

Solomon wrote the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. He also wrote a few of the Psalms.



Match the beginnings and endings of the proverbs below. You may use your Bible to help you.

Gossip separates  
(Proverbs 16:28)

and delights in honesty.

Happy is the man  
(Proverbs 10:1)

the best of friends.

The Lord hates cheating  
(Proverbs 11:1)

with a level-headed son.

Hatred stirs old quarrels  
(Proverbs 10:12)

you must want to be taught.

Without wise leadership  
(Proverbs 11:14)

but love overlooks insults.

To learn  
(Proverbs 12:1)

controlling the tongue.

Self-control means  
(Proverbs 13:2)

a nation is in trouble.

Make up a proverb that will help you remember to trust in God. Write it here:

# GOD'S YOUNG FRIENDS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

## LESSON 7 Solomon: Friend of God

Solomon was the son of King David. Even though Solomon had older brothers, King David made a promise to Solomon's mother.

Bathsheba, I promise that your son, Solomon, will be king someday when I am gone.



His other wives and their sons won't like

Sure enough, when King David was older, Solomon's brother, Absalom, caused A LOT of trouble.

*If I were king, I would treat you much better than my father King David. I would be more fair, and I am a lot better looking!*



*Hail, King Absalom*

Absalom declared himself king of Israel before his father, King David, died. You can read about him in 2 Samuel 14:25, 26; and in chapter 15:1-10.

*This means civil war in Israel. It makes me so sad to have my armies fight my own son!*



*Dad promised I would be king after him. I guess I just have to trust God to work things out in the right way.*



*God loves you! It does not matter what mistakes your father or mother may have made.*

*God knows all about you. He understands your thoughts. And if you are willing to follow His plan, He will help you use all your energy, creativity and intelligence to accomplish something wonderful!*



It sounds like a happy ending to Solomon's story, doesn't it? He got even more than he asked for. Unfortunately, sometimes getting everything we want is not the best thing for us. Solomon was rich and famous. People came from all over the world with presents and wives for him.

Solomon had hundreds of wives, and they worshipped many gods. Soon he had made temples for them. Solomon forgot about his promises to God for a while and worshipped with his wives in their temples.

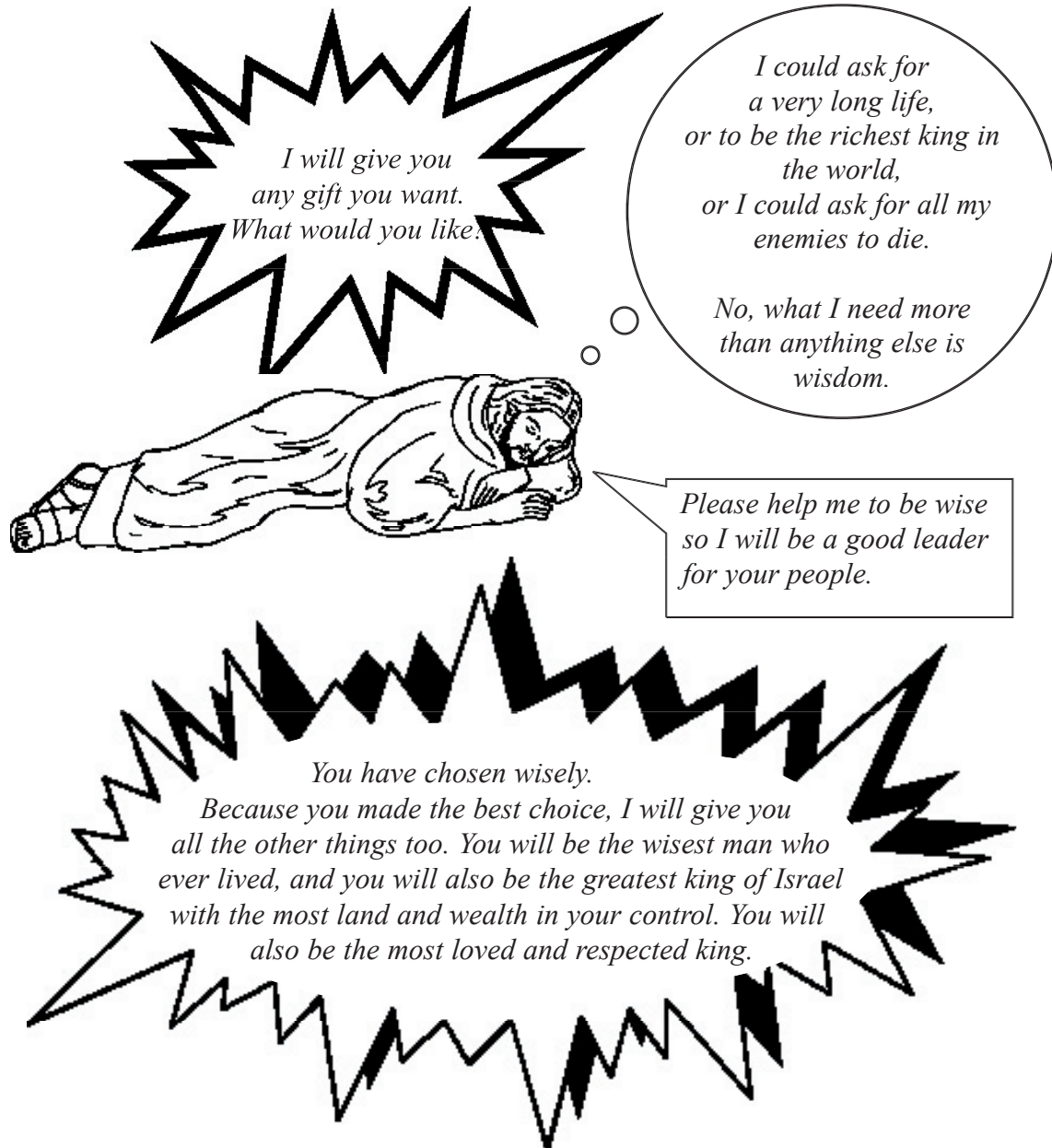
Before the end of his life, Solomon remembered God and came back to worship Him. God forgave him, but not all of the people who had copied him by worshipping other gods returned to the true God. Solomon realized then that it was his fault that many people in Israel forgot about God because of his example.

You can read all the stories about King Solomon in 1 Kings, chapters 1-11, and 2 Chronicles, chapters 1-9.



So Solomon was declared king. When Israel heard this, many of Adonijah's followers left him and went to support King David and King Solomon. Adonijah gave up his idea of being king—for now. But Solomon trusted God in everything.

One night while he was on a trip, God talked to Solomon in a dream.



*I will give you any gift you want. What would you like.*

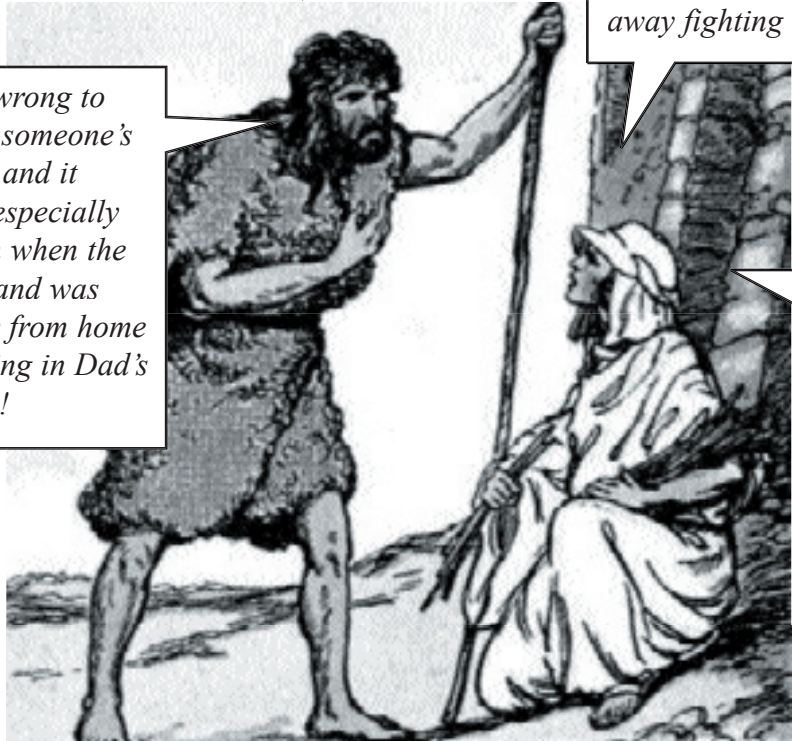
*I could ask for a very long life, or to be the richest king in the world, or I could ask for all my enemies to die.*

*No, what I need more than anything else is wisdom.*

*Please help me to be wise so I will be a good leader for your people.*

*You have chosen wisely. Because you made the best choice, I will give you all the other things too. You will be the wisest man who ever lived, and you will also be the greatest king of Israel with the most land and wealth in your control. You will also be the most loved and respected king.*

There was a terrible war in Israel and Absalom was killed. King David was very sad, but he was still king. Time passed and he became old and sick. One day David's son, Adonijah, was talking to his mother . . .



*Mom, Dad is too old and sick to be a good king. If I don't do something soon, Solomon will be the next king, just as Dad promised.*

*That is not fair. Bathsheba's son should never be king. David committed a terrible sin by marrying her.*

*What did he do?*

*Bathsheba was married to someone else. David had an affair with her while her husband was away fighting in the army.*

*It is wrong to steal someone's wife, and it was especially mean when the husband was away from home fighting in Dad's army!*

*Yes. When Bathsheba told David she was going to have a baby, he had her husband killed accidentally-on-purpose on the battlefield so he could marry her.*

**You can read David and Bathsheba's sad story in 2 Samuel 11.**



Was that baby Solomon?

Did God forgive him?

No, that baby died. David was terribly sad. He confessed his sin and asked God to forgive him and create in him a clean heart.



Yes, but the rest of us never will! We do not like Bathsheba and we do not like Solomon! YOU should really be the next king!

David named Bathsheba's second baby Solomon. But God gave him a different name. Read 2 Samuel 12:24, 25 and write that name here:

\_\_\_\_\_

This special name means "God loves the baby." Maybe this was God's way of telling David He had forgiven him.



Actually it was God who chose Solomon to be king instead of one of David's other sons. God knew that even as a little boy, Solomon's heart belonged to Him.

Read 1 Chronicles 22:7-10, and think about what special work God has planned for you to do. If you want Him to guide you, sign your name here:

Adonijah's mother devised a plan . . .

You should be crowned king. The people will follow you because they know David is old and sick and about to die any day now.

What a good idea! I'll do it!



And he did. Meanwhile, back at the palace . . .

David, you promised me that Solomon would be king someday.

What a good idea. I will call Solomon!



I am old and sick. I will die soon and I am already too sick to be king. Bring Solomon and we will have him declared king with me. We will be kings together until I die.

