



Date: _____
Series: Discovery Digs
Summer Year 4, Lesson 1

Solomon Asks for a Listening Heart

Take Home Point: *Give me a heart that listens to you, oh, God.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 1 Kings 3:4-28

Key Verse: 1 Kings 3:9a, "Give me a heart that listens so that I can...tell the difference between good and evil."

We will help kids know:

- A review of Solomon and his request for a listening heart. *(If following the full scope and sequence of this curriculum, Solomon was likely covered last fall. This event is now repeated so that we can see how Solomon's kingdom was divided and how the kings did not have a listening heart for God.)*
- We can have a listening heart for God by taking time to spend with him in prayer and reading the Bible. Even kids can do this on a daily basis.




We will help kids feel:

- Excited as they think about the fun things they will do during the summer.
- Intentional about spending time with God on a daily basis.

We will help kids do:

- Practice their listening skills as they share excitement about summer plans.
- Color a bookmark and reading plan for summer Bible reading.
- Be intentional about reading their Bible and praying throughout their busy summer schedule.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids discuss their upcoming vacation/summer plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one red construction paper • one white construction paper • pencil/pen • glue stick
Large Group 	4 7 10 10	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Jerry Dude Chills Out” – Dr. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round discover clues to help us have listening hearts for God. Jerry learns one of the wisest men that ever lived asked God for a listening heart.</p> <p>Video Presentation: The Bible event from 1 Kings 3:4-28 is shown in the video---<i>Animated Stories from the Bible: Solomon</i></p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Jerry Chills Out” – Jerry learns that God wants to spend time with us; and when our hearts are focused on him, we will want to spend time with God. Just like Solomon, we, too, can have a listening heart by reading the Bible, praying and focusing our hearts on God.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry puppet, a modified Gordy puppet to look like a surfer • tub of sand • key with discovery point • headpiece • Bible • small Bible in plastic bag • red construction paper heart with a picture of an ear glued on • advertisement/magazine pictures or collage displaying summer activities like the beach, camping, swimming, etc. • video, <i>Animated Stories from the Bible: Solomon</i> Nest Master, Inc., 1995 http://www.nestfamily.com
Small Group Application 	4	Kids color a bookmark and discuss their plans for spending time with God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preprinted book mark (p. 11) per child • markers/crayons

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies: one white and one red construction paper for the shepherd, pencil/pen, scissors (for shepherd only)

Encourage kids to take turns sharing what they are looking forward to this summer. Let them share two or three things they are planning to do or would like to do. Say:

Please listen carefully to everyone while they share. This is also a listening test to see who can remember the most.

After all the kids have shared their summer excitement, ask which child is able to remember most of what everyone else said. Which child can repeat what everyone mentioned?

Take a few minutes to see who has done the best job of listening and is able to repeat/remember. Draw and cut out an ear from a piece of white paper as an award for listening. *(Don't worry about the quality of your drawing. This is more fun than it is art.)* But before you give it to the child, say:

Before I present this listening ear award, we will learn about Solomon in large group and how he asked God to give him a listening heart. I wonder what that would look like.

Take red construction paper and cut out a heart bigger than the ear and paste the ear to the heart.

This might be a symbol of it. It's an ear on a heart. It's a listening heart. Why do you suppose Solomon asked God to give him a listening heart? Listen today and you will hear that we, too, can say the same prayer as Solomon: **Give me a heart that listens to you, oh, God.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Jerry Dude Chills Out” – Dr. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round discover clues to help us have listening hearts for God. Jerry learns one of the wisest men that ever lived asked God for a listening heart and Jerry wants to know how he can have a listening heart for God, too.

Video Presentation: The Bible event from 1 Kings 3:4-28 is shown in the video---
Animated Stories from the Bible: Solomon

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Jerry Chills Out” – Jerry learns that God wants to spend time with us; and when our hearts are focused on him, we will want to spend time with God. Just like Solomon, we, too, can have a listening heart by reading the Bible, praying and focusing our hearts on God.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

NOTE: *Since the movie lasts 28 minutes, there may not be as much time for Bible review.*

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to 1 Kings 3:4-28 in their Bibles for the following questions.

In a dream, God asked King Solomon what he could give him. What did Solomon ask God for? (1 Kings 3:9. Solomon asked for a heart that listens so that he could judge the people and tell the difference between good and evil.)

What did the Lord give Solomon in addition to wisdom and understanding? (1 Kings 3:13. God gave Solomon riches and honor so that no other king would be like him.)

What would God give Solomon if he obeyed God's laws and commands as David did? (1 Kings 3:14. A long life.)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why do you think God wanted Solomon to be greater than any other king? *(To show God blesses those who want to honor him. So others would wonder what made Solomon so successful.)*

How did Solomon show his wisdom in judging the two women who claimed to be the live baby's mother? *(1 Kings 3:16-28. Solomon knew that a mother would not want her baby to die, so he did a test to see which one really loved the child.)*

Why did the people respect Solomon for his decision in determining which woman was the live baby's real mother? *(1 Kings 3:28. They saw Solomon possessed wisdom from God to do what was right.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

1 Kings 3:9a says, "Give me a heart that listens so that I can...tell the difference between good and evil."

What things should we ask from God to be like Solomon and know the difference between good and evil?

Application Activity:

Supplies: preprinted bookmark for each student, crayons and/or markers

Pass out the bookmarks and have kids color them.

Explain to kids how to track their readings from the book of Proverbs written by Solomon. Have them look up in their Bibles the chapter in Proverbs that corresponds with today's day of the month. Have them read a verse or two from this Proverb and color in the square for that Proverbs chapter.

Explain that for each day, they can read as much or as little as they want from that chapter. Have them leave their bookmark where they last read in their Bible.

Tell how some of the Proverbs have wonderful wise sayings that can help our lives. Discuss ways God is still at work in our lives by providing these powerful bits of wisdom.

Today, we learned to be wise like Solomon and ask, *Give me a heart that listens to you, oh, God.

Be sure and give the listening heart award to the best listener from the small group Warm-Up.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God that he loves us so much he wants to talk to us. Thank God that his word is his voice and will give us direction as well as understanding. Thank God for the Bible and for direct access to him through prayer.

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Large Group Presentation

Solomon Asks For a Listening Heart

Discovery Digs – Introduction

NOTE: Many churches don't have a children's program on the holiday weekend of Memorial Day. If that is the case, you may introduce the series next week.

If you do have a program this weekend, the following will serve as an introduction for the summer series "Discovery Digs." A new puppet is introduced, Jerry Dude, which might provide a break for the Gordy puppet. Also, two characters are introduced this series. This should make it easier for finding substitutes for the large group presentation. In other words, on any given Sunday either one of the characters or both may be present. Therefore, the entire series is not dependent on the same person being there for large group presentation

The theme for this series is "Discovery Digs." Two presenters play the role of explorers searching through the sands of time for lessons from God's story in the Bible. The characters' or story tellers' are Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round (Dr. G and Dr. T, for short). We suggest that both characters develop their own personality, accent and costume. Both are archeologists and historians. Both know the Bible events enough to tell them well. Since they are presenting to kids, it's helpful to note that "overacting" works well with kids! Exaggerate expressions of surprise, exhortation or puzzlement.

Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round search through the "Sands of Time" and through the pages of the Bible for a special discovery each week. These are Bible truths that students not only discover, but truths that they put into practice. The Bible events are not told as exact readings of the Bible but are paraphrased. Still, it is a good idea to have a Bible in hand so that students can see the source. They might use a clipboard to hold their script, though it looks like archeologist's notes.

Each week a student is brought forward to pull a special key out of the "Sands of Time"—a key that has a clue to the discovery of the day. It is helpful for the characters to use a dry paint brush to brush off the sand from objects pulled from the sand. There is special humor as the archeologists first put their hands in the sand to pull out a rather surprising or intimidating object. This creates just a bit more suspense for the student who then goes searching for the key. Then the characters tell their story in creative fashion using the student volunteer or perhaps the entire audience.

The puppet for this series is Gordy's cousin, Jerry, the surfer dude. He speaks in surfer dude language. He came in to town for summer vacation and likes to come to Kingdom Quest, especially since they play in the sand a bit. He serves as the one to start and close the large group presentation. He interacts with Dr. Goofagain and Dr. Turner, whom he calls Dr. G and Dr. T. The presenter's lines are labeled: Dr._____. (Both characters can be used in all presentations, but in the case of unavailable volunteers or

a smaller congregation, one individual would be sufficient, as well. Fill in with whichever character is available this week.)

Props:

- *a tub of sand*
- *a listening heart (same as from small group Warm-Up): a red heart cut from a full sheet of red construction paper with a white ear cut out and pasted on the heart*
- *a section from a magazine, catalogue or advertisement that shows people doing summer activities. Pictures could be of sports, beach, camping, etc. This could be a collage of summer activities pasted together.*
- *small Bible enclosed in a plastic bag*
- *a large key with the discovery point written on a paper slip wrapped around it: "Give me a heart that listens to you, Oh God"*
- *headpiece to put on a volunteer, giving him the look of a prophet*
- *video*

Jerry Dude Chills Out

Puppet Presentation

Jerry: Yo, dudes. Like *everyone* is here. Hi, dudes and dude-ettes. Maybe you don't know me. I'm Jerry, Gordy's cousin from California (*if located in California, substitute with Hawaii*). Like I was out there riding some waves, hanging ten, and Gordy said, "Why don't you spend the summer with me?" And I said, "Like, that'd be totally awesome." But when I got here...there was little beach, small waves, and little surfin'. So I asked Gordy what you guys do that is cool. And he said Kingdom Quest is cool. He said he owned it. I said radical. He said I could take his place for the summer. I said totally awesome.

So, welcome everyone, to Kingdom Quest – where we are going to ride the big wave home. Our guests today are, like, two scientific discovery dudes. I'll introduce them and they'll come straight on out. Dr. C.M. Goofagain....C.M. Goofagain? Bogus name, man. And then, Dr. Turner Round. Turn around? ... Whoa, like bogus, too. I'll just call Dr. Goofagain Dr. G. and Dr. Turner, Dr. T. So let me introduce Dr. T. and Dr. G. You dudes, tell us what you do.

Dr. ____: **We dig through the sands of time, exploring the Bible so that we can discover truth.**

Jerry: Discover truth? Far out, dude.

Dr. ____: ***That's right. We are making a dig through HISTORY to reveal HIS STORY, God's story, and to discover the truths that help us today.***

Jerry: So, show me how you do it, man.

Dr. ____: I reach into the sands of time here...

Jerry: Oh, you mean that box of sand?

Dr. ____: Yes.

Jerry: Gnarly, dude. I hope it's California (or Hawaiian) sand.

Dr. ____: I'm sure it is—and pulls out this.... O-o-oo!

Pull out heart with an ear on it.

Jerry: Whoa! Like, dude, what is that thing?

Dr. ____: *I think it's a listening heart. That's what we are talking about today.*

Jerry: I thought we were talking about cool stuff we want to do this summer vacation. Like, what do you guys do around here?

Dr. ____: We have some summer vacation experts here. Let me pull someone from the audience.

Bring up a child and have them give a couple responses as to what they plan on doing for summer vacation.

Dr. ____: *Let's dig through the sands of time and see what we might have here that will help us have a good summer vacation.*

Pull out of the sand box an advertisement showing summer activities.

Jerry: Oh, I see. Is that the kind of fun stuff they used to do back in the Bible times?

Dr. ____: No, I don't think so, Jerry Dude. I don't know how this ended up in the sands of time. This looks like the kind of stuff kids look forward to during the summer nowadays.

Jerry: Do you have a picture of a surfer dude? That's what I call summer fun.

Dr. ____: *I'm not sure. But I may know why this is in the sand. Because as important as it is and as fun as it is, there is another kind of book that should be part of our summer so that we can have a heart that listens to God. Would you take another reach into the sands of time?*

Pull Bible out of sand box.

Jerry: Whoa, dude. What's that?

Dr. ____: Well, let me see. It's the Bible. Some of this was written over ten thousand years ago. As a matter of fact, Solomon wrote some very smart things in this book called the book of Proverbs. These are things he learned because he had a listening heart for God.

Jerry: So, how do I get a listening heart for God?

Dr. ____: *Let's see what else is in here that might give us a clue.*

Have child volunteer pull out the key printed with: "Give me a heart that listens to you, Oh God."

Dr. ____: That's the key. It's praying to God and saying I need a listening heart, oh, God.

Jerry: Gnarly, dude. Where did that saying come from?

Dr. ____: *Well it came from the Bible when King Solomon asked for a listening heart. God gave him a listening heart so that he could have great understanding. He was one of the wisest men that ever lived. Let's take a look at King Solomon's story as you watch this video.*

Video

Show the Bible event ---*Animated Stories from the Bible: Solomon*. The length of this video is approximately 28 minutes.

Jerry Dude Chills Out Puppet Conclusion

Jerry: Solomon asked for a listening heart. I want to try that, but how can I find the time. I want to do...(start listing various activities)

Dr. ____: Whoa, wait a minute, Jerry Dude. Instead of just worrying about all the things you want to do, let's not get so busy that we don't stop for at least five minutes everyday and listen to God by reading from the Bible. A fun way to do that is to read a little bit from a chapter in Proverbs everyday. There is one chapter for every day of the month.

Jerry: Dude, I thought this was summer. I left reading at school, ya know. But I've never read the Bible before and since I'm not in school, this might be a great idea. My teacher did tell me to continue reading over the summer and not get rusty.

Dr. ____: ***Jerry, even though it is summer vacation, take some quiet time and turn off the TV. By just reading a few minutes from the Bible and then praying about what you have read, you will develop a listening heart and be able to hear from God.***

Jerry: What does God want to say to me?

Dr. ____: **Well, the most important thing is that he wants to tell you he gave his Son Jesus for you. Jesus paid the punishment for all of your sins so that you can be friends with God forever. When you trust Jesus, he lives in your heart so that your heart really does want to listen to what God says.**

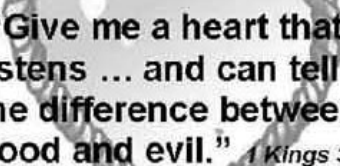
Jerry: Dude, you mean I can really hear God speak to me?

Dr. ____: ***When you read his word, you sure can. The trick is just remember to spend time reading the Bible and praying.***

Jerry: I think I can handle that.

Dr. ____: **Well, Jerry Dude, why don't you practice praying and pray that all of us would have a listening heart for God.**

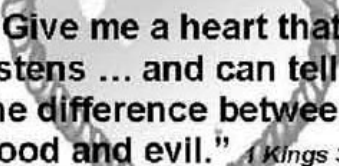
Jerry: Okay. Dear God, we're all hanging out trying to be cool on this listening heart thing. But we need your help. Can you help us listen to you more? God, sometimes I don't take time to think about you everyday or read the Bible. I'd like to do that. Help all of us to do that. Thank you for being the most bodacious and cool God that gave us Jesus. In his name, Amen.



"Give me a heart that listens ... and can tell the difference between good and evil." 1 Kings 3:9

Read something from the chapter of Proverbs that matches today's date. Color in the square when you have completed reading.

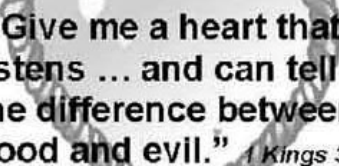
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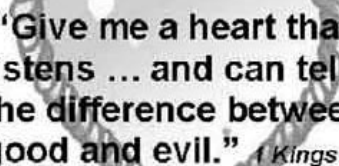
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