

BIBLE HEROES

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Solomon, Big Heroes possess wisdom.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of seeking and exercising wisdom.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Kings 3:17-28. Solomon's Wise Verdict.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

When Solomon first became king, God told him that he would give him anything he asked for. Solomon asked God for wisdom to rule well. His wisdom was put to the test one day when two women came to him, both claiming to be the mother of the same baby. His method for determining the truth was unconventional, but it showed how Solomon was indeed wise. When we have wisdom, we can be heroes like Solomon.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for heroes that show us the importance of wisdom. Please make us wise so that we can be more like you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

BIBLE HEROES

MEMORY VERSE

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

“A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. Let us keep on running the race marked out for us.” - Hebrews 12:1 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Create a simple beat – right hand to the right thigh, left hand to the left thigh, hand clap, repeat. Say the verse together to the rhythm of the beat. Say the verse several times as the beat gets faster.

SMALL GROUP:

Put each word of the memory verse on a card. Have the kids rearrange the cards and put the words in order.

BIBLE HEROES

SKIT

DAMSEL IN DISTRESS: WISDOM

ITEMS NEEDED:

Black outfit (for villain)
Rope

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Damsel
Villain
Potential Hero

Our Damsel is on the railroad tracks tied up with rope. The Villain stands over her.

VILLAIN: I've got you now, Damsel.

DAMSEL: Untie me at once, cruel villain.

VILLAIN: Never. Soon the train will be here and then no one will be able to stop me from taking over the town.

DAMSEL: Why do you even want to take over the town?

VILLAIN: What?

DAMSEL: Have you even thought this thing out? The town isn't in the best location. The buildings are kind of old. And there are a lot of potential heroes around these parts that turn out to be not so bright.

VILLAIN: Stop. You're trying to trick me into changing my plans.

SKIT

DAMSEL: I'm just asking the question. Maybe taking over this town isn't the wisest goal you could have.

VILLAIN: I have to give this some thought. I will be right back.

DAMSEL: I'll be here.

Villain exits.

DAMSEL: Help! Save me! I need a hero!

Potential Hero enters.

PH: Oh my goodness, fair Damsel. Are you all right?

DAMSEL: I'm doing great. Except for the part where I got kidnapped and tied to train tracks.

PH: Well, let's get you out of those ropes.

DAMSEL: Really?

PH: Really.

DAMSEL: You're actually going to save me? You're going to be my hero?

PH: Sure, why not?

DAMSEL: Finally.

Potential Hero bends down to the Damsel. He sees something off stage.

PH: Is that the Villain who captured you?

DAMSEL: Yep. That's the fiend.

PH: He's so close. He might see us at any moment.

DAMSEL: So, you'd better hurry.

PH: Or maybe I should try to get to him first. I could tie him up while he's not suspecting it. Then I could come back and untie you.

SKIT

DAMSEL: That sounds good. Do that.

PH: But if I untied you first, there would be two of us. It would be easier to capture him if there were two of us.

DAMSEL: That's true.

PH: Then again, if he saw me while I was untying you, he might tie me up. And then we'd both need rescuing.

DAMSEL: I don't like where this is going...

PH: What should I do?

DAMSEL: You need wisdom.

PH: I do?

DAMSEL: Yes. Wisdom is the ability to not just pick a good thing, but to pick the best thing.

PH: How do I get wisdom?

DAMSEL: You ask for it. God will give us wisdom when we ask. We can also go to other people who we have seen make Godly choices.

PH: I think I'll ask this guy for wisdom.

Potential Hero goes off in the direction of the Villain.

DAMSEL: No, you have to ask people that you trust. People who are wiser than you. You're getting ready to ask the Villain.

Potential Hero runs across the stage, saying before he exits:

PH: He saw me!!!

DAMSEL: And yet again. Help! Save me! I need a hero!

BIBLE HEROES

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A picture of an owl (or plush stuffed owl, if you can find one)

Today, I brought this picture of an owl. What do you think of when you think about owls?

Give the kids an opportunity to answer.

Those are good answers. Did you know that owls are nocturnal? That means they sleep during the day and go out at night. They are also predators – hunters that feed on mice and other small animals.

Here's a strange thing, you might not know. For centuries, owls have been a symbol. The thing they have symbolized is wisdom. I'm not really sure why people looked at owls and decided "that's wisdom right there." Any ideas of why people might have thought owls were wise?

Give the kids an opportunity to answer.

Except when they are on the hunt, owls don't move much. When they are on their perch, they sit quietly. Wise people are often slow to act, as well. They want to have all the facts before they make a decision.

Owls are also majestic-looking. Noble-looking. And there's nothing more noble or majestic than wisdom.

So honestly, I don't know why owls are considered wise. But I do know this, you should seek wisdom. It will help you make the best choice. And it will make you like the heroes of the Bible.

That's something to give a hoot about.

BIBLE HEROES

LARGE GROUP GAME

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

ITEMS NEEDED:

Clear vase
Black beans
White beans

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose one kid for this game. Give them a vase filled with black beans. Tell them that there are also five objects in the vase which are different. (These are the white beans.) The kid has to find the five different objects in less than 60 seconds.

Using a vase will make digging through the beans more of a challenge. If you are asked, you can reveal that they are allowed to dump the contents on the table and dig through the beans that way. If they don't ask, wait until the game is over to reveal this information.

VARIATION:

For younger kids, give them more time or place the beans in a container that's easier to dig through.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Games, like life, require wisdom. To succeed, we need to know what we are looking for. We need to have good problem-solving skills. And we need to consider all of our options before we act.

BIBLE HEROES

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Solomon, Big Heroes possess wisdom.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of seeking and exercising wisdom.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Kings 3:17-28. Solomon's Wise Verdict.

INTRO

We all have heroes. People that we admire, look up to, want to be like. People who have done amazing things and possess amazing qualities. Those qualities are what we call virtues. We've spent the last couple of months looking at some of those virtues: things like loyalty, faithfulness, and self-control.

Another quality that heroes possess and that we should seek to possess is wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to look at a situation and know the best way to respond to that situation. Wisdom is making decisions that are beneficial to yourself and to others. Sometimes when we have to choose, there is more than one good option. Wisdom is the ability to choose not just a good thing, but to choose the best thing.

We aren't born with wisdom. Some wisdom we gain as we grow older and learn from our experiences. And wisdom can also be given to us by those we look up to. Or by God himself.

That's how Solomon became so wise. When Solomon became king after his father David, God came to him in a dream. God said that he would give to Solomon anything he desired. Solomon did not ask for wealth or success. He asked for wisdom so that he could rule the people of Israel well.

And God granted him wisdom. Solomon was known throughout the world as a wise king. Let's read a story about one of the times he had to put that wisdom to use.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ 1 Kings 3:17-28.

MAIN POINT

What an unusual case. Two women both claiming to be the mother of the same baby. The child was too young to tell anyone who he belonged to. And there was no one else around who could vouch for them. Solomon had to figure out who the real mother was. What was he to do?

Solomon asked for his sword. And then he ordered that the baby be cut in half, so that each mother would have half a baby.

Now we need to be clear: Solomon had no intention of cutting that baby in half. He was saying that to test the women. He knew that the baby's real mother would do whatever she could to save the life of her baby.

So when one of the women said that she would rather see the other woman with the baby than to see the baby killed, Solomon knew that this woman was the baby's real mother. It was a strange case indeed. And Solomon handled it in a strange way. But it proved to be a wise way, as well.

DRIVE IT HOME

Sometimes the decisions we have to make are clear. If you don't eat your dinner you don't get dessert; and since you really want dessert, you eat your dinner.

But a lot of times there's more than one way to proceed. At school, you notice that your friend is really quiet today. You're not sure what's wrong. Do you try to get her to talk about it? Or do you let her have her space and work through it on her own? Do you mention it to your teacher? None of those are wrong answers, but you have to figure out if there is an option that is wiser than the others.

That's where God comes in. We can ask God for wisdom, just like Solomon did. God will grant us wisdom if we ask. He will lead us in the way that we should go. Never be afraid to ask God for the wisdom that you are lacking.

Wisdom is a virtue that Solomon possessed in great quantities. But it's something all of the great heroes of the Bible possessed. And we can be wise too, if we ask God to help.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for heroes that show us the importance of wisdom. Please make us wise so that we can be more like you.

In Jesus' name, Amen

BIBLE HEROES

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

Who is the wisest person you know?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Put each word of the memory verse on a card. Have the kids rearrange the cards and put the words in order.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Using construction paper, toilet paper tubes, and pencils, create judge gavels. Let the gavels remind your kids of the wise decisions that Solomon made, and the wise choices we should strive to make.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Kings 3:17-28.

Why did the two women come to Solomon?

What did Solomon tell his servants to bring him?

What did Solomon propose to do with his sword?

How did the women react to Solomon's suggestion?

How can we gain wisdom?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Give us the wisdom we need to make the best decisions in each situation.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

BIBLE HEROES

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

Who is the wisest person you know?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Put each word of the memory verse on a card. Have the kids rearrange the cards and put the words in order.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Using construction paper, toilet paper tubes, and pencils, create judge gavels. Let the gavels remind your kids of the wise decisions that Solomon made, and the wise choices we should strive to make.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Kings 3:17-28.

Why did the two women come to Solomon?

What did Solomon propose to do with his sword?

How did the women react to Solomon's suggestion?

What made this a wise move on Solomon's part?

How can we gain wisdom?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Give us the wisdom we need to make the best decisions in each situation.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

BIBLE HEROES

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE or FALSE

1. Solomon was a wise king.

TRUE

2. Three women came to Solomon, all claiming to be the mother of the same baby.

FALSE (2 women came)

3. Solomon had met the women before, so he already knew who the real mother was.

FALSE

4. Solomon proposed cutting the baby in half with his sword.

TRUE

5. The baby's real mother agreed to allow the king to cut the baby in half.

FALSE

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: SOLOMON



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Today we learned that big heroes possess wisdom. When Solomon first became king, God told him that he would give him anything he asked for. Solomon had asked God for wisdom. His wisdom was put to the test one day when two women came to him claiming to be the mother of the same baby. His method for determining the truth was unconventional, but it showed how Solomon was wise. When we have wisdom, we can be heroes like Solomon.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Talk to your kids about who they listen to. Wisdom is gained from God and also from the wise counsel of others. Encourage your kids to surround themselves with people who make sound judgments and act wisely. Tell your kids they should feel free to come to you whenever they need help making decisions.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did the women bring their case to Solomon?
- How did Solomon know which woman was the baby's real mother?
- How can we become wise?



AT BEDTIME:

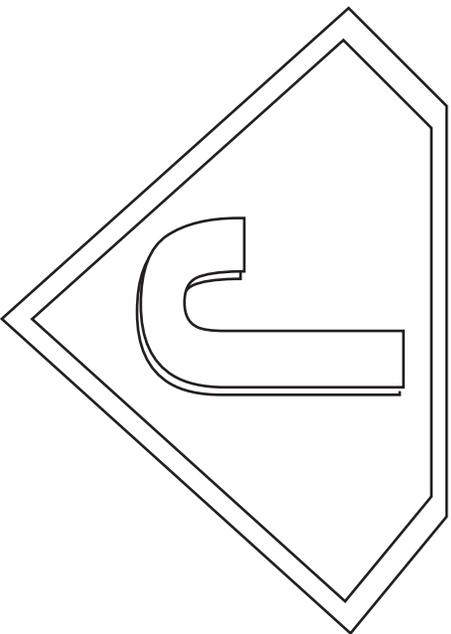
Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



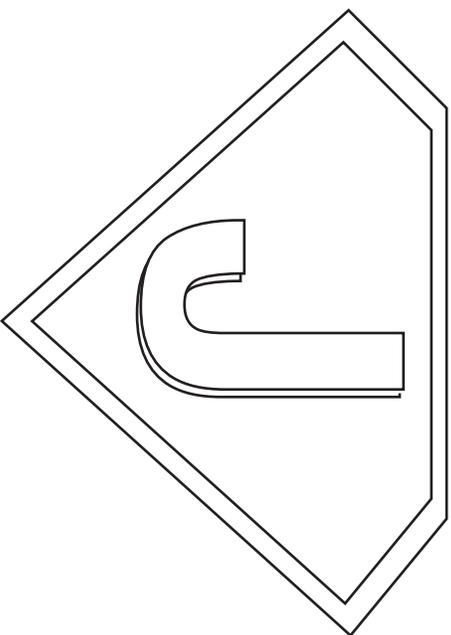
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know: Kids aren't the only ones who need the wisdom of others. Do you have a mentor? If you do, seek him/her out this week for guidance. If you don't have a mentor, consider developing a deeper connection with someone whose wisdom and judgment you trust.



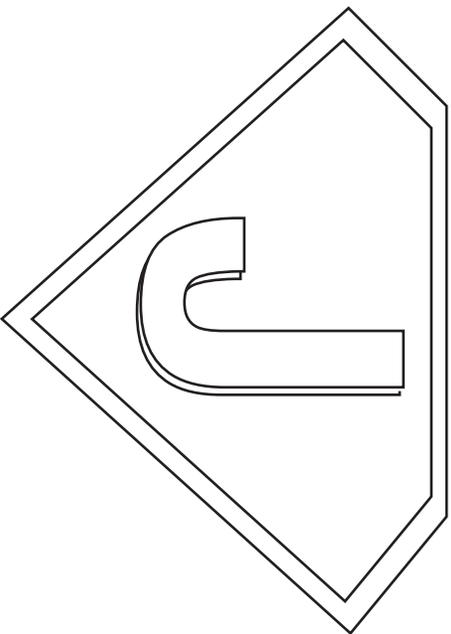
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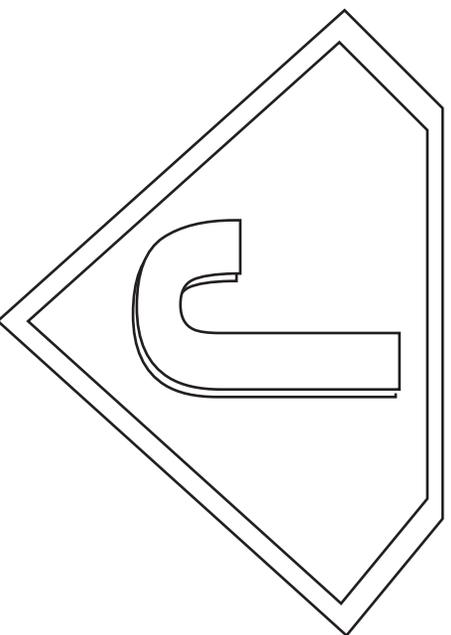
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BIBLE HEROES

CRAFT PROJECT

Owls and balanced scales are images sometimes associated with wisdom. Give your kids pens and paper and have them draw a picture that represents “wisdom” – whether it be a specific person, a symbolic image, or a retelling of today’s story.