedience. It is one thing to know the right thing to do, it is another to choose to do it. The end of Solomon's life is a perfect example. "If anybody was born to privilege and surrounded with God's best gifts, it was Solomon. He was a young man who gave every evidence of great promise, but he ended far from where he started."* Solomon knew what was right; He was the wisest man who ever lived. The problem was that Solomon chose to do what he knew was not right. Read and discuss 1 Kings 11:1-13. Then read and discuss Matthew 6:33.
- **For more training:** Read 2 Chronicles 6:1-7:18, focusing on 7:11-18. Talk about the responsibility we have as those who follow God. Read Chapter 7, verse 14 again. It says "my people" not "sinners who are far from me."

*Wiersbe, Warren W. *Life Sentences: What Sentence Will Sum Up Your Life?* Zondervan: Grand Rapids, Michigan. 2007. pp. 149.

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Ordinary Men and Women . . .
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HERO IN TRAINING

King Solomon-Wiser Than Any Other

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 **Mission**[®]
Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people

HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: 1 Kings 3

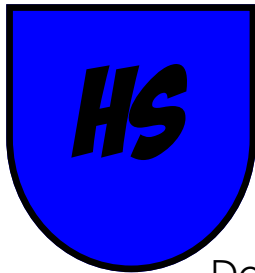
Memory verse:

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Our Hero: _____

What did our heroine do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



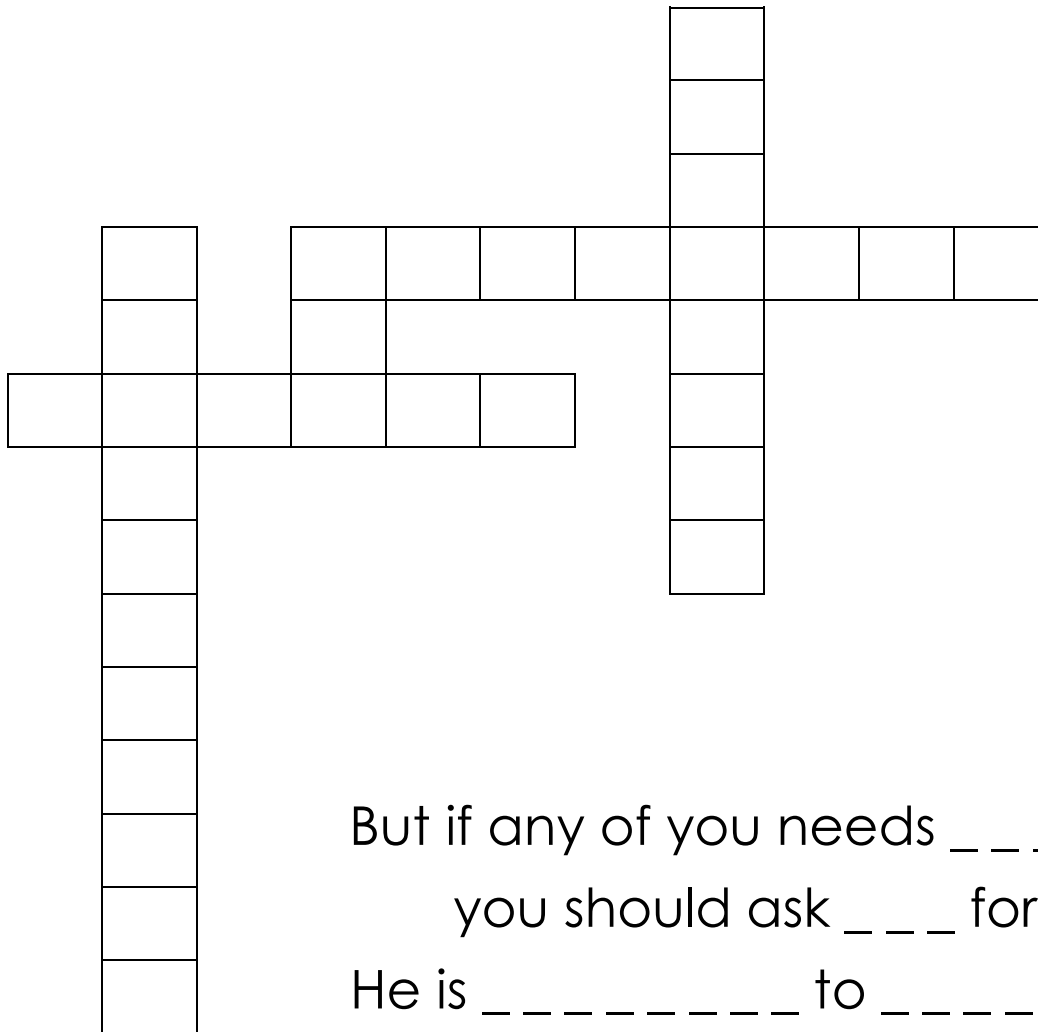
What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Read Proverbs 1. Write down all that you learn about wisdom.

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
 Fill in the missing words from the memory verse.
 Then fill in the crossword puzzle.



But if any of you needs _____,
 you should ask ___ for it.
 He is _____ to _____
 and will give you wisdom
 without _____ you.

James 1:5

WORD

SEARCH!

B D D R E H P E H S G D E
D R S E B O R E E A G I L
R T O D A V I D S S O N I
O B L I A Y E R R K D O T
L T O S M A R E R E C L S
E H M A E R D N I D O G E
T W O W O M E N C F O H N
T T N N L L E E H O S T O
F R S O O G N O E R E F T
O V I C T R R Y S W D O S
E S D I R P E H O I A E E
G O L I A T H P D S V S V
U T U L A Y J A S D I U I
O N A N S B R E V O R P F
H T B U I L T T E M P L E

- David's son
- Solomon
- God in dream
- asked for wisdom
- riches
- honor
- two women
- built temple
- Proverbs

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
 Fill in the missing words from the memory verse.
 Then fill in the crossword puzzle.

						E				
						V				
						E				
	C		G	E	N	E	R	O	U	S
	R		O				Y			
W	I	S	D	O	M		O			
	T						N			
	I						E			
	C									
	I									
	Z									
	I									
	N									
	G									

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James 1:5

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

B	D	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	G	D	E
D	R	S	E	B	O	R	E	E	A	G	I	L
R	T	O	D	A	V	I	D	S	S	O	N	I
O	B	L	I	A	Y	E	R	R	K	D	O	T
L	T	O	S	M	A	R	E	R	E	C	L	S
E	H	M	A	E	R	D	N	I	D	O	G	E
T	W	O	W	O	M	E	N	C	F	O	H	N
T	T	N	N	L	L	E	E	H	O	S	T	O
F	R	S	O	O	G	N	O	E	R	E	F	T
O	V	I	C	T	R	R	Y	S	W	D	O	S
E	S	D	I	R	P	E	H	O	I	A	E	E
G	O	L	I	A	T	H	P	D	S	V	S	V
U	T	U	L	A	Y	J	A	S	D	I	U	I
O	N	A	N	S	B	R	E	V	O	R	P	F
H	T	B	U	I	L	T	T	E	M	P	L	E

- David's son
- Solomon
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- Proverbs