

GOD'S GIFT TO SOLOMON

I Kings 3, 4

Lesson Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:15 "And that from a child you have known **the holy Scriptures** which **are able to make you wise unto salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Lesson Aim: The Bible gives us God's wisdom about salvation and eternal life.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): There was a rich man in one of our cities, who gave away hundreds of silver dollars at a parade. Many people did not get a silver dollar from him, because they did not know that he was going to do this at the parade. If they had only known, they might have been there to get a free silver dollar.

Have you have heard of "Bat Day" or "Cap Day" at the baseball park? Can anyone tell me what words mean? (On "Bat Day" everyone who buys a ticket and comes to the game receives a free baseball bat and on "Cap Day", they get a free baseball cap.) But if you do not know about these special days, you would not get the free bat or free cap.

What are some ways you could find out about free things like this? (Someone could tell you, or you might receive a flyer in the mail, or maybe you might read about it in the newspaper or hear about it on the radio or TV.)

HE (for Authority): God wants to give us a free gift. Our memory verse tells us about this gift. It is the same gift that God gave to Timothy. Do you know what the gift was that God gave to Timothy? (It was being saved from the punishment for his sins.) Before Timothy could receive his free gift of salvation, he had to hear about God's offer. Someone had to tell him what God wanted to give to him. If no one told him, he would miss the opportunity to receive God's free gift. The only place that tells us about this free gift is in God's Word ("the holy Scriptures"). He had to know what the Scriptures said about God's gift. As a child Timothy's mother and grandmother told him what the Scriptures said, and this prepared him to receive Jesus as his Savior when he heard the Apostle Paul preach in his city about God's gift. Do you know what the Scriptures say about being saved from the punishment of your sins? Has anyone told you that Jesus died for you, that He was punished for your sins? Do you know that Jesus was raised from the dead and was seen alive by His disciples and later by over 500 people? Has anyone told you how you can receive eternal life from Jesus? If you listen carefully, I will tell you how to be saved from your sins and have eternal life today. We will follow the Scriptures, so you can be sure that you have done it according to God's plan and have eternal life. **Phrase to explain in the verse:**

"Make you wise unto salvation" means to make you understand how to be saved

SEE (Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today, we are going to tell a story about Solomon, a man who was given wisdom from God. The wisdom that he received helped him to rule the people of Israel very well so that both he and his country became very rich. The wisdom that God gave to Solomon is an example of the greater riches that God wants to give to you so you can be saved and live with Him forever. (The outline of the lesson below is given to help you as the teacher to remember the main points of the story that you will tell to your students. Simply tell the story to the children and make applications to their lives as you teach.

I. God's Offer (I Kings 3:5-9)

The Bible was much smaller in the days when Solomon lived, so he did not have as much knowledge from God as we have today. He had the books of Moses, which are the first five books of the Bible. Can you name them? Then his Bible had some history books and the Psalms of David and Moses. When God wanted to share more of his wisdom with men, He would do it by giving them dreams and visions. That is how God spoke to King Solomon in this story. God told Solomon that he could ask for any one thing that he wanted. Solomon thought about this wonderful offer that God gave to him. God had made the king of Israel and he wanted to be a good king, so he made his decision and it was a very good decision. He decided to ask God for wisdom, so he could rule well the nation of Israel (cf. I Kings 3:5-9). He wanted "an understanding heart," that is, he wanted wisdom from God.

WE: God does not have to speak to us through dreams anymore, because He has spoken to us through a complete Bible that has a much larger Old Testament that Solomon had and, in addition, it has a New Testament. We can still come to God and ask Him for wisdom, but He has sent the Holy Spirit to help us get the answers we need from the Scriptures. If we need wisdom in knowing how to be saved, the Holy Spirit will make it clear from the Scriptures to those who ask with a sincere heart. So God made it possible for us to be saved by sending His Son to die for our sins and then raising Him back to life. Then He sent the Holy Spirit to help us understand the Scriptures so we can receive His Son in the right way. God has given us His wisdom in the Scriptures, but the problem with most people is that they do not read it, or if they read it, they do not want to obey it. So God will not give them His wisdom to be saved.

II. God's Gift (I Kings 3:10-12; 16-28; 4:1-34)

King Solomon sincerely asked God for wisdom, so that he could take care of His people properly, and God gave it to him. We only have to look at Bible history to see how well Solomon used the special wisdom he received from God. Solomon used God's wisdom to make Israel a strong and very rich nation. Israel has never been greater than during his reign (cf. I Kings 4:29-34; I Kings 10:4-9). An example of Solomon's wisdom to govern his people is seen when two women came to him with a baby and each one said the baby was hers. (The teacher should tell the children what Solomon did - I Kgs 3:16-28). Can anyone tell how Solomon showed the wisdom that God gave to him? God's gift of wisdom helped Solomon make many good decisions.

WE: We, too, can ask God for wisdom when we have a problem. What do you think is the biggest problem that we have? (How can we be saved from the punishment of our sins?) God will give us wisdom by the Holy Spirit who will help us understand the Bible as we read it or hear it. The Bible tells us how to be saved from Hell so that we do not go there to be punished for our sins forever. It tells us that Jesus Christ, God's Son, died on the cross for our sins. It explains that we need to repent of our sins, that is, we must hate our sins and never want to return to them. It tells us to call on the Lord Jesus, who rose from the dead, and put our faith in Him to save us. It tells us that we have eternal life by our faith in Him. This is the wisdom of God that saves our souls from being in Hell forever.

III. God's Riches (I Kings 3:13, 14)

King Solomon made the best choice when he asked for God's wisdom to rule Israel well. But God also gave him wisdom for other things. Not only did God make Solomon wise to rule Israel well, He also gave him wisdom to receive a great amount of riches and honor. In fact, he had more wealth than any of the other kings in his day (I Kgs 3:13). His honor is still recognized today as the most wise man that ever lived.

WE: Today, if we accept God's wisdom to be saved by the Lord Jesus, He will save us. Besides that, God will do much more than save us from Hell. He promises to take care of us every day of our lives (Hebrews 13:5b; I Peter 5:7) and He will give us joy (John 15:11; 16:24) and peace (John 14:27; 16:33) in our hearts, no matter what happens. And we will receive greater treasures and greater honor than Solomon had when Jesus Christ comes again to rule the whole world; we will rule with Him in His kingdom (Matt 6:20; 19:29; Jn 14:2; Romans 8:18; I Cor 2:9; Rev 2:26-27; 3:21; 20:6).

BE (for Action): Let's read 2 Timothy 3:15 again. Today, you have heard that God wants to give us wisdom about salvation so we can be saved from Hell. Will you put your faith in the wisdom of God and receive Jesus as your Savior? If you are saved, will you, this week, try to tell someone else how they can receive God's wisdom and be saved by Jesus Christ? If they do not hear about God's free gift, they will miss the greatest gift that He could ever give them.

(Give an invitation to any child that would like to receive God's free gift by faith in His promise. Those that raise their hands should be counselled after class. Help them read the Bible verses from their Bibles. It is important that they know that the Bible is the wisdom of God; it will make them wise unto salvation. After they have read the wisdom of God in the Bible, ask them if they want to receive Jesus as their Savior. If they say they want to make that decision. Have them pray in their own words for Jesus to save them. Help them if they do not know what to say, but do not have them pray a prayer after you. Tell them that can start by saying, "Dear God." Then tell them to confess to God the sins that are bothering them. Then tell them to ask Jesus to save them from Hell, if they believe He will do it. Then you should pray a short prayer thanking God for His gift of salvation.

After he or she has prayed their own prayer with your help, ask them if they believe God heard their prayer. If they say, "Yes," ask them if they believe Jesus took all of their sins. If they say, "Yes." Ask them if they want to thank God for His free gift of salvation. If they thank God in their own words for God's free gift of salvation, it will give them assurance that they are saved, much more assurance that they have God's gift than if they prayed a prayer after you.

If they do not know if God heard their prayer, take them to Rom 10:13,17 and help them to understand that God says that He will save us, if we have faith in His promise and call on Him to save us. If they do not want to pray, it is best to let them think about it and see if it becomes clear to them by the next week.

When they do not want to thank God for their salvation, it is a likely sign that they are not yet saved. A person, who is saved, wants to thank God for His free gift. Do not tell them that they are saved as long as they are unwilling to thank God for His gift of salvation.