

1

Service
We reveal God's love by serving others.

POWER TEXT

"Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her" (Proverbs 8:10, 11).

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Kings 3:1-15; 4:29-34
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 1, pp. 25-34
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 130-133
- Student story on page 22 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 21, Stewardship
- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
- No. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God gives the wisdom to make them effective in service.
- **Feel** the importance of making wise decisions and choosing to serve others.
- **Respond** by asking God for wisdom to make the right decisions to serve others.

The Wisest Man on Earth

POWERPOINT

God gives us wisdom to serve others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

One night God spoke to Solomon in a dream and promised He would give Solomon anything he wanted. Solomon asked God for wisdom to know the difference between right and wrong and for wisdom to serve His people wisely. We, too, need God's wisdom to be effective in our service.

This is a lesson about service.

If we ask for wisdom to serve others, God will happily give it to us as He gave it to Solomon.

Teacher Enrichment

"Above every earthly good, the king desired wisdom and understanding for the accomplishment of the work God had given him to do. He longed for quickness of mind, for largeness of heart, for tenderness of spirit. . . .

He who gave to Solomon the spirit of wise discernment is willing to impart the same blessing to His children today" (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 28, 31).

For what do you pray? How could the gift of wisdom equip you for service? In what areas do you need to be wiser?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?**

Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Wisdom Box* *B. Who's Serving Whom?*	 cards with names of those who served and were served in the Bible
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 17. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	Bible, songbooks, world map, pushpins, letters to parents (p. 144), offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	three copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 145), name tags, flags (optional) Bibles Bibles, Bible concordances, paper, pens/pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Pass the Task*	paper, pens/pencils
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*How May I Serve You?*	art supplies, pins
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments Reminder to Parents Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

Wisdom Box

Assign tasks, such as solving a complicated Bible trivia or a difficult question without additional clues to help. Provide no further instructions or tools to complete the tasks, and give the students two minutes to complete them. When students complain that they can't complete the assignment, don't have the proper tools, or don't understand the rules, ask: **What do you need in order to do as you were directed?** (Ask for directions, get the right tools, discover the rules.) Ask: **How important is it to seek help? How is asking for help like asking for wisdom?**

Say: **Let's say together the power text, Proverbs 8:10, 11:**

"Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her" (Proverbs 8:10, 11).

Today we are learning:

God gives us wisdom to serve others.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ cards with names

Who's Serving Whom?

Before classtime, prepare name cards of Bible characters who served others with the name(s) of those they served on the reverse side of the card. During class set out the stack of name cards. Have one student select a card, then describe how the character served or how the character was served, without mentioning either name. For example: "I saved a whole nation from starving." (The answer would be Joseph.) The first student would then ask, "Who was served?" (The answer would be people of Egypt and Joseph's family.) The person who answers the second question would draw the next card and describe how the Bible character served or was served. Some examples for the name cards are: Ruth/Naomi; David/Jonathan; Joseph/Joseph's brothers; Jacob/Esau; Elijah/the widow of Zarephath; Paul/Timothy; Mary Magdalene/Jesus.

Debriefing

Ask: **What decisions went into each person's act of service? What did they need from God to adequately serve? How did God equip them to serve?**

Say: **Let's say together the power text, Proverbs 8:10, 11:**

"Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her" (Proverbs 8:10, 11).

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Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"He's Able" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 100)
"Oh, Fill It Up" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 135)
"Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 126)
"Lord, Be Glorified" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 148)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins
- ☐ letter to parents (p. 144)

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission stories take place throughout the quarter.

At the beginning of the quarter send a letter to the parents, informing them that an offering is taken up each week in Sabbath School (see letter to parents on p. 144).

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Explain that wisdom is described in the Bible as being more precious than gold.

Have someone read 1 Kings 4:32-34.

Say: **God gave Solomon wisdom and Solomon shared that wisdom with everyone. God has also given us gifts that we can share. One gift is our offering.**

Prayer

Say: **King Solomon prayed for wisdom so that he could rule his people in the right way (1 Kings 3:9). God granted his desire and gave Solomon more than he asked for. God is like that. He gives us more than we ask. Let's ask Him to give us just what we need to better serve those around us!** Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ three *Net Kids* scripts (p. 145)
- ☐ name tags

Introducing the Bible Story

The *Net Kids*

(Note: The *Net Kids* are an imaginative way to introduce the Bible story. If you prefer not to use this imaginary element, read over the script yourself and introduce the lesson concept in your own words.)

You will need scripts for up to six students, and name tags and/or flags with the names of the *Net Kids* on them.

You can either have them memorize the parts a week ahead or give them the script to be read Sabbath morning. Scripts for duplication are found at the end of this guide.

Introduce the *Net Kids* to your class. Say: **The Net Kids are an international group of children ages 11-14 who communicate regularly through email. Emiko and Darren met in a teen Christian chat room and found out that they were both Seventh-day Adventists. They then created a chat room for Adventist juniors and teens and the other four joined. They get together as often as they can via the internet.**

Ulla:	11-year-old girl	Sweden
Ivan:	12-year-old boy	Russia
Tendai:	12-year-old boy	Zimbabwe
Ana:	13-year-old girl	U.S.A.
Darren:	13-year-old boy	Australia
Emiko:	14-year-old girl	Japan

Arrange the students at desks, or at chairs turned around as desks if no desks are available. Have them tap as they read their part, to simulate typing at a computer keyboard.

Make the appropriate number of copies of the *Net Kids* script found at the back of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity. Present the skit. (See p. 145.)

Debriefing

Ask: **How many of you have thought about what you want to be or do when you grow up? Have you talked with God about it?** (Encourage students to pray about this.)

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Help the students get involved with the story by turning it into a prayer experience. Invite each student to choose a prayer partner and sit or kneel with that person. Choose two students to stand with you. They take turns reading the verses indicated. You speak as shown, telling the group what to pray about. Pause several minutes for their prayers while at the same time praying with the two people with you. Generally, when your prayers are done, it is time to move on with the reading. (In a small class: Everyone prays and reads together as one group.) The group may choose to kneel throughout or they may pray seated.

Say: **We're going to read 1 Kings 3:1-15 and 4:29-34. Let's see what we can learn from Solomon's royal request. We will take time to talk to God as we read and consider. At times we will sing together. Please join in.**

Have student 1 read 1 Kings 3:1, 2.

Say: **It sounds romantic, marrying a princess. But think of the problems: She comes from a palace. She can't speak the language. Solomon has his hands full with the building of the temple. We, too, have problems at home while we are busy at school. We don't know how to handle everything. Tell your partner one problem you have. Then listen to your partner's problem. (Pause.) Now let's each pray a short prayer, taking our partner's problem to the Lord.** (Pray two to three minutes.)

Have student 2 read verses 3 and 4.

Say: **Solomon went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices. Might the Lord be asking you and me to make some sacrifices? It may be that He is telling us to give up something that we cherish. Take a moment to think what God might be asking you to give up.** (Pause.) **Now share with your partner in a word or two what you are willing to sacrifice.** (Pause.) **Affirm your partner's decision for sacrifice in a short prayer.** (Pause.) Softly sing "Father, I Adore You" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 32) to conclude the prayer.

Have student 1 read verses 5-9.

Say: **Solomon admitted that he lacked wisdom and understanding. We, too, need to admit our need for wisdom. Share with your partner one thing that you need wisdom to handle. Then pray together for the wisdom.** (Pause.)

Have student 2 read verses 10-15.

Say: **Solomon was so overwhelmed by God's gener-**

osity that he returned to Jerusalem, offered a sacrifice, and gave a party. We can also show how we feel about God by speaking words of praise to Him. Let's take time as a group to speak words of praise to God. Let's tell Him what we appreciate about Him by saying one-word prayers. (Take several minutes for praise.)

Have student 1 read 1 Kings 4:29-34.

Say: **Just as God answered Solomon's prayer by giving Him wisdom, God will give us wisdom.** Read Proverbs 2:6. Invite everyone to repeat the verse together. Pray that God will open the hearts of your students to receive the wisdom that God is willing to offer them. **Remember:**

God gives us wisdom to serve others.

YOU NEED:
- □ Bibles
- □ concordances
- □ paper
- □ pens/pencils

Exploring the Bible

Have several concordances for the students to use during this activity. Also have paper and pens/pencils for them to record their discoveries. Divide the students into two groups.

Say: **What does "wisdom" mean to you?** (Accept responses.) **Solomon could have asked God for anything that he wanted. He chose wisdom. We're going to spend some time looking up the word "wisdom" in the Bible to see why Solomon wanted it so much, and why we should too. Appoint a scribe in your group to write down the texts and reasons.** (Possible texts: Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 2:6; 3:13; 8:11; 13:10; 29:3; Micah 6:9; James 1:5)

Debriefing

Ask: **What have we learned about wisdom?** (It helps us in life; we can serve better if we are wise; wisdom is important.) **Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom instead of other things?** (He wanted to be a good king and rule the people well.) **If God gives wisdom, how can we become wise?** (By praying, asking Him, learning from Scripture.)

Accommodation for students with special needs

Allow students who experience difficulty with writing and spelling to express verbally their observations, while another group member records their answers in writing.

YOU NEED:
- □ paper
- □ pens/pencils

Pass the Task

Have the students form a circle. Say: **Jesus spent His life in service for us. His death for us was the highest act of service. But He served gladly. He would have given Himself for you if you were the only person in the world who needed Him. Now He is offering to let us join Him in serving others! Close your eyes and reflect on a situation or person in your life that God might want you to serve.** (Pause.) **On your paper, write who you want to serve and why.** (Example: Say hi and stop and talk to neighbors.)

When the students are done ask them to fold the paper and give it to the person directly opposite them in the circle. When everyone has exchanged papers, ask them to open it and read it silently. The students will then write a sentence or two of wisdom, advice, or a Bible text they can think of to help with that service task. The students then fold the paper again and pass it to another person in the circle, who will read it and add more wisdom, advice, or a Bible text. Finally, fold the papers and pass them on one last time. This time the student will write a prayer on the paper for the person and the task.

Return the papers to the original person. (Expect a few moments of confusion.) Signal for quiet and ask everyone to read their papers silently. Ask for volunteers to share what is on their papers.

Debriefing

Say: **Let's say the power text together, Proverbs 8:10, 11:**

"Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her" (Proverbs 8:10, 11).

Say: **God wants us to choose His wisdom so that we will be better able to serve others.**

God gives us wisdom to serve others.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ pins

How May I Serve You?

Invite students to share if they had the opportunity during the week to do some act of service for someone. Ask: **How did you reflect God's love to those around you? How did you recognize the things with which you could help? What acts of service did you do to help someone? How did the person whom you helped respond?**

Distribute art supplies. Have the students make and decorate buttons/badges that say, "How may I serve you?" Ask them to keep them on for the rest of the Sabbath and note people's responses.

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you think people will respond?** (Accept responses.) **How will you follow through if someone wants you to do something specific?** (Accept responses; encourage them to do what is asked.) **What will you do if you get a negative response?** (Accept responses; encourage them not to become discouraged if this happens.)

Say: **If you are ever uncertain about how to help someone, remember,**

God gives us wisdom to serve others.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray for the students that they will ask for and use God's wisdom in performing acts of service.

Pray that your students will receive the Holy Spirit into their lives every day.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Words of wisdom offer guidance. God's Word presents ways we can serve others.**

Notes

Student lesson

The Wisest Man on Earth

Who's the wisest person you know? How do you think that person became so wise? Do you think you can ever be as wise? Try to picture the scenes that may have taken place in King Solomon's palace as his workers and guests marveled at the wisdom God gave him.

Here's the last plant from the palace garden," a young steward said. His muscles strained with the weight of the leafy plant in the heavy pot. "Where do you want it?"

"You can place it over there, opposite the other one," said King Solomon's special events chief. He pointed toward the throne.

The steward carried the plant up the steps and placed it carefully behind the throne. He stood a few minutes surveying the room. "This looks great!" he exclaimed.

"Thank you, my strong friend," said the chief. "I hope King Solomon will like it as much as you do."

"He will," the steward said, resting on the steps. "I wish I could watch everything."

"I think I can arrange that," the chief said, smiling. "Pull back the purple curtains where the tassels are."

The young steward got up and pulled them back to reveal a small area with two stools. "You could sit here with me during the ceremony. Be here tomorrow before the sun is up. You must be in place before anyone arrives."

The next morning, pink hadn't tinged the sky when the young steward walked through the servants' entrance of the palace. He asked the cook if the chief was there.

"For hours," replied the cook without turning around.

Hurrying to the throne room, the steward asked, "Sir, is there anything you need help with?"

"No, everything is ready here. The chief of protocol has already been down and inspected the room," the special events chief said. "Ask the cook if he needs any help."

Time passed quickly as the young steward helped the kitchen staff. Finally the chief pulled him aside.

"It's time to go," he whispered.

The pair quickly made their way to the small space and took their places. The chief carefully arranged the heavy material so they could see the ceremony. Just as the last fold was in place, the court officials entered the room and quickly took their places.

With a blast of trumpets, King Solomon entered the room, followed by his personal attendants. As he made his way through the room, people bowed. The young steward admired the elegant robes and glittering crown Solomon wore.

Solomon climbed the steps to his throne and seated himself. Two attendants arranged his robes. Another handed him his scepter. At last he was ready to receive his guests.

Once again the trumpets blared and the procession of kings, prime ministers, and other heads of state streamed into the throne room.

"Why have so many people come today? It's not a holiday," the steward whispered.

"They came to listen to King Solomon's wisdom," the chief replied just as quietly.

"How did he get to be so wise?"

"He asked for wisdom. Solomon was just 20 years old when he became king," said the chief. "He knew he didn't know how to rule a country. One night he had a dream. God appeared to him and said, 'Ask for whatever you want me to give you' [1 Kings 3:5]."

"You mean God was going to give him anything he asked for?" the young steward asked.

"That's right. He knew that God had been faithful to his father, David, even though he made mistakes. Solomon felt he needed guidance to be a good king. So he asked for wisdom to rule the people," replied the chief.

"That's *all* he asked for?" asked the steward.

"That's all. God was very pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom. He told Solomon, 'I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life' [verses 12-14]."

"So King Solomon is wiser than all these people?" the steward asked.

"Yes," said the special events chief. "He's written 3,000 proverbs and songs, and has made important discoveries about plants and animals."

"So I'm getting to watch the wisest man on earth in action."

"That you are," smiled the chief.

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Kings 3:1-15; 4:29-34
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 1, pp. 25-34
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 130-133
- Our Beliefs nos. 21, 17, 9

POWER TEXT

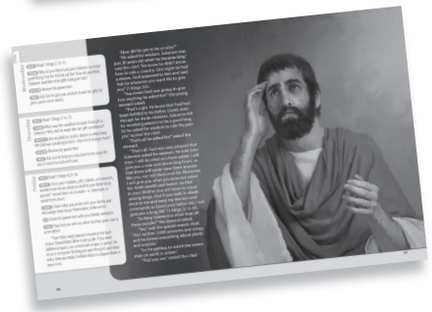
"Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her" (Proverbs 8:10, 11).

POWER POINT

God gives us wisdom to serve others.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 18.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Kings 3:1-3 and this week's story, "The Wisest Man on Earth."

REVIEW Review the power text, Proverbs 8:10, 11.

PRAY Ask God for wisdom for your everyday tasks.

Monday

READ Read 1 Kings 3:4.

THINK In what ways can you show your love for God?

DO Share God's love with someone through an act of service today.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you stay focused on Him even when you are very busy.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Kings 3:5-9.

THINK What does Solomon's prayer for "wisdom" tell about him and about his understanding of who God is?

LIST List five things that you would ask for if someone said you could have anything you want. Why would you choose each of these and for what would you use them?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for your church leaders who need wisdom daily to do their work.

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Kings 3:10-13.

THINK Why do you think God gave Solomon so many good things that he did not ask for? How do you think Solomon used the other gifts God gave him?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you wisdom to use the gifts He gives you to serve others.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Kings 3:14, 15.

THINK What was the condition to God's final gift to Solomon? Why did He make the last gift conditional?

REFLECT Ask an adult to recall a dream in which they felt God was speaking to them. How did it change them?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you stay open to the ways He uses to communicate with you.

Friday

READ Read 1 Kings 4:29-34.

WRITE Using your hobbies, gifts, talents, and interests, rewrite these verses about yourself in your Bible study journal,* "record them in an audio or video file", or speak them aloud.

SHARE Share what you wrote with your family and encourage them to put themselves in the verses.

SAY Share the power text with your family members.

PRAY Pray that you will use what God has given you to serve others.

*Your Bible study journal is found at the back of your *PowerPoints* Bible study guide. If you need additional space, use a notebook or open a special file on your computer. Writing out your thoughts and ideas every time you study the Bible helps to engrain them in your mind.