

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.



SESSION TITLE: Solomon Asked for Wisdom

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 2–3

STORY POINT: God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- balls, 2

Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud James 1:5 together.

Tip: If you have fewer than six kids, form one circle and play together.

Instruct kids to form two circles. Give one player in each circle a ball. The player holding the ball should say the first word of the key passage and pass the ball to her left. The next player will say the second word, pass the ball to the left, and so on until the group says the entire verse and reference. Play a second round, challenging the two groups to race each other.

If time allows for a third round, remove the key passage poster and challenge kids to say James 1:5 from memory.

SAY • If we want wisdom, we can ask God and He will give us wisdom! We will work on memorizing this key passage over the next few weeks. Practice it this week at home.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 3. Explain that the Book of 1 Kings comes after 1 Samuel. It tells about King Solomon's rule over Israel and about the kings who ruled after him. Remind kids that

Solomon became king after his father, David. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 3:7,9.

SAY • Solomon had traveled from Jerusalem to Gibeon when God appeared to him in a dream. [*Point out Jerusalem (H5) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Explain that Gibeon was just north of Jerusalem.*] God told Solomon to ask for anything he wanted—anything at all! Solomon could have asked for power, riches, or a long life. He could have asked for victory over His enemies. But Solomon didn't ask for any of these things. He wanted to be a good king, so he asked for something better: wisdom to lead God's people well. So **God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.**

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom instead of something else? *Instruct kids to discuss their ideas. Prompt them to consider that a person usually asks for something he lacks. If Solomon asked for wisdom, he probably didn't believe he was wise enough to lead God's people on his own. Wisdom comes from God. Apart from Him, we are foolish.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eccl. 7:19.)
2. How is Jesus greater than Solomon? *Point out that in the New Testament, Jesus said He is greater than Solomon. (See Matt. 12:42.) Emphasize that Jesus is God, and **what does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.** The Bible says all wisdom and knowledge is found in Jesus. People went to Solomon for wisdom, but Jesus came to us. We can look to Him for everything we need to know.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 2:3.)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

3. Why do you think people sometimes refuse to seek wisdom from God? *Guide kids to discuss the humility required to listen to and accept the counsel of others. Pride often makes us want to depend on ourselves rather than on God or others. Listening to instruction might mean acknowledging you were wrong. Some people might refuse wisdom because they want what is wrong or selfish.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 28:26.)

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Surprised!

- large pillowcase
- small, familiar items (a toothbrush, spoon, pack of gum, roll of tape, dry erase eraser, lip gloss)

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

Place five or six small, familiar items (a toothbrush, spoon, pack of gum, roll of tape, dry erase eraser, lip gloss) in a large pillowcase. Tie a knot at the open end.

Invite kids to sit in a circle. Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil. Pass the pillowcase around the circle, allowing each kid some time to feel the items in the bag. Instruct kids to list the items they think are in the pillowcase. After everyone writes down their guesses, open the pillowcase to reveal the items and see who made the most correct guesses.

SAY • Were you surprised by what was inside the pillowcase?

Like with the Mandrell family, sometimes God tells us to go without giving us all the details. We can ask God for wisdom as we follow Him. You may be surprised how He uses you!

OPTION 2: Know-it-all

Before the session, write the names of Bible books on separate index cards. Guide kids to sit in a circle. Choose one player to start by standing next to another player.

LOW PREP

- Bible
- index cards
- marker

Hold up a card. The first player to name the Bible book that comes after the book on the card moves on and stands by the next player. The other player sits down. Continue around the circle as time allows. You may also choose to ask questions about recent Bible stories or other Bible skills.

SAY • Our knowledge—and the wisdom we need to apply that knowledge—is limited. We don't know everything. When we need wisdom to do God's plan, we can ask God. ***What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.***

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, asking God to fill kids with wisdom to live in a way that honors Him.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "King Solomon's Clues" on the activity page. Kids should decide if each statement is true or false. Encourage kids to find and read the Scripture references in the Bible to check their answers.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "King Solomon's Clues" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.