

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

WEEK 2

### **BIG IDEA**

God listens to our requests.

### **BIBLE**

Solomon Asks For Wisdom: 1 Kings 3:1–15; Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23

## **ABOUT THIS WEEK**

The thing about construction sites is that they are so loud it can be hard to know if anyone hears what you're saying. This week, we'll take a look at the time Solomon asked God to give him something every person in leadership needs—wisdom. Solomon's story reminds us that no matter how loud things get in our lives, God listens to our requests.

## *Large Group Time*

Welcome

Get your hard hats ready, blueprints out, and gather all your materials. This month, we are learning all about King Solomon, who built God's temple and magnificent palaces. As Solomon builds the temple, we will be building our own foundation on God's words and wisdom. So let's get *under construction!*

## *WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Stable Structures

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need raw spaghetti noodles and marshmallows of various sizes. Feel free to add in more materials like toothpicks or gumdrops. To play, have kids work in groups of five to twelve. Set a time limit of three to five minutes. Have kids attempt to build the tallest structure possible. When time is up, let everyone see each other's creations. Use a plastic table cloth on the ground for each group to make clean up easy and protect your floors.*
- **What part of your structure helps it be stable?** Yes, the foundation.
- It doesn't matter what else you build on top—if the foundation is weak, there's a chance the whole thing could topple over.
- Today, we'll see what Solomon thought would be the foundation of being a good king!

QUESTION | What would you ask for if you could get anything?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the questions below, and let kids share what they would ask for. You could also have kids write or draw their responses on sticky notes and have everyone come to the front and post them on a wall or board.
- **If someone said they would give you anything you asked for, what would you ask for?**
- **After hearing everyone's ideas, would you change your answer to a different one? Why?**
- You all had some creative answers! I can see why getting those things might be fun or helpful. In today's Bible story, we'll learn that God asked Solomon this question, and his answer was quite unexpected!

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | 1 Kings 3:1–15 (Solomon Asks for Wisdom)

Welcome to *Under Construction*! So many people are on this site to get the job done, and everyone has an opinion of how it should be done. And they don't always agree.

- That kind of reminds me of what Solomon might have been going through when he became king. His road to the throne was a little shaky, what with his brother trying to steal it from him and all, but eventually, all went according to God's plan. Solomon became the next king of Israel and Judah.
- Solomon was young when he became king. It was a huge responsibility to run an entire kingdom. But he knew, as his dad David had taught him, that all he had to do was love God and follow all God's directions.
- **Let's read 1 Kings 3:4–5.**
  - After Solomon gave an offering, God appeared to him in a dream during the night. God told Solomon, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."
  - **What do you think a ruler needs most to run a kingdom? Do you think Solomon asked for those things?**
- **Let's find out in 1 Kings 3:7–9.**
  - We don't know Solomon's exact age, but by his own description, he was very young. He wanted to make sure that he could lead and serve God's people well.
  - **If you became a ruler right now, who might be coming to tell you how to run the kingdom?**
  - Solomon may have had a lot of people around him making a lot of noise. All those people giving their opinions to Solomon must have made it confusing and difficult for him to make the right decisions. Above all, he wanted to follow God and do what was right and good.
  - That's how he knew exactly what to ask for. He asked for wisdom, a heart that was able to make good decisions for God's people. He knew that if he had God's wisdom, everything else would fall into place.
  - **How do you think God responded?**
- **Let's read 1 Kings 3:10–15.**
  - Solomon's request for great wisdom was pleasing to God. God granted Solomon just what he asked for. But because of Solomon's selfless request, God also gave him great

riches and honor.

- God let Solomon know having wisdom and riches wouldn't be enough, and Solomon would also need to continue following God. If he kept God's commands, he was guaranteed a good, long life! After this incredible dream, Solomon woke up and praised God with more offerings.
- Solomon's request was selfless and lined up with God's plans. Like Solomon, we can take our plans, ideas, and requests to the architect, God, who oversees the blueprints for our lives. We know God wants what is best for us and will always listen.

BIG IDEA | God listens to our requests.

**God listens to our requests.**

VIDEO | A Clip Of Construction Sounds

- **What were some of the sounds that could be heard on a construction site?**
- **Do you think it would be easy or difficult for people to talk to each other in such a zone?**
- I would imagine that all of us around the world praying to God with our requests would sound like a construction zone! Is it even possible that God could hear me from *all* the voices that are being lifted up to God every day?
- You know what? It *is* possible!
- God is always listening to you no matter what noises are around you. It can never be too noisy for God to hear you. God wants to hear from you. Despite all the noise of our lives, we can be confident that **God listens to our requests.**

VIDEO | Under Construction, Episode 2

**INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

**NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?**

REFLECTION | Construction Break!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ring a bell or play an alarm on your phone to pretend you are taking a construction break. Invite kids to sit casually around the room and provide a snack if you'd like. For today's sharing and reflection time, use the [image provided](#) of a "Construction Zone" sign as you talk with kids.*

- It's time for a construction break! We built up our knowledge of God's words today with the story of how Solomon asked God for wisdom. All signs point to God being happy with Solomon's request!
- Signs play a big role in a construction zone. Take the "Construction Zone" sign, for example. Even though you could see all the construction vehicles and materials beyond the fence, the sign lets people know for sure that only authorized construction people can enter and that it's not a safe place to play or even walk through.
  - **How do you know Solomon knew he was "still under construction," meaning he still had a lot to learn?**
  - **What do you think would have happened if Solomon asked for something other than wisdom?**
  - **Have you ever asked God for something that you thought you needed more than anything? What happened?**
  - **Does God listen to all of our requests? Why do you think that?**
  - God offered to give Solomon anything he could ever want, and Solomon chose the most valuable thing to ask for. Solomon knew that in order to be a good king, he needed God's wisdom more than anything. So God listened to his request, just like we know that **God listens to our requests.**

#### RESPONSE | Make Your Requests

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids sit in groups of two or three. Let kids know we will take some time to talk to God by praying. Give them a few moments to get their wiggles out. If you have a group struggling to sit still, help them slow down by taking a few slow, deep breaths. Conclude this time by praying for the whole group.*
- Let's practice taking our requests to God. God is listening to us right now, just like God always is. You can talk to God about anything, but let's try a few together. I will start with something to talk to God about, and in your groups, you can each take a turn talking to God about your own requests!
- **What request do you have for God about ...**
  - **Your school?**
  - **Your church?**
  - **Your family?**
  - **Your world?**
  - God knows what we need before we even ask. Asking God shows that we know everything we need can only come from God. And when we ask God, **God listens to our requests.**

#### Prayer

- God, it is so wonderful that you listen to our requests. Help us to have full confidence that you can and want to answer us. Thank you so much for providing what we need and more. Amen.

### Discussion

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**

- **What did Solomon ask God for?** *Wisdom.*
- **Why did Solomon ask for wisdom instead of other things like riches and honor?** *He wanted to serve God's people well, he knew he was young and needed help governing the people.*
- **What was God's response to Solomon's request?** *God was pleased with Solomon. God gave him great wisdom and even blessed him with more than he asked for.*
- **Read Proverbs 22:1–2. How do these words written by Solomon show that God listened to his request for wisdom?**

- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- **What are some things that we can ask God for?**
- **What do you think it means if God doesn't give us something we request?**
- **How can we be sure God always listens to us?**