

4.11 SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM

1 KINGS 2 & 3

David was king for many years. He had ruled the people of Judah (part of Israel) for seven years. Then, he ruled all of Israel for thirty-three years. David had made lots of mistakes. Many times, he had been disobedient to God. But God knew David's heart. He knew when David sinned. God also knew when David was sorry for his sins.

David grew very old. He knew it was time for him to die. His son, Solomon, would now be king of Israel. David talked to Solomon during these last days. He told Solomon, "Be brave. Be strong. Listen to God and do what He tells you to do. God will show you the way for you to go in your life. Be sure to follow that way. If you follow what I say, then you will do well in whatever you do and wherever you go. God promised me that if my sons walked faithfully with God—with all their heart and soul—then, there would always be another king of Israel from our family."

David gave Solomon a few instructions about his enemies and some instructions about his friends. Then David died. Solomon became king and sat on the throne of his father.

One of Solomon's jobs would be to build a temple where the people could worship the Lord God. The people of the city had not been obedient in their worship. Because there was no temple to worship God, the people would worship in other ways. Solomon kept David's instructions about loving God and leading a good life, except he also worshiped in places that were not pleasing to God. One night, God appeared to Solomon in a dream.

God said to Solomon, "Ask for whatever you want and I will give it to you."

Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to Your servant, my father, David. My father was faithful to you and had a good heart. You have continued to show Your kindness by giving him a son who would also be king. Now, my Lord God, you have made me, your servant, king after my father David. But I am like a little child. I don't know how to do what I should as king. I am here among the people You have chosen. There are so many people—too many to count. So, what I really want from You is a heart of wisdom, a heart that listens to You for instruction before I open my mouth. I want to lead Your people well. I want to know the difference between good and evil when they have a problem. No one is able to lead Your glorious people on their own."

God was very pleased with Solomon. God told him, "You have not asked for riches, or a long life, or for destruction to come to your enemies. You have asked for the ability to lead the people and the government in this country in the best way. I will give you what you asked for—a wise and knowing heart. Because this is what mattered most to you, I will also give you riches and favor with the people. If you keep working to serve God as your father David did, I will also give you a long life."

Then, Solomon woke from his dream! He knew that God had truly spoken to him.

4.11 SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM - TEACHER'S GUIDE

1 KINGS 2 & 3

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) David had ruled Israel for many years. He was very old. It was time for him to die. He spoke to his son, Solomon, during this time. Solomon would soon be king. David told Solomon to listen for God and he would know what to do. He told him to be brave and strong.
- 2) Solomon had the job of building the temple. The people needed a place to worship God. They would worship God in ways not pleasing to Him. Even Solomon did not always please God when he worshiped.
- 3) God spoke to Solomon in a dream one night. He asked Solomon what he wanted more than anything. Solomon told God it was hard to lead a country of God's people. There were so many of them. Solomon wanted to lead the people well. Solomon asked for a heart like God's heart that could lead the people. He asked for wisdom.
- 4) God was happy with Solomon's request. God answered Solomon and told him He would bless Solomon with what he asked for. But God would also bless him with riches and favor with the people. And if he served God as his father David did, he would be blessed with long life.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Who was going to take King David's place as king of Israel?
- 2) What was one important job Solomon had to do as king?
- 3) God asked Solomon in a dream what he wanted most. What was that?
- 4) What did God also give Solomon, besides wisdom?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Solomon, King David's son, would be the next king of Israel.
- 2) One important job Solomon had to do was build a temple for the people to worship God in.
- 3) Solomon asked God for wisdom to lead the people of Israel.
- 4) God gave Solomon riches and favor with the people of Israel.