



WISDOM

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson 1

WISDOM FROM GOD

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

God's Holy Spirit caused Solomon to write the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and The Song of Solomon. (See 2 Peter 1:21.) "Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man . . . And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke 3,000 proverbs and his songs numbered 1005" (1 Kings 4:32). We have much to learn from Solomon's wise teachings.

The subject of our study, *WISDOM*, is "the fear of the LORD" (Proverbs 9:10). To fear Him is to trust, reverence and obey Him. In Proverbs, God says those who fear the LORD are wise. Those who do not fear Him live as if there is no God. Lacking good sense, they are called "fools." (See Proverbs 28:26; Psalm 14:1.)

God's wisdom enables His people to live lives which honor Him. (See Proverbs 2:6; 8:17; James 1:5.) Keep before your students that we all make choices. These choices determine: (1) Whether or not God will be honored and pleased by our conduct and (2) Where we shall spend eternity.

The book of Proverbs teaches us how to live wisely. God's wisdom guides us in our relationships with others. His wisdom directs us to have pure thoughts. When we have God's wisdom we do not offend His holiness. Nor do we dishonor other Christians.

In this study of Solomon's three books, we also focus on his life. Have you taught Old Testament Volume 23, *A Kingdom Forever?* If so, review highlights of the first two lessons to introduce this volume. If your students know local proverbs, have them quote some. Then they will quickly understand the use of biblical proverbs.

On illustration #3a, print WISE on dotted line at top left. On illustration 3b top right dotted line, print FOOLISH. Keep page covered, revealing each illustration as you mention it.

At top center of illustration #4, print MAKING CHOICES. On 4a, in bright cloud, print RIGHT. On 4b, in dark cloud, print WRONG.

Scripture to be studied: 1 Kings 1-4; 2 Chronicles 1; Proverbs (see lesson)

The aim of the lesson: To show that wisdom from God is our greatest treasure.

What your students should know: To be wise is to fear the Lord.

What your students should feel: The need for God's wisdom in making choices.

What your students should do: Ask God for wisdom to make right choices this week.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Solomon, the king (1 Kings 1:1-2:12).
2. Solomon's choice (1 Kings 3:4-15; 4:29-34; 2 Chronicles 1:7-12).
3. Solomon's teaching (See verses in lesson).
4. Solomon's advice (See verses in lesson).

The verse to be memorized:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10)

THE LESSON:

Suppose someone said to you, "I shall give you anything you want." What would you choose? (Encourage response.)

In the long ago (almost 3,000 years ago), God Himself said that to a young man. Let me tell you what happened.

1. SOLOMON, THE KING 1 Kings 1:1-2:12

The young man was the son of Israel's great King David. King David loved God and almost always pleased Him. Finally David was old and sick. And he knew he was about to die.