

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

## Receiving wisdom as a gift

David's 40-year reign comes to an end, and he is succeeded by his son Solomon. The new king goes to worship at the most prominent 'high place', where God appears to him in a dream and asks him what gift he would like. Solomon chooses an 'understanding mind' to help him govern as wisely as his father. God, pleased by this request, grants him this and more.



## Bible notes



Solomon succeeded his father, David, as king of the united kingdom of Israel and Judah. Accession is often difficult for new monarchs because of internal and external challenges to their legitimacy. This early mention of Solomon becoming fully established is a ruthless declaration, meaning that all his enemies were either put to death or banished (2:10-12).

Solomon's love for God is not disputed but affirmed. 'Only' raises the question of whether his mode of worship was appropriate (3:3-4). The high places host the worship of other deities, idols and all forms of sacrifices. The God of Abraham had no exclusive temple; therefore, King Solomon continued the tradition and the symbolism of worshipping at the most prominent high place. In this regard, God's people were indistinguishable from other nations and cultures. The distinguishing feature of their worship was the extravagance of the sacrifices (3:4).

The visitation in Solomon's dream shows God's approval. A generous God is willing to offer the king his heart's desire. Instead of hiding his insecurities, Solomon reveals his vulnerability to God; he was incredibly young, possibly not much older than a teenager, and the kingdom had passed over his older brothers. He was not versed in its administration or defence ('I do not know how to go out or come in', verse 3:7). He needed an 'understanding mind' (v.9) – wisdom and knowledge – to govern God's people.

Solomon's understanding and regard for God are significant. He has an idealistic view of his father, but his understanding of God's faithfulness is sound (3:7). His insight was sufficient to make a request that pleased God. It was not selfish because he desperately wanted the best resource, capability and capacity to lead God's people. God establishes a covenant with these series of promises to Solomon. However, long life is conditional on walking in the ways of God.



## LISTEN



Listen to W-I-S-D-O-M by Sovereign Grace Music. Reflect on the words of the song together, including the line 'You teach me to think like you.' Talk together about some of the situations you face, where you would like to be able to think like God does. Where could you ask God for wisdom each day this week?

## First impressions

- If you had three wishes, what would they be?
- Who is the wisest person you know? What do you admire about them?
- How can you help those around you grow in wisdom?



## Read

Look at a copy of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* together and talk about the difference the change makes in this story. What would happen if the caterpillar didn't change?

## A sending out prayer

King of kings, you have all the wisdom, the glory and the majesty. Continue to give us your gift of wisdom each day so that we might serve you in all that we do. Amen.

## Pray



Create a collage of leaders to pray for – include those in government, local leaders and church leaders. As you create, ask that they will receive God's wisdom.



Speak to some of the adults in your life – perhaps parents, grandparents, neighbours or older members at church. Ask them about wisdom they have received, or what wisdom they would wish to share with their younger self.