

## GOD THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## UNIT ONE: God's Heroes

**Lesson 10:**

## King Solomon's Wish

## CONTENT:

1. Before King David died he told the priests to anoint his son Solomon and make him king. Like his father, Solomon also loved the Lord.
2. One night, Solomon had a dream: God said to him, "Ask me what I should give you!" Solomon asked for an understanding mind to know what is right and govern God's people. God was happy with his wish and granted it. He also gave him what he did not ask for: riches, honour and a long life.
3. With the gift of understanding, Solomon was able to make a just judgement when two women came to him, both claiming the same baby was her own.
- ☺ 4. Jesus wants us to be like King Solomon and to put God first. He promised that those who do this will be well cared for by God. [CCC305, 2604.]
5. Saint Aloysius also chose God above riches and fame. He had to struggle against much pressure, but was firm. He is the patron saint of students and youth.

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Learn the words of Jesus.

REFERENCES: 1Kings 1:32-35; 2:1-3; 3:3-28. Matthew 6:31-33. (Jerusalem Bible)

[www.staloyshickory.org](http://www.staloyshickory.org)

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts; large baby doll, a sword. [Plan and practice actions for the Bible verses.]

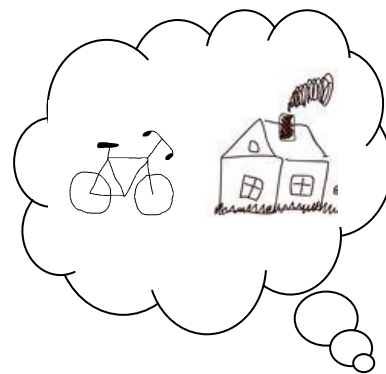
**I. STARTER:**

[Draw a 'thought cloud' on the blackboard and ask:]

- Suppose you had a dream and God appeared to you and said, "Ask for whatever you want!" What would you ask for?

[Students could draw what they would ask for on the blackboard and the others could guess what it is.]

Most of us would ask for things like lots of money, or a big house, or a motor-bike. Maybe we would ask for many friends or good health for our family. Or perhaps we would ask for adventure, a chance to act in a movie or go around the world.

**II. DEVELOPMENT:**

- Today we are going to hear a true story of someone who did meet God in a dream, and God asked him the same question.
- We have been listening to the story of David. What did we hear about him so far?  
[How he was anointed by the prophet; how he killed Goliath; and how Jonathan became his friend and helped him.]

After Saul, David did become king and all the people were very happy during that time. He always loved God, and when he did wrong he said sorry and came back to God.

When King David was old and was about to die, he called for the priest and said, "Anoint my son Solomon as king in front of everyone. Let him sit on my throne, so that everyone realises that he is king."

Then he called his young son Solomon and said, "Son, I am going to die soon. Be strong and brave and obey the Lord always!"

Solomon did love God and obey him, just as his father had done. One day Solomon went to offer burnt sacrifices to God. That night he had a dream. He dreamed that God came to him and said, "Ask what I should give you!"

Solomon answered, "Lord you have shown your great love to my father David, because he loved and served you. Today, you have put me on the throne and made me king over all your thousands of people. I am like a child. I don't know how to do anything on my own. So please give me an understanding mind so that I can look after your people, because they are your people after all!"

God was very happy to hear Solomon's answer. He said to him, "Because you have not asked for anything for yourself, but you have asked for help to look after my people, I give you what you asked for. I give you a wise mind. You will be wiser than anyone in the whole world. I also give you what you have not asked for. I give you riches and honour; and if you keep obeying me I will give you a long life as well."

Then Solomon woke up and realised that it had been a dream. He offered up another sacrifice to thank God for his kindness to him and gave a feast to all his servants.

### III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Jesus wants us to be like King Solomon and to put God first. Instead of wanting more and more things for ourselves we must just want to serve God well and love him. Jesus said,  
Do not worry! Do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink?  
What are we to wear?" Your heavenly Father knows you need them all!  
Set your hearts on God's kingdom first and on his saving justice,  
and all things will be given to you as well.
- Close your eyes. Sit quietly and think of Jesus' words. Think of the thing you wanted to ask for at the beginning. Are you ready to forget about that wish and instead ask God to help you to serve him? Remember what Jesus said: Our Father in heaven knows what we need and will look after us.

### IV. DRAMATISATION:

- It was King Solomon's duty to listen to people's quarrels and decide who was right and who was wrong. One day two women came to the king with a difficult problem. Let's act it out as I tell the story.

*[The students mime the story while the teacher tells it. Actors would include: Solomon, two women and soldiers. The rest of the students could respond as the people in the court.]*

One day, as King Solomon was sitting on his throne judging the cases that came to him, two women came in shouting and fighting. They had a baby with them and each was trying to grab the baby from the other.

Solomon ordered them to stop their shouting and be quiet. Then he asked them to explain.

The first woman came forward and said, "Your Majesty, this woman and I live in the same house. We both had babies one after the other. One night, her baby died. In the middle of the night, she got up and took my son from my bed and put her dead baby next to me.

When I woke up in the morning I found that my baby was dead! But when I looked at him carefully, I realised that it was not my baby at all! It was hers!"

The other woman cried out, "No, no! It's all lies! Her baby died in the night, and now she wants to take my son!"

The two of them kept arguing and shouting and crying. Young King Solomon looked at both the women. All the people in the court looked at King Solomon. How would he find out the truth?

The king thought for a while and then said, "Bring me a sword!"

One of the soldiers took out his sword and came forward.

The king told him, "Cut the baby into half and give one half to each woman!"

Everyone in the court looked shocked. Some closed their eyes. They didn't want to see the little baby killed. As the soldier came forward, the first woman went down on her knees and shouted, "No! No! Please don't cut him! Give him to her!"

But the other woman just stood there smiling. “Cut the baby!” she said.

King Solomon got up and said, “Stop! Don’t cut the baby! This baby belongs to the first woman. She is the real mother!”

All the people cheered loudly. They were very happy to have such a wise king.

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NEXT CLASS:

[Give out the handouts and let the students answer the questions in the top half and write them in:]

1. Who was Solomon? He was the son of King David.
2. What did he ask for? He asked for an understanding mind to look after God’s people.
3. Why was God happy with Solomon’s wish? Because Solomon did not think about himself, but wanted to serve God.
4. What extra things did God give him? God also gave him riches, honour and a long life.
5. What were the two women quarrelling about? They both wanted the same baby.
6. What did Solomon ask the soldier to do? To cut the baby in half and give each woman one half.
7. What did the true mother say? “Don’t cut the baby. Let her have him!”

- There was another young man like Solomon who chose God’s kingdom instead of riches and power. His name was Aloysius and he lived 700 years ago.

Aloysius’ father was a rich man. He was a famous soldier and lived in a castle. He wanted his son to be a soldier like himself so he began training him to fight when he was only 4 years old. But when Aloysius was just 9 years old his training had to stop, because he became ill and had to stay in bed.

As he lay in bed, Aloysius read the Bible and stories about the saints. He read about Jesuit priests who went to India to tell people about Jesus. He made a promise to God, “I will never get married and I will serve you all my life!”

When he was a little older, he told his parents, “I want to join the Jesuits and become a priest!” His father was very angry. He wanted his son to be rich and famous like himself. He said, “You are NOT going to join the Jesuits!” Even Aloysius’ friends teased him and made fun of him because he didn’t join their parties and fun.

For three years Aloysius kept talking to his father. At last, when he was 18 years old, he wrote a letter and gave all his land and money to his younger brother. Then he went off and joined the Jesuit fathers.

But God had a different plan for Aloysius. One day the angel Gabriel appeared to him and said, “Aloysius, you are going to leave this world in one year’s time!”

Aloysius was not afraid to die and go to meet Jesus. He kept working for him. He used to go to a hospital and look after people who were dying of plague. (Plague was a deadly disease and no one wanted to go near the patients.) One day Aloysius got sick with the plague. He died exactly one year after the angel appeared to him.

We now call him Saint Aloysius and ask him to pray for us. He is the special saint of students and young people.

[Read the rest of the handout together. Students try to memorise the Bible verses using actions to help them.]

**Home assignment:**

- x Read handout at home. x Learn the words of Jesus.