

Story 4: Solomon

Main Bible verse
[1 Kings 3:9-10]

So give me a heart that understands. Then I can rule over your people.
I can tell the difference between what is right and what is wrong.
Who can possibly rule over this great nation of yours?"
The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for that.

Like King David, Israel's king Solomon loved God very much.

Even after many years, a temple for God had not been built in Israel.

So the people worshiped God at a high place (a place with an altar).

One day, King Solomon went to Gibeon to worship God.

There was a large high place there. At the altar, King Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings.

God was pleased with Solomon's offering. One day, God came to King Solomon in a dream.

"Solomon, ask for whatever you want me to give you."

Solomon answered, "Give me wisdom and knowledge so that I may lead the people."

God was pleased with Solomon's response. One day, two women holding one baby came to King Solomon.

Each woman argued that the baby was her own.

Solomon took some time to think and then with the wisdom of God he came to a surprising decision.

"Take the sword and cut that baby in half. Give one half to one woman and the other half to the other woman."

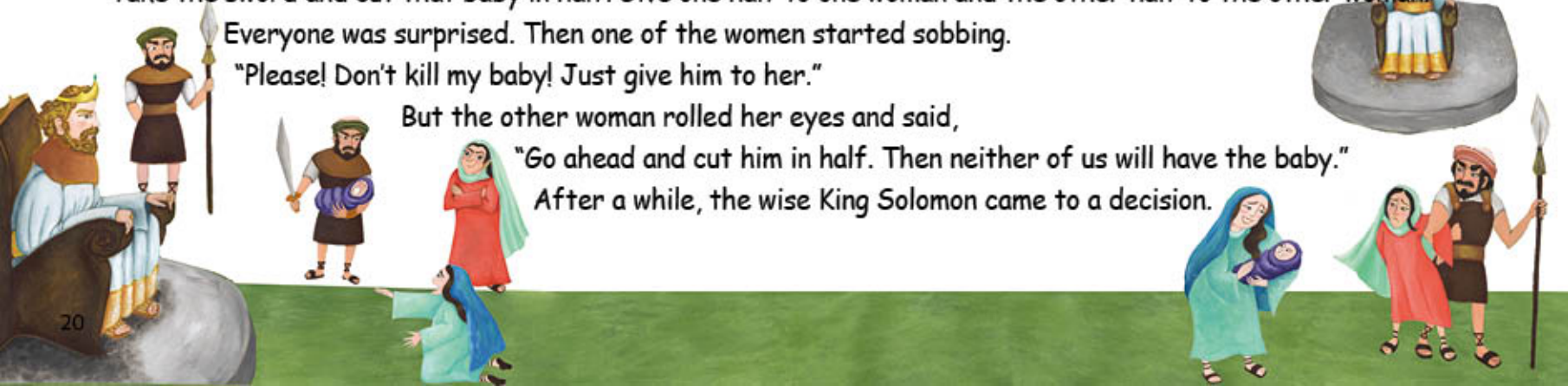
Everyone was surprised. Then one of the women started sobbing.

"Please! Don't kill my baby! Just give him to her."

But the other woman rolled her eyes and said,

"Go ahead and cut him in half. Then neither of us will have the baby."

After a while, the wise King Solomon came to a decision.



"Give the baby to the woman who asked for the baby to be kept alive. She is his real mother."

In this way, King Solomon was able to judge rightly, using the wisdom of God.

Thanks to King Solomon's wise rule over the people, Israel was peaceful.

The news of Israel's peace reached its neighboring countries and many were jealous of King Solomon's wisdom.

Therefore, many people came to meet King Solomon.

Even the Queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon with camels laden with gold, silver, jewels and spices.

The Queen of Sheba, who had traveled far to visit King Solomon in search of wisdom, asked him several questions.

King Solomon answered every single one, no matter how difficult.

The Queen was amazed by Solomon's wisdom and praised the Lord who had given him such wisdom.

At this time, King Solomon decided to build God's temple.

The Israelites devoted seven years to building God's temple and when it was finally built,

King Solomon and the Israelites gathered in it to worship God.

After King Solomon prayed to God, King Solomon lifted his two hands up to heaven and blessed the people of Israel.



Activity 1.

Write down the numbers in the order of the story we learned today.



Then one of the women started sobbing. "Please! Don't kill my baby! Just give him to her."



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One day, two women holding one baby came to King Solomon.



Solomon took some time to think and then with the wisdom of God he came to a surprising decision.



"Give the baby to the woman who asked for the baby to be kept alive. She is his real mother."



Solomon asked God for wisdom and knowledge so that he could lead the people.



"Take the sword and cut that baby in half. Give one half to that woman and the other half to the other woman."



The two women each argued that the baby was her own.

Activity 2.

Answer the following questions.

a. What did Solomon ask God and for what?

b. Solomon decided to build a temple for God. How long did it take him to do it?

c. Read 1 Kings 3:4-15 and respond: When God heard what Solomon asked, he was pleased. So what did God say to Solomon?

- Read and memorize the Bible verse. (1 Kings 3:9-10)

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for that.

