

# The Wisest Man on Earth



## Sabbath

**Do** Do this week's activity on page 10.

*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? Imagine two of King Solomon's palace workers discussing how he asked God for wisdom. (See 1 Kings 3:1-15; 4:29-34; Prophets and Kings, pp. 25-34)*

"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."

## Sunday

**Read** Read "The Wisest Man on Earth."

**Learn** Begin to learn the power text.

**Pray** Make a list of the things you would like wisdom for.

# ONE

## POWER POINT

God gives us wisdom so we can serve 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, NIV).

"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. "I asked the chief of protocol for permission to let you 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?"

### Monday

**Read** Read 1 Kings 3:1-4.

**Think** What are some ways you can show your love for God?

**Do** Do one thing today that serves another person to show your love for God.

**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** Do you think Solomon even thought of other things to ask God for? How much wisdom did Solomon show in asking for "wisdom"?

**List** List five things that you would ask for if someone said you could have anything you want. Tell why you want each one and/or what it would be used for.

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

"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 but not be seen. 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 whistled softly at the elegant robes and glittering crown Solomon wore.

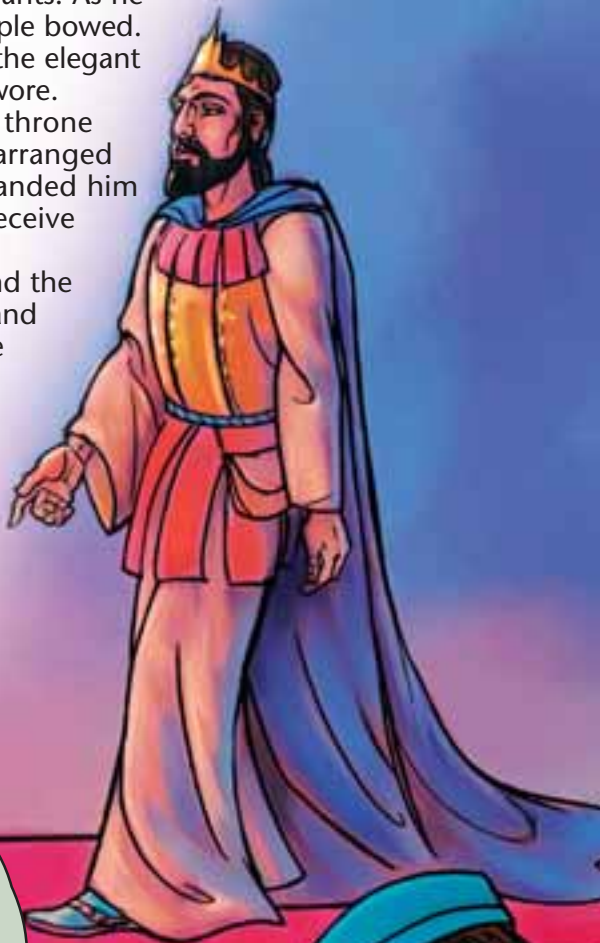
Solomon climbed the steps to his throne and seated himself. Two attendants arranged his red and golden robes. Another handed him his scepter. At last he was ready to receive his guests.

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?"



### Wednesday

**Read** Read 1 Kings 3:10-13.

**Think** Why do you think God promised Solomon all the things he could have asked for, but didn't? If Solomon wanted wisdom to serve the people, how do you think he served them using the other gifts God gave him?

**Pray** Ask God to give you wisdom in using the gifts He gives you to serve others.

**Thursday**

**Read** Read  
1 Kings 3:14, 15.

**Think** What condition was there to God's final gift to Solomon? Why do you think He made the last gift conditional?

**Reflect** Ask an adult to recall a dream in which they felt God was speaking to them. Ask how it changed them.

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

"He asked for wisdom. Solomon was just 20 years old when he became king," said the chief. "Like most princes, he didn't have any real responsibilities. 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.'"

"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, 'You will be so wise that there will never have been anyone like you and there never will be

**Friday**

**Read** Read 1 Kings 4:29-34.

**Imagine** Using your hobbies, gifts, talents, and interests, rewrite these verses about yourself in your Bible study journal,\* record them on an audio- or videotape, or speak them aloud.

**Share** Share it with your family and encourage them to put themselves in the verses.

**Pray** Together, pray that you will all use what God has given you to serve others.

\*If you do not have a Bible study journal, get a small notebook, staple extra pages into your PowerPoints Bible study guide, or open a special file on the computer.

again. You could have asked for a lot of other things, but you didn't. So I am going to give you the things you didn't ask for—wealth and honor. If you obey me as your father did, I will give you a long life, too.'"

"So King Solomon is as wise as all these people put together?" the steward asked.

"Wiser. And he's talented in other ways, too," said the special events chief. "He's written 3,000 proverbs and songs, and he knows everything about plants and animals. There's nothing he doesn't understand."

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

"That you are," smiled the chief.



1

# Wise Servants

In order to serve others, we need wisdom.

Consider the following verse:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding” (Psalm 111:10, NIV).

The first column spells, reading down, “FEAR OF THE LORD.”

Complete a common word in each row by adding a letter so that the last column, reading down, spells what following the Lord’s principles gives us.

(Number 11 has been done for you, “ORIGAMI.”)

- |     |   |       |       |                             |
|-----|---|-------|-------|-----------------------------|
| 1.  | F | L     | _____ | 1. Worse than a cold        |
| 2.  | E | AR    | _____ | 2. Make money               |
| 3.  | A | N     | _____ | 3. +                        |
| 4.  | R | AR    | _____ | 4. Not Common               |
| 5.  | O | A     | _____ | 5. Paddle                   |
| 6.  | F | ACT   | _____ | 6. Information that is real |
| 7.  | T | EN    | _____ | 7. Camping shelter          |
| 8.  | H | YEN   | _____ | 8. Laughing _____           |
| 9.  | E | DE    | _____ | 9. Garden of _____          |
| 10. | L | AN    | _____ | 10. Ground                  |
| 11. | O | RIGAM | I     | 11. Japanese folding paper  |
| 12. | R | EIG   | _____ | 12. Rule                    |
| 13. | D | I     | _____ | 13. Remove with a shovel    |

# Gear Up!

Start at “All” and read the verse that tells us the value of Scripture. You may travel from square to square, up, down, forward, backward, but not diagonally. End at the verse reference.

God	of	All	Scripture	is	God-breathed
may	man	the	that	so	and
be	and	training	in	righteousness,	is
thoroughly	correcting	rebuking,	teaching,	for	useful
equipped	for	every	good	work.	(2 Timothy 3:16, 17, NIV)