LESSON 15
"HUMILITY"

(page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

1 Kings 3:3-15 (page 357)

CHARACTER WORD

<u>Humility</u> – opposite of prideful, arrogant and conceited

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

I show <u>humility</u> when I ask the Lord to help me make right choices.

MEMORY LINK

1 Kings 3:9a

"Give to Your servant an understanding heart... that I may discern between good and evil." (KBC Study Bible pg. 357)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Memory Link cards, clear plastic cups, spoons, water, table salt, sugar

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Option 1: None Option 2: Memory Link poster, bean bags

BIBLE CONNECTION

None

SURF TEAM LEADER

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: None Option 2: Plastic cone, balloons

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Encouraging kids to be humble goes against what they hear so often. They may be told to do their best or be the best, and sometimes that translates into a prideful spirit. The world encourages kids to be selfish and to "follow their own heart." But the word of God reveals that our hearts are "deceitful... and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). Instead of following our own heart to know what is best, God wants us to find out what He says is best. In 1 Kings 3:3-15, we see Solomon humbly ask God to give him an "understanding heart to... discern between good and evil." God gladly answered Solomon's request. God wanted to help Solomon to discern the difference between good and evil, so that he would make wise choices as Israel's king. The Lord also will gladly help us to discern right and wrong, so that we can make choices that honor Him. Help kids to understand that God sees the choices that they make every day, and that He wants to help them make right choices.

GET CONNECTED



Building relationships in Surf Teams; introducing today's lesson

Memory Link cards, clear platic cups, water, spoons, table salt and sugar

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the kids in your Surf Team and to introduce today's lesson.

- Can anyone tell me what "discern" means? (to tell the difference between two things)
- Is it ever important to tell the difference between two things? Why?
- To help us see why it is important to discern the difference between two things, we're going to have a taste test!

Pour water into two clear plastic cups. Tell the kids that you have salt and sugar in the two other clear cups. Put a spoonful of sugar into one cup of water and a spoonful of salt into the other cup of water. Stir them to dissolve. Do not tell them which one is salt and which one is sugar. Ask for a volunteer to drink out of one of the cups! (Do not allow them to drink after each other!) Emphasize that it is very important to discern the difference between two things so that we can make wise choices!



Guide students to locate and mark today's Bible Connection and Memory Link in their Bibles so they can find the pages quickly as directed in the session.

WORSHIP TIME



Pointing hearts toward God

When we worship God, it is an opportunity to be reminded of how great He is! When we see His greatness, we <u>humble</u> ourselves and see our need for Him. Through worship, we <u>humbly</u> admit that He is all-knowing, and we need His wisdom. Help kids to rejoice in the greatness and goodness of God as you worship together. A couple of songs that you could use in your Worship Time today are "One Way" by Hillsong United and "Jesus Forever" by Austin Stone Worship.

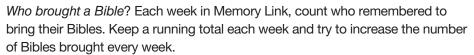
MEMORY LINK



2 Minutes – Teaching the Bible verse to students8 Minutes – Activity to help them memorize the verse

Note cards, pen/marker

Focus on the Bible



Focus on Today's Memory Link

Read 1 Kings 3:9a from the KBC Study Bible on page 357. Solomon asked God to give him an "understanding heart to… discern between good and evil." To discern means to understand, or to tell the difference between things.

Sometimes we can quickly see the difference between right and wrong, but other times we need to step back and ask God to help us understand what is best. Sometimes, we may think something is ok, when really it would not be a wise choice. In fact, it could be a really bad choice! Just like Solomon <u>humbly</u> asked for God's help, we need to <u>humbly</u> ask God for help to understand how to make good choices.

Option 1 - CLAP AROUND

No supplies needed

Have students stand in a circle, holding their hands in front of them with their palms facing up. Instruct each person to put their right hand (palm up) on top of the left hand (palm up) of the person to their right. After all the students practice the Memory Link together, students will say the Memory Link one word at a time. The first person will say the first word of the verse as they take their right hand and clap it down on the right hand of the person to their left. Then the second person will clap his right hand to the next person's right hand, and so on, with each person saying one word of the verse as they clap the next person's hand. The clapping should go around the circle as many times as it takes for them to say the entire verse (one word at a time). If time allows, say the verse faster as they clap around the circle faster. You can also switch hands, with left hand on top, moving counter-clockwise around the circle.

Option 2 - PUZZLE TOSS

Memory Link poster, bean bags

Prepare

Make a copy of the Memory Link Poster on page 7 for each Surf Team. Cut each sheet into 10-12 pieces like a puzzle.

Have each Surf Team line up and give a bean bag to each team. About six feet in front of each team, scatter the Memory Link "puzzle pieces" in an area, with none of the pieces touching. Kids will take turns tossing the bean bag, trying to get it to land on one of the Memory Link puzzle pieces. If the bean bag touches a puzzle piece, they may pick it up and place it on the floor in front of their team. Players continue to take turns tossing the bean bag until all the puzzle pieces have been gathered. Once they have retrieved all the pieces, players will work together to put the puzzle together. The first team to assemble their "puzzle" and say the Memory Link together wins.



1 Kings 3:9a

"Give to Your servant an understanding heart... that I may discern between good and evil." (KBC Study Bible pg. 357)

Bible 101 🕮

A proverb is a wise saying that can help you decide what is the best thing to do. Most of the book of Proverbs was written by King Solomon. Show students the tip-in page "Living Wisely" (before page 435) in their KBC Study Bibles. Challenge kids to identify which character words are taught in each proverb printed on that page.

Teaching Tip

Learning Bible verses is more than just time filler. God's word is active; it has the power to change lives. Scientists have found seeds that were buried with the Pharaohs will still grow and produce. We trust that when God's word is planted in kids' hearts, it will produce fruit in their lives for years to come. Memorizing verses isn't just for students. Don't pass up the opportunity to learn these verses, too.

BIBLE CONNECTION



Teaching today's Character Word through a gospel-centered Bible story

No supplies needed

Set the Stage

If you could ask God to give you anything, what would you ask Him? Would you ask Him to give you a big new house to live in with a huge back yard? Would you ask Him to give you an awesome new car? What about a lot of money or a cool job when you grow up?

Take time to listen to some of the students' responses. Listen to them and don't criticize them for their answers. (Be careful, though, not to spend too long on this since they can easily get carried away with their answers!)

In our Bible story today, God tells someone to ask Him what he wanted God to give to him! Wouldn't that be amazing? Let's find out what he asked for.

Tell the Story

Open your KBC Study Bible to 1 Kings 3:3 and encourage kids to find the passage on page 357 in their Bibles. Read the verses directly from your Bible as you tell the story.

King David was a wonderful king. He loved God with all his heart. He fought to keep his country safe from their enemies. The people loved King David, but as he got older, they started to wonder – who would be king after David died? King David had a big family, but he knew that out of all his sons, Solomon was the one who should reign as king after him.

So, the time came. Just before King David died, he had Solomon sit on his royal throne, so that everyone in the kingdom would know that Solomon was the new king. 1 Kings 3:3, says that "Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statues of his father David." Solomon wanted to do what was right. He followed the guidelines that his father had given him to be a good king.

After Solomon became king, he traveled to a special place called Gibeon to offer sacrifices to worship God. That night, the Bible says that the LORD Himself appeared to Solomon in a dream! God said: "Ask! What shall I give you?" (3:5b) Wow! What if God asked you that? How was Solomon going to answer God's question?

Read 1 Kings 3:6-8. In <u>humility</u>, Solomon recognized the great task before him. He praised God for the kindness God had shown to his father David. But now that he was the king, he wanted God's help to follow in his father's footsteps. Even though Solomon was now king, he <u>humbly</u> compared himself to a little child. Just like a little child needs help doing very simple things, Solomon knew he needed God's help to rule over the nation of Israel.

Let's look at what Solomon said in 1 Kings 3:9. "Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" Out of all the things that Solomon could have asked from God, Solomon humbly asked for wisdom. Wisdom is knowing the difference between right and wrong and knowing how to make good choices. Solomon saw that he needed wisdom from God to rule over the people and to be a good king.



Teaching Tip

As you tell the Bible Story, be careful as you explain verse 7, where Solomon compares himself to "a little child." Though we may want to explain all the ways that little children need help (getting food, getting dressed, going to bed, etc.), this could be upsetting for some of the students listening. If they do not have adults who always take care of their needs, or if they must regularly care for younger siblings, it could upset them if you talk about the way adults take care of little kids. Always be sensitive to the kids listening to you.

Well, the Bible says that God liked Solomon's answer. Read 1 Kings 3:10-15. God said that because Solomon asked for wisdom instead of riches, long life or victory over his enemies, God decided to give Solomon MORE than what he had asked for! God promised to give Solomon GREAT wisdom. In fact, God said that Solomon would become the wisest person who has ever lived! Because Solomon humbly asked for wisdom, God also promised to give him great riches and honor. Solomon would become the wisest and the greatest king on earth! God reminded Solomon to keep following Him all his life, just like his father David had done.

When Solomon woke up from his dream, he was amazed that the Lord had spoken to him. He went back home and worshipped the Lord. He also prepared a great feast to celebrate God's kindness.

Application

Out of all the things that Solomon could have asked from God, he <u>humbly</u> asked for God's help. Solomon knew that he could really mess up and be a bad king if he did not make wise choices. Solomon could have thought, "I am so special! Out of all my brothers, my father wanted me to be king! That's because I'm the best! I'm the most important person." But that is not what Solomon did. Instead of being full of pride, Solomon chose to <u>humble</u> himself before God.

The Bible says that Solomon loved the Lord. Solomon respected God's power and was thankful for God's kindness. When we understand how great God is, we can understand how small we are and how much we need God's help. Just like Solomon, we can show <u>humility</u> when we ask the Lord to help us make right choices.

Gospel Connection

God loves you so much. He wants what is best for you. God wants to help you make right choices. The best choice you can make is to CHOOSE TO FOLLOW Jesus and ask Him to become your forever friend. When Jesus becomes your forever friend, He promises to help you and to always be with you.

Following Jesus is as simple as A-B-C: ADMIT, BELIEVE and CHOOSE TO FOLLOW. <u>Humbly</u> ADMIT to God that you have done things that are wrong and that you need His help. ASK Jesus to forgive you of your sin and come into your life. Next, BELIEVE that Jesus' sacrifice paid the debt for your sin and then CHOOSE TO FOLLOW Jesus by turning away from your sin and choosing God's way rather than your own way.

Invite students wanting to know more about praying to ask Jesus to be their forever friend to move to the designated counseling area to talk with a leader one on one. Be sure to have all the decision supplies available.

LESSON 15 "HUMILITY" (page 4)

Gospel Tip

We pray today you have students who humble themselves, ask Jesus to forgive them of their sins and invite Him into their life, be their Lord and Savior making Jesus their forever friend. Be sure to record their profession of faith in the Kids Online Management System and follow up with their parents or legal gaurdians.

SURF TEAM TIME

5-10 MINUTES

LESSON 15 "HUMILITY" (page 5)

Connecting with kids in small groups; applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens

Today's Bible Lesson

- Before you begin, ask if there are any students who would like to talk with the Bible Connection leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their forever friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.
- What questions do you have about today's story?
- How did Solomon show <u>humility</u>?
- Do you think that it is difficult sometimes to tell the difference between right and wrong?
- Why is it important to tell the difference between right and wrong?

Use the Bible

Give each child a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide kids to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles. Lead them to highlight today's Memory Link.

Hang 10 Pages

Give each child a Hang 10 page. Challenge kids to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage kids to do the Weekly Challenge and bring back their Hang 10 pages next week for a time of discussion.

Look at Day 2 of the Hang 10. Turn to James 4:10 (KBC Study Bible, page 1343). Being prideful is like lifting yourself up; but being <u>humble</u> is like lifting other people up. How can you be <u>humble</u> this week and lift other people up? How can you lift God up? What does God promise to do when we are <u>humble</u> before Him?

Pray

Give the kids a few minutes to share their prayer requests or write them on index cards. Ask a child to lead the group in prayer. Take the cards home and remember to pray for the kids in your Surf Team this week.

Dear God, I need Your help. Please help me understand the difference between good and evil. Please help me to make wise choices this week. In Jesus' name, amen.

Teaching Tip

Oh, no, time's up! Finding verses, discussing questions, taking prayer requests... it's easy to run out of time. If your group really seems disappointed when Surf Team time is over too soon, try to continue your discussion during "Get Connected" the next week.

Teaching Tip

Even a fifth grade boy needs to know: Welcoming each student by name and telling them good-bye may seem unimportant, but each student needs to know someone cares. Remember, you may be the only person in this student's life who gives them personal attention and prays for them by name.

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MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

5-10 MINUTES



Playing a game to review today's Bible Connection and Character Word

Option 1 - SOLOMON SAYS

No supplies needed

In each Surf Team, have kids stand together facing their leader. They will play this game like Simon Says, but instead it will be "Solomon Says." The leader will give an instruction to the team such as: "Solomon Says run in place," then all the students will need to run in place. However, if the leader says "run in place" without saying "Solomon Says" students should not follow that instruction. Whenever a student does not do what "Solomon Says" (or does something that Solomon didn't tell them to do), that person will need to answer a review question.

Example actions: jumping jacks, stick out your tongue, jump & spin, smile with your eyes crossed, touch your back with both hands, run in place, etc.

Option 2 - PENGUIN WADDLE

Plastic cone, inflated balloons

Direct Surf Teams to line up single file. Place a cone several feet away from each team. When you say "Go," the first player from each Surf Team will put a balloon between his or her knees and "waddle" to the cone and back, without touching the balloon or allowing it to fall from between their knees. If the balloon drops, that player must start over. The player who returns to their Surf Team line without touching or dropping the balloon may answer a review question, and their team will get a point if they answer the question correctly. Play continues with the next set of kids, and so on, until all review questions have been asked.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. What is today's Character Word? (Humility)
- 2. What does "humility" mean? (opposite of prideful)
- 3. In what book of the Bible tells us this story about Solomon? (1 Kings)
- 4. Who was Solomon's father? (King David)
- 5. When he was talking to God, what kind of person did Solomon compare himself to? (a little child)
- 6. What did Solomon ask God to give him? (Wisdom "an understanding heart to discern between good and evil")
- 7. Name something God gave Solomon that he did not ask for. (riches, honor)
- 8. Who can help you to make right choices? (God)
- 9. What special book has God given to us to help us make right choices? (the Bible)
- 10. Recite today's Memory Link. ("Give to Your servant an understanding heart... that I may discern between good and evil." 1 Kings 3:9a)

"Give to Your servant an understanding heart... that I may discern between good and evil."

1 Kings 3:9a

