THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY

**CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON**

**DATE:** July 30, 2017

**SUBJECT:** **GOD’S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: God Called Solomon**

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Kings chapter 3; 4:29-31, 32-34; 5:1-18; 6:1-38; 8:1-11; 9:1-28; 1 Chronicles 28:1-5; 29:1; 2 Chronicles 5:1-14; 6:1-42; 7:1-22

**AIM:** To see that God called Solomon, and that Solomon built a house for God and ruled over His people wisely.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** 2 Corinthians 6:16b (..., even as God said, “I will dwell among them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.”); Revelation 21:3b (…and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.); Matthew 6:21 (For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.); Matthew 6:33 (…But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 1 (Christ Brings Us to God’s House to Dwell); 2 (Surely Goodness); 9227 *BSS David* (God’s Intention Is to Have a House); 9230 *BSS David* (Solomon, My Son); 9211 *BSS David* (Can You Say How Do You Do); 9225 *BSS David* (Let’s Honor With Manners); 6407 (Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God)

**CRAFT IDEAS:** 1) Using popsicle sticks, design a simple temple construction. 2) Make pop-up paper temple. 3) Build an edible temple using graham crackers, pretzel sticks and frosting.

**SUGGESTED ACTIVITY**: 1) Give each child 20 blocks or Legos and instructions or parameters for building a house as a group project. See if they can correctly follow the instructions.

**CONTENT: Solomon Chosen by Jehovah.** When the great King David became very old and knew that he would soon die, he gathered together all of the leaders of Israel. King David told them that God had chosen his son Solomon to rule over Israel and to build a house for God, the temple. Before King David died, he gave Solomon his throne, and the plans and pattern for the temple. King David had prepared enormous amounts of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone to build the temple with and passed them onto Solomon. King David charged him to build the Lord’s house, saying, “Be strong and be bold and do it; do not be afraid or dismayed, for Jehovah God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until the completion of all the work for the service of the house of Jehovah” (1 Chron. 28:20).

Solomon, however, was still “young and tender” and “the work was great because the palace was not for man, but for Jehovah God” (1 Chron. 29:1) and “must be exceeding great in fame and glory throughout all lands” (1 Chron. 22:5). As king, Solomon loved Jehovah and followed his father David’s pattern by offering sacrifices and burnt offerings in high places. At Gibeon, a great high place, Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on the altar. That night Jehovah appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him to ask whatever he desired.

**Solomon’s Request.** Solomon prayed for an understanding heart, saying, “And now, O Jehovah my God, You have made Your servant king in the place of David my father, though I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a vast people that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. Give therefore to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?” (1 Kings 3:7-9). The Lord was very pleased with Solomon’s request. Because Solomon did not ask selfishly for a long life, riches, or the life of his enemies, the Lord gave him even more than what he asked for. God gave Solomon a wise and understanding heart like no one ever had before him or after him. God also gaveSolomon what he did not ask for, riches and glory, and promised him a long life if he would walk in the Lord’s ways, as his father David walked (1 Kings 3:10-14). The Bible says that “God gave Solomon wisdom and very much understanding and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the seashore. And Solomon’s wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the children of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt … For he became wiser than all men … And his fame was among all the surrounding nations” (1 Kings 4:29-31).

**Solomon’s Wisdom.** *[Ask children definition of wisdom or provide definition of wisdom.]* King Solomon’s wisdom was very great. During his lifetime, Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs (words of wisdom) and 1,005 songs. He wrote three books of the Bible: Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs and most of the book of Proverbs. He discoursed about every kind of tree and plant, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop, and spoke about birds, animals, creeping things and fish. His wisdom was well-known among the kings of the earth. “They came from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom” (1 Kings 4:34). One person who came to see Solomon was the Queen of Sheba. She came to test Solomon with many hard questions. After every question in her heart was answered and she saw all of Solomon’s wisdom, she was overwhelmed with awe and said, “The word that I heard in my land concerning your deeds and your wisdom is true, but I did not believe the words until I came and my own eyes saw. And indeed the half was not told to me; your wisdom and prosperity far exceed the report that I heard. Happy are your men! Happy are these your servants, who attend you continually and hear your wisdom! Blessed be Jehovah Your God, who has delighted in you and set you upon the throne of Israel. Because Jehovah loves Israel forever, he has made you king to execute justice and righteousness” (1 Kings 10:1-9).

King Solomon’s great wisdom is also seen in how he judged the people of Israel. One day, two mothers came to the king. The women had a great dispute over a baby -- both claimed that the baby was theirs! The first woman explained that they shared the same house, and that they both had babies three days apart. There was no one else in the house besides them. During the night, the second woman’s son died because she accidentally lay on top of the baby. So the second woman got up in the middle of the night and stole the first woman’s baby while she was sleeping. She switched the babies, and gave the first woman the dead son. When the first woman woke up to feed the baby, he was dead; but then upon closer look, she realized that dead baby was not her own baby! When she finished her story to the king, the other woman denied it, and they went on arguing before the king. “No! The live one is my son, and the dead one is your son.” “No! The dead one is your son, and the live one is my son.” (1 Kings 3:22) They went back and forth like this until the king finally made a judgment. King Solomon said, “This one says, This is my son, the live one, and the dead one is your son; and that one says, No! The dead one is your son, and the live one is my son…. Get me a sword.” So they brought a sword before the king, and the king said, “Divide the live child between the two, and give half to one and half to the other.” (1 Kings 3:23-25). The real mother of the baby burned within since she did not want her baby to die. She quickly said, “Oh, my lord, give the live child to her, and do not by any means kill him!” (1 Kings 3:26). The false mother did not care for the baby and said to divide him. King Solomon then knew right away who was the real mother, and ordered that the baby be given back to her. All Israel heard about this judgment and they feared the king and saw that he had the wisdom of God.

**Construction of God’s House.** During his reign, the greatest achievement King Solomon accomplished was the construction of the Lord’s house, which was later called “Solomon’s temple.” King Solomon took a census and enlisted all the men to work and build the house. He supervised over 183,600 men in this great task (1 Kings 5:13-18) over a period of seven years (1 Kings 6:38). Solomon had 3,600 chief officers who oversaw the work and directed the builders. One of them, Adoniram, oversaw 30,000 men who labored in three groups of 10,000 per month, followed by two months at home. There were 70,000 burden bearers and 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains. Solomon’s builders and Hiram’s builders and the Gebalites quarried great stones, costly stones, for the foundation of the temple. The timber came from Lebanon, which was shipped by sea to Joppa and brought up to Jerusalem. Other skillful men fashioned gold, silver, bronze, iron, cloth and linen. After seven years, the house was completed in all its parts and according to all its specifications.

**God is Satisfied.** When the temple was completed and all the furnishings were brought in, the Ark of God was brought into the house. The priests, the trumpeters, and the singers were praising and giving thanks to Jehovah in one voice saying, “...For He is Good, for His lovingkindness is forever...” (2 Chron. 5: 13) and the Lord was so pleased that He came in all of His glory and filled it to such an extent that the priests could not even stand to minister (1 Kings 8:10-11). The dwelling place that God had longed for and had spoken of to Moses 500 years earlier (Deut. 12:5) had finally been built. God could now live among His people and speak to them from His house. The glory of Jehovah filled His house.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just* ***one or two applications*** *which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

* **Solomon cared for what God wanted.** God has a desire to dwell with His people, and He needed a house, which in the Old Testament times was the temple. Just like his father, David, Solomon cared very much about what God desired, so he made it his goal to build a house for God to dwell in. After the temple was built, God was so happy and satisfied that He filled the house with His glory.
* **Solomon cared for God’s people.** When the Lord asked Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted, Solomon was not selfish to ask for riches and glory. His request was for wisdom to care for God’s people. This made God very happy, and God granted Solomon his request and gave him great wisdom and understanding. We should also care for God’s people. For example, when new children visit the children’s meeting, we should welcome them with a friendly smile and greeting. We should not always want to be first when it is time for snack, but offer to help give out snacks to other children. When we show our care, this makes God happy.
* **When we take care of God’s needs, He takes care of ours even more.** Solomon did not ask for riches or glory, but God abundantly took care of all of Solomon’s physical needs. We do not have to worry about our needs; God always has a way to take care of us, and it makes Him happy when we desire to take care of His people first. We should seek the Lord first and have a heart to care for His people.
* **Solomon followed his father David’s instructions.** David had the desire to build God a house, but he was not able to because he had shed too much blood in his lifetime. God was very pleased with David’s desire, but God wanted a man of peace to build His house (1 Chron. 22:8). So Solomon was the one chosen to build. This was not an easy job, but Solomon did it with a serious attitude, humble heart, and perseverance.He received the plans and pattern for the temple and building materials from his father David. He had the important job of leading God’s people and completing God’s temple. Solomon also had to manage many workers, which required great leadership. When our parents or teachers give us a job to do at home or at school, we should take it seriously and do a complete and thorough job, the way Solomon did until the temple was fully built. Solomon persevered for seven years to complete the temple. Even though our jobs do not take seven years, if we are responsible in small things, eventually God can use us for much bigger jobs.

Adapted from the Church in New York City’s Children’s Meeting lessons: 7/30/00; 8/13/06; 8/05/12