



Copy That, Copycat

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

BIG IDEA: God helps me make good choices.

BIBLE BASIS: 1 Kings 2:1–12, 3:1–15

KEY VERSE: “Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid...I will be with you everywhere you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

PLAY TIME ACTIVITIES

10:30 – 11:00

LARGE GROUP LESSON

11:00-11:30

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:30-12:00

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

In 1 Kings 3, God gives King Solomon the chance to have anything he chooses. Anything! But rather than choosing riches, power, or a long life, Solomon chooses wisdom to lead God's people. God, being incredibly pleased by Solomon's request, gives him wisdom along with all of the other stuff. It's like Solomon got to circle the "all of the above" option. That alone reveals God's generous nature. But if you read the few verses leading up to this story, you see that God's generosity goes even deeper than it might first appear. "How so?" you might ask.

In the first few verses of 1 Kings 3, Solomon does nothing but sin against God! He forms an alliance with the enemies of God and marries the daughter of the Egyptian Pharaoh. Then, against God's wishes, Solomon offers sacrifices at the worst of the worst high places! But then, in a seemingly confounding turn of heart, the very next verse says, "Solomon loved the Lord." What? How can this be?

In Larry Osborne's must-get-your-hands-on book, *Spirituality for the Rest of Us*, he explains something that might give us insight into this seemingly spiritual contradiction. He says, "It's not that God doesn't have high standards. His standards are incredibly high. But he understands and makes allowances for something most of us leave out of the spiritual equation — spiritual blind spots."

God, in addition to being generous, is also gracious. For Solomon, his failings were the result of "blind spots." God knows us in a way we can't and sees what we do not see. He also chooses to give ridiculous amounts of grace and forgiveness in the areas that we unknowingly sin. And this is where wisdom comes into play. Wisdom is the ability to discern right from wrong — it reveals our "blind spots."

If you feel like praying for something gutsy this week, request from God the wisdom to see your blind spots. Ask Him to bring light to areas of darkness you might not even be aware of. As scary as it is, I think you'll find it to also be one of the most liberating and soul-healing requests ever.

John Garrison
GO! Contributor



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Managing Small Group Materials

As you're probably aware, GO! small group activities often utilize a variety of materials. From paper to ping pong balls, there are any number of items that you might have to juggle while keeping your kids engaged. Here are some tips to help keep you from dropping the ball:

Be prepared. If you're reading the small group lesson for the first time while seated with a group of wide-eyed kids, you might be in for a wild ride. Always read the lesson before arriving and have a plan for when and how you'll incorporate the accompanying materials.

Take inventory of your materials when you arrive. No one's perfect, and occasionally you might be missing a material or there might not be enough materials for the number of kids you have. Take inventory as soon as you arrive so that you can catch mistakes early.

Familiarize yourself with the materials. Sometimes the materials might look slightly different from how you imagined when you were reading the lesson at home. Take a look at the materials when you first arrive so there are no surprises during group time.

Don't reveal the materials too early. Kids can be easily distracted. Often, if you reveal or hand out materials too soon, the kids will become more interested in the material and miss your instructions. Fully deliver your instructions before handing out the materials. If necessary, pull out just one set of materials for demonstration purposes.

Let the kids help you. If there are papers or other materials that need to be given to each kid in the group, put the kids to work. They love helping! Choose one or two kids and let them hand materials to the rest of the group.



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

FREEZE DANCE (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Directions: Tell the children to do a silly dance from the list below. After about 15 seconds, shout “FREEZE!” The children must freeze in place, then, as a group, lead them in saying, “Dear God, help me do what is right.” Repeat this for each of the silly dances listed, then consider allowing the children to make up their own silly dances.

Say: Believe it or not, this game helps us remember how to make good choices. When you feel like doing something bad, you can FREEZE! Then say, “Dear God, help me do what is right.” When we pray to God, **He helps us make good choices!**

Dance list:

- Silly robot dance
- Silly snake dance
- Silly kangaroo dance
- Silly chicken dance
- Silly elephant dance
- Silly ant dance

Question: When is it hard for you to make a good choice? (Note: After each answer, remind the children to FREEZE, then pray, “Dear God, help me do what is right.”)

COPY THAT (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: None

Today’s Bible verse:

“Be strong (*flex muscles*)
and brave (*power pose with fists on hips*).
Do not be afraid (*Shake head and wag finger “no”*)...
I will be with you (*hug yourself*)
everywhere you go (*march in place*).
Joshua 1:9 (*extend hands like you’re holding a book*).

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. When ready, tell the children to say the verse with you while copying your action. For example, spin around, or hop on one foot, or hold your tongue, or do a silly dance. When finished, choose a child to be the leader, then have everyone say the verse while copying them. Continue until everyone has had a turn being the leader.

Large Group: Room 207 at 11:00 AM



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the large group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and to respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

STORY BOP (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Balloon (1 per group), music player (1 per group)

Directions: Have the children stand in a cluster, then begin playing music. As the music plays, the children must continually bop the balloon into the air. Let the music play for 5 to 20 seconds before pausing it. When the music stops, the children must try to catch the balloon. Ask the child who catches it, "What happened first in today's Bible story?" Only allow them to tell a small part of the story. Allow the other children to help answer if needed. When finished, begin playing the music and bopping the balloon in the air again. Ask the next child who catches the balloon, "What happened next in the story?" Repeat this until the whole story has been told.

Question: What was your favorite part of this story? Why did you like that part?

COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Supplies: Bible story coloring sheet (printed on back of GO! Home Guide, 1 per child), markers or crayons, snack of your choice, napkins.

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Say: When we make bad choices, it makes God sad. But if we ask Jesus to forgive us, He washes our sins away so that we can be friends with Him forever. Let's say a prayer and tell Jesus we're sorry for making these bad choices.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, ask Jesus to forgive the children for the sins they talked about and thank Him for loving you no matter what.

Question: God said to Solomon, "Ask me for anything you want and I'll give it to you." What did Solomon ask for? What would *you* ask for?

Question: Solomon could have asked for money, long life, or victory in battle, but instead, he asked for help making good choices. Why do you think he did that?