

# Lesson

## Engaging Introduction

Good morning, everyone! Today, we're going to dive into the exciting story found in 1 Kings 2. Have you ever played a game of "King or Queen"? It's where you pretend to be a royal person who has to make important decisions and lead a kingdom. In our story from the Bible today, we're going to learn about a real king named Solomon, who had to make some very important choices right at the beginning of his adventure as king.

Imagine stepping into Solomon's sandals for a moment. You've just been told by your dad, King David, that you're going to take over as the new king. But before Solomon could start enjoying his new role, David had a really serious talk with him. He talked about what it means to be a good leader and why it's so important to follow God's ways. Just like how a captain needs to steer a ship in the right direction so it doesn't crash, Solomon needed to lead the people with wisdom and fairness.

Think about some of the things leaders do, like keeping peace, making important decisions, and helping people solve their problems. In 1 Kings 2, King David gave Solomon instructions on how to do all of these things with the right heart. As we explore this chapter, we're going to learn some fantastic lessons about how we can make wise choices too. Are you ready to open our Bibles and see what happens next? Let's go!

## Main Teaching Points

### 1. David's Final Instructions

When grown-ups prepare to leave someone else in charge, like when a babysitter looks after you, they leave important instructions. David did this for Solomon. In verses 1-4, David tells Solomon to be strong and show himself as a man by following God's commandments. David knew that following God's commands would help Solomon be a great king. Imagine being told you have the map to hidden treasure — that's like having God's commandments to lead the way!

### 2. The Importance of Wisdom and Justice

Solomon deals with people who were not so nice to his dad, like Joab and Shimei. Just like a teacher who helps solve problems when students disagree or break the rules, Solomon had to handle these situations with wisdom and fairness. He couldn't just ignore what happened; he had to make sure justice was served. It's like when you're playing a game and someone cheats. You need to decide the best way to make things right so everyone can enjoy playing together.

### 3. Solomon's Decisions

Solomon also shows mercy. Think of when you make a mistake and someone shows kindness instead of being angry. Although Solomon needed to correct people, he also understood when and how to be forgiving. This makes us think about how can we treat others when they've upset us. Do we react in anger, or do we try to understand and find a peaceful solution?

### 4. Trusting in God's Plan

In verses 10-12, we read that David passed away, and Solomon's kingdom was safely established. Even though starting a kingdom is a huge job, Solomon trusted in the things his father taught him and in God's plan for him. Can you remember a time you trusted someone's advice? It's like when your teacher guides you on how to do a project and helps you until you succeed. Trust and learning from others can help us in places we feel unsure or nervous.

These lessons from Solomon's story show us the importance of listening, being fair, making wise choices, and trusting in guidance we receive. Those are big ideas, but don't worry, God helps us as we learn!

### Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now that we've heard about Solomon's big responsibilities, let's think about how this can apply to us in our own lives. Even though we're not kings like Solomon, we still have important decisions to make every day. Can you think of a time when you had to make a hard choice at school or with friends?

Maybe you're playing at recess and you see someone being left out of the game. Like Solomon used wisdom, you can use kindness and fairness to include them, showing justice and love, just like God asks us to do.

When you're at home, there are rules to follow — like picking up your toys or helping set the table. Those might not seem like big decisions but choosing to do them with a happy heart pleases God and shows you are responsible, like Solomon taking care of his kingdom with care.

Solomon also learned from David's words; you have people around you who give good advice too! Maybe it's your parents, teachers, or a good friend who loves Jesus and wants to help you grow. Listening to them can help guide you to make choices that are good and right.

Let's remember, as we go about our day, to be thoughtful in our decisions, to act justly and kindly, and most importantly, to keep our hearts tuned to God's word. Just like Solomon's wisdom started from being close to God, so can ours as we learn more about Him and His ways.

### Interactive Discussion Questions

Let's think and talk about what we've learned today through the story of King Solomon. I'll ask some questions, and I want all of you to think about your answers. This helps us to better understand how we can use this story in our lives.

1. What do you think was the most important thing David told Solomon?

Allow the children to express ideas about being strong or following God's commands. Guide them to see that David's instructions were like a roadmap for Solomon, showing the way to lead a good life. Ask them if they've ever seen someone good at following instructions and how it helped them.

2. How did Solomon show wisdom and justice?

Encourage answers about Solomon dealing with people fairly and with mercy. Discuss how this can be similar to things they face, like sharing or taking turns, and how it feels when someone is fair and kind to them.

3. Why is it important to trust God's plan?

Let them share times they had to trust, like learning a new skill or going somewhere new. Explain that, like Solomon, we can trust that God has a plan for us, knowing He will guide and help us just like He did with Solomon.

#### 4. How can you be wise in your own life?

Steer the conversation around making everyday decisions. Whether it's choosing friends who make good choices or deciding how to react when upset, encourage kids to think about how they can use wisdom just as Solomon did.

Remember, these stories aren't just old tales. They are lessons to learn from and apply to our lives right now. Isn't it amazing that God gives us stories to guide us and help us grow? Let's all commit to seek wisdom, just like Solomon, as we continue our week.