

# The Queen Of Sheba

1 Kings 10:1-13

## **MEMORY VERSE**

1 KINGS 10:9b

“Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A bathroom scale and masking tape.

Kool-Aid with no sugar mixed in, sugar, 3” x 5” index cards, various spices (salt, pepper, cumin, cinnamon, cloves, oregano, chili, etc.) and markers.

Enough camel templates for the number of children in your class, crayons or markers, glue sticks, purple and tan construction paper and scissors.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **A Ton of Kids**

In our story today we will be learning about a great queen from the land of Sheba who came to Solomon in a large caravan of camels. To introduce our lesson let’s learn a little bit more about camels. Share with your class the following “facts” about camels.

1. In the ancient world camels were the #1 method of transportation.
2. Camels can carry about 1,000 lbs. or a 1/2 ton.
3. Camels can travel about 29 miles per day and can go for short periods of time at 25 miles per hour.
4. Camels can grow up to 7 feet tall (5 feet at their shoulder).

To get an idea of how much a camel can carry and what it is like to ride a camel do the following: Bring a bathroom scale from home. Have the children line up to be weighed. Record all of their weights on the chalk or dry erase board and add them up. Will we need one camel or two for our class to ride?

Using masking tape make a large egg shape approximately 5' x 7' on the floor. The class will pretend that this is a camel's back. Have everyone sit on around the sides on the tape. Have them imagine that they will be riding on a camel. Use the same number of kids that it would take to get up to 1,000 lbs. Have the children hold hands across the "egg shape"(over the imaginary hump). When you say go have the children on one end stand up and then sit down again. Have the next pair go and so on until all have gone. Go faster until a rocking, "wave" type of action is achieved, like riding a camel. When the children get the rhythm down allow them to do it for a couple of minutes. Give other children who haven't had an opportunity a turn.

Have fun with this activity and explain that this is how the Queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon.

## **LESSON TIME!**

The fame of King Solomon's wisdom and wealth had spread throughout the world of that day. There were many rulers from other nations very interested in Israel and what made Solomon successful. What a great opportunity for him to be a witness for the Lord. In the chapter from the Bible that we will be studying tonight we will see the influence that Solomon had during that time. We will also see the effect that the wisdom that God gave to Solomon had on a queen from another land. **God wants us to use His wisdom to help others.**

## 1 KINGS 10:1

Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions.

This verse tells us that the queen from the land of Sheba heard all about King Solomon. He was pretty famous during his time because God had blessed him so much. God had blessed Solomon with a great amount of wisdom and with a great deal of wealth. She probably came from the southern part of Arabia and it appears that she was the ruler of her country.

The term “concerning the name of the Lord” can literally be translated as “belonging to the name of the Lord.” In other words, the fame, which Solomon had acquired, was through the name of the Lord. His fame came from the Lord and through His relationship with the Lord. God’s wisdom was made known to the whole world through the life of Solomon.

It also tells us that she came to test him with hard questions. Some of the commentators believe that this meant difficult riddles, to put his wisdom to the test by carrying on a conversation with him in riddles. Perhaps she came to receive instruction from Solomon to improve her own wisdom. As a queen perhaps she desired to know how to better govern her own people.

Some believe that perhaps it was spiritual instruction that she wanted, to become better acquainted with the Lord. Proverbs 20:11 tells us that “Even a child is known by his doing, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.” All of us are known by our character, so it is important for us to examine our lives to determine how we are known. Are we known as people that love the Lord with all of our hearts, walking in His wisdom? Or are we walking in the way of our own wisdom and understanding? How do you desire to be known?

One of the things that we can learn from this story is that when we believe in the Lord and we follow Him with all of our hearts, other people are watching. The Queen of Sheba was watching Solomon and how he used God's wisdom. God wants us to first of all ask for His wisdom and then use His wisdom to help others and be a witness for Him. **God wants us to use His wisdom to help others.**

**1 KINGS 10:2,3**

**She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.**

**So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her.**

As the queen of a wealthy country, she came with a very large gift for Solomon. She came with a retinue (a large company) of men, and camels laden with valuable treasures. Solomon listened to her as she talked with him of all that was in her heart. He gave her answers to all of her questions, whatever type they were.

Do you desire to have someone whom you can talk to that can answer all of your questions? We do have someone to do that for us, if we just ask Him. It is our loving God who is always there for us. We never have to travel to speak to Him, or bring Him incredible gifts. He is always there just waiting for us to talk to Him. It is something we should all do all of the time.

Also, the Lord may bless us with wisdom concerning certain things. We should use that wisdom that He blesses us with to help others. **God wants us to use His wisdom to help others.**

## 1 KINGS 10:4,5

And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built,

the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her.

Now we are told that the Queen saw all of Solomon's wisdom, and then the house that he had built. Not only had she heard Solomon's wisdom but she also saw his wisdom in his building. She saw the palace, the temple and the other buildings. All around were beautiful places full of prosperity. She was amazed at the abundance of food and of servants in Solomon's service.

The last thing mentioned which perhaps was the greatest was his "entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord." Matthew Henry says, "...with what gravity and seriousness, and an air of devotion in his countenance, he appeared, when he went to the temple to worship God, with as much humility then as majesty at other times."

Some people believe that this should be translated, "and his burnt offering by which he went up unto the house of the LORD." She saw that Solomon approached God with a burnt offering. This is the offering that speaks more fully of Jesus and His death for our sins than all the others.

What we do see is that Solomon at this point in his life truly loved the Lord and took his worship of God seriously. The result of Solomon's wisdom and worship left the queen in absolute amazement for she had never seen anything like this before in her life. We can ask ourselves how we affect the people we are around.

Do they notice our relationship with the Lord? Does it leave them amazed and desiring the same for their own lives? **God wants us to use His wisdom to help others.**

## **Bring In The Spices**

The Queen of Sheba brought many gifts to Solomon. Among them were different kinds of spices. For a fun craft we will be looking at some different spices and learn how that this gift would have been a great blessing to Solomon.

Begin by demonstrating the need for spices. Make some Kool-Aid before class that doesn't have any sugar in it. Don't tell the children. Pour the Kool-Aid into cups and pass them out to the children. Allow them to drink and discover that their Kool-Aid is missing something pretty important. Explain that without sugar or spices food can be kind of plain. We need to thank the Lord for what He provides us with. Bring some sugar to put a small amount into each of the children's cups. Ask them about what difference the sugar makes in their Kool-Aid.

Next you will need some 3"x5" cards, various spices such as salt, pepper, cumin, cinnamon, cloves, oregano, chili, etc. On a table or the floor, sprinkle a little bit of each spice onto a napkin. Tell the children about the various spices and what types of foods that they might be used for. Allow them to pick out a spice that they like. On 3x 5 index cards have the children write down what kind of spice they chose (write it for the younger children), what is the primary food it is used for (fish, chicken, etc.) Then put a spot of glue about the size of a quarter on the card, sprinkle on some of the spice, and let it dry.

With a marker either on the front or back of the card write, "God's wisdom will spice up our lives." Compare our lives without God's wisdom as bland, like food with no spice or Kool-Aid with no sugar. But when God gives us His wisdom to live by we can have an exciting life following Him.

### KINGS 10:6-9

Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

"However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard.

"Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!

"Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."

When she had first come to Solomon, she did not believe half of what she had been told, and then came to find that everything she was told is true and even more! She was amazed at his wisdom and at how happy his servants were who stood continually near him and could hear his wisdom. She also praised the Lord, that out of His eternal love to His people Israel, He had given them a king to do justice and righteousness.

For a practical application we can ask ourselves, do we rejoice in what God does in the lives of others? There is blessing that comes from a life lived by God's standards of righteousness and by God's



wisdom. All of the blessing in Solomon's life came because he was humble and asked the Lord for His wisdom. **God wants us to use His wisdom to help others.**

### 1 KINGS 10:10-13

Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices in great quantity, and precious stones. There never again came such abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

Also, the ships of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought great quantities of almug wood and precious stones from Ophir.

And the king made steps of the almug wood for the house of the LORD and for the king's house, also harps and stringed instruments for singers. There never again came such almug wood, nor has the like been seen to this day.

Now King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked, besides what Solomon had given her according to the royal generosity. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

The Queen then gives Solomon 120 talents of gold (about \$3,490,200 – wow!), and a very large quantity of spices and precious stones. We also see that the Ophir fleet also brought in addition to gold, a large quantity of “Algummim” wood and precious stones. Of this wood Solomon had made steps for the house of the Lord and for the king's house, also harps and psalteries for singers.

In verse 13, Solomon gave the Queen of Sheba all that she wished and asked for. He was truly a witness for the Lord in the queen's life. God had richly blessed King Solomon with wisdom and great wealth. But the most important thing was his relationship with the Lord. He showed her what that was all about.

What really matters in our life is our relationship with Jesus Christ. The true riches of God are ours for the asking –asking His Son, Jesus into our hearts, and laying down our life for His. Then when we have the knowledge of the truth of Jesus in our hearts we need to share that with others who don't know Him.

Solomon obeyed God in his early years. He was humble and desired to do what God wanted him to do. He used his wisdom to help others. We can do the same. **God wants us to use His wisdom to help others.**

How do we get God's wisdom? By asking Him. Remember when God came to Solomon and asked him what he would like to have. He could have asked God for anything. He did the right thing by asking the Lord for wisdom. God's blessing came to Solomon because he did the right thing.

James chapter 1 tells us that if we want wisdom all we need to do is ask Him for it. He desires to give us wisdom and will do it when we ask. We can also read the Proverbs that Solomon wrote. They are filled with God's wisdom and practical advice on how we can live our lives in a way that pleases the Lord.

Then when the Lord blesses us with wisdom, we can in turn bless others!

## Camel Craft

You will need enough templates (enclosed with the curriculum) for the number of children in your class, crayons or markers, a glue

stick and purple and tan construction paper. Give each child a camel from the templates. Place some tan construction paper behind the template (as an option you could copy your templates onto brown card stock). Cut out around the edges of the camel.

Next, cut out a rectangle from the purple construction paper to make a royal covering over the camel. Cut in a rectangle approximately 1 1/2" X 2 1/2". Cut small slices on both ends (length wise) on the rectangle to make some fringes.

Next with a glue stick, glue the purple covering over the hump of the camel. You can write 1 Kings 10:9 on the camel (or have the kids do it) if you like to help them to remember the lesson.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer to first of all ask the Lord for wisdom and then for the Lord to help us to use the wisdom He gives us to help others. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

