

# ADONIYAH TRIES TO BECOME THE NEXT KING.

1 KINGS 1:5-14, 29-35; JAMES 1:19-25



Week 1

God gives us directions to  
**FOLLOW.**

Week 2

God listens to our  
**REQUESTS.**

Week 3

God is worthy of our  
**WORSHIP.**

Week 4

God gives us true  
**WISDOM.**

Week 5

God helps us do  
**BIG THINGS.**

# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL- WEEK 1





# 1 KINGS 1:5-14, 29-35 JAMES 1:19-25

This month, we are learning all about King Solomon, who built God's temple and magnificent palaces. As Solomon builds the temple, we will be building our own foundation on God's words and wisdom. So let's get under construction!

Can you think of a story in the Bible when someone didn't follow directions?  
(Possible answers: Adam and Eve, Israelite community in the wilderness, Jonah)

There are quite a few different stories. This week, we'll talk about another person who didn't want to follow directions from God. His name is Adonijah.

Let's read I Kings 1:5-14, 29-35. Adonijah decided on his own that he would be the next king. He told some people, and they began to celebrate together, but this was not his father David's plan. It was also not the plan God had in mind.

Here's the thing. God didn't intend for the people to have kings in the first place, but God's people really wanted one. So God listened to their request but had special messengers, called prophets, anoint the king God had chosen.

The first king was a man named Saul, who was good at first but then let his power go to his head and disobeyed God. God replaced Saul with David, who loved God, even though he made mistakes, too. God promised David that his son Solomon would be the next king.

Adonijah basically took a wrecking ball to what God had wanted by declaring himself as king. He knew what he was doing was wrong as it divided God's people.

One group supported Adonijah, and the other group decided to do something about it.

When Bathsheba, Solomon's mom, heard that Adonijah declared himself as king, she went to King David to figure out the situation. Adonijah didn't tell Bathsheba, Solomon, or King David what he was doing. Adonijah tried to build a kingdom on his own and didn't follow the directions of others or God. David knew that he needed to take action.

God's plan was for David to appoint Solomon to take his place as king. David vowed that Solomon would take over and even put plans in motion to secure his reign.

Then he called a crew of people to help Solomon, like Zadok, Nathan, and Benaiah, and gave them specific directions for how to lead the kingdom of Israel.

Adonijah wanted to be the king so badly. But just because you want something and think it would be great doesn't mean you should just do it. Adonijah knew what he was doing was wrong and that it was going against God's plan. That's probably why he didn't even tell his dad, King David, about it. King David was determined to follow God's directions because he knew following God is always the wisest thing to do.

James 1:19-25 reminds us that we should listen to God and those around us who also love God. Instead of thinking we have all the answers and speaking them out loudly, we can pause our own opinions and listen first. We might hear something that helps us follow God's directions better. But listening is not enough!

This Scripture tells us to "not merely listen to the word ... do what it says." Adonijah knew the right thing to do, but he decided to act against what he knew. Listening is only the first step. When it comes to God's directions, we have to do what God says.

When God's son, Jesus, was on earth, he showed us how to follow God's directions. He taught everyone what it meant to obey God's commands and demonstrated it through his actions. Jesus was both a listener and a doer!

This passage also reminds us that God gives us directions to follow for our benefit! The Bible says whoever remembers God's directions and does them "will be blessed in what they do."

God wants us to follow and obey so that we may receive the blessings God has in store for us!





# SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION

- Who was supposed to be the rightful king after David?
- How do we know Adonijah was going against God's directions?
- How did David make sure God's directions were followed?
- Read James 1:22
  - How does this verse remind us of today's Big Idea?
- Where can we find directions from God?
- Who are some people I can surround myself with to help me follow God's directions?
- What does it mean to follow God's directions?



# WORSHIP

"FOLLOW"

BY ASHA ELIA

"FOLLOW YOU"

BY KIDSPRING

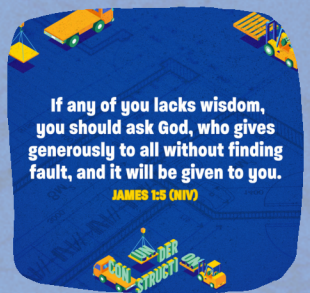


# MEMORIZE



If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

JAMES 1:5 (NIV)



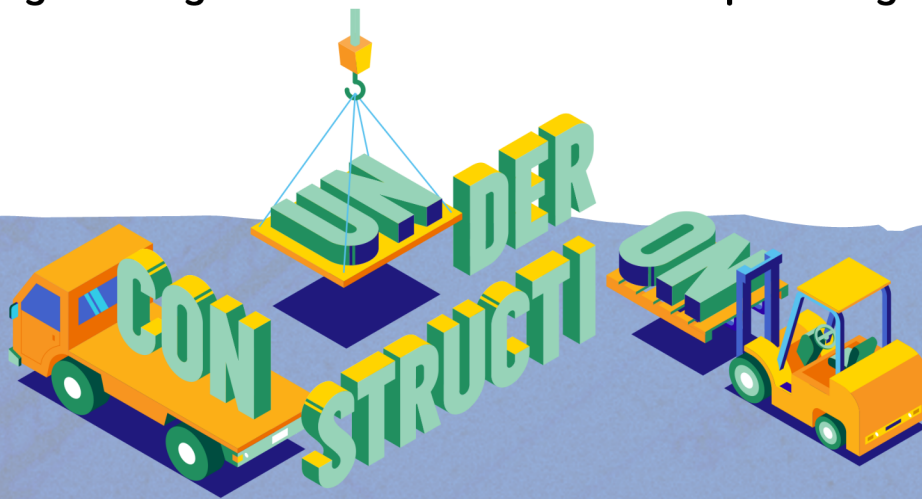
# BLUEPRINT BUILDERS

Blueprints are a very important part of any building project. Builders need the blueprints so they know where everything goes and to build a structure that is safe for everyone inside.

For this activity, you'll need blue construction or art paper, white or black colored pencils, and rulers and geometry compasses. To do this activity draw a picture of your church or the room you're in. Add as many details as possible, including pictures of themselves and today's Big Idea.

Where can we find blueprints for how we should live? (That's right, the Bible!)

God gives us directions to follow through Scripture, which is why it's so important to gather together in a room like this to keep learning!





# SOLOMON BECOMES KING AND ASKS GOD FOR WISDOM.

1 KINGS 3:1-15; PROVERBS 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

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## FAMILY DEVOTIONAL- WEEK 2







# 1 KINGS 3:1-15

## PROVERBS 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Welcome back to Under Construction! As you can see, we are still under construction. And yes, it does seem even noisier than last week! Everyone has an opinion of how things should be done and in the end not everyone agrees.

This remind us of what Solomon might have been going through when he became king. His road to the throne was a little shaky, what with his brother trying to steal it from him and all, but eventually, all went according to God's plan.

Solomon became the next king of Israel and Judah. Solomon was young when he became king. It was a huge responsibility to run an entire kingdom. But he knew, as his dad David had taught him, that all he had to do was love God and follow all God's directions.

Let's read I Kings 3:1-15.

After Solomon gave an offering, God appeared to him in a dream during the night. God told Solomon, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

We don't know Solomon's exact age, but by his own description, he was very young. He wanted to make sure that he could lead and serve God's people well. Solomon may have had a lot of people around him making a lot of noise. All those people giving their opinions to Solomon must have made it confusing and difficult for him to make the right decisions. Above all, he wanted to follow God and do what was right and good.

That's how he knew exactly what to ask for. He asked for wisdom, a heart that was able to make good decisions for God's people. He knew that if he had God's wisdom, everything else would fall into place.

Solomon's request for great wisdom was pleasing to God. God granted Solomon just what he asked for. But because of Solomon's selfless request, God also gave him great riches and honor. God let Solomon know having wisdom and riches wouldn't be enough, and Solomon would also need to continue following God. If he kept God's commands, he was guaranteed a good, long life! After this incredible dream, Solomon woke up and praised God with more offerings.

Solomon's request was selfless and lined up with God's plans. Like Solomon, we can take our plans, ideas, and requests to the architect, God, who oversees the blueprints for our lives. We know God wants what is best for us and will always listen.

If you remember why Solomon asked God for wisdom in today's Bible story, he said it was because he wanted to know right from wrong. He wanted to be a king that would rule God's people well. So, God gave Solomon great wisdom. If we examine Solomon's words in Proverbs 22, we can see God gave him the wisdom he requested!

We can summarize them this way:

- There are things more valuable than riches.
- God loves everyone equally.
- People who mistreat others will not succeed for long. People who give to others will receive blessings.
- God helps those in need and wants us to do the same.

It's only because of the wisdom God gave Solomon that he could understand and share these truths with others. And Solomon got his wisdom because he made his request known to God, and God listened! God always does. Jesus came to earth as an answer to the people's requests thousands of years ago. God's people had been waiting for a savior for a long time, and then one day, God sent Jesus!

Aren't you glad God listens to our requests?



# SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION

- What did Solomon ask God for?
- Why did Solomon ask for wisdom instead of other things like riches and honor?
- What was God's response to Solomon's request?
- Read Proverbs 22:1-2.
  - How do these words written by Solomon show that God listened to his request for wisdom?
- What are some things that we can ask God for?
- What do you think it means if God doesn't give us something we request?
- How can we be sure God always listens to us?



# WORSHIP

"ASK SEEK KNOCK"

BY HILLSONG KIDS

"I CAN COUNT ON GOD"

BY YANCY

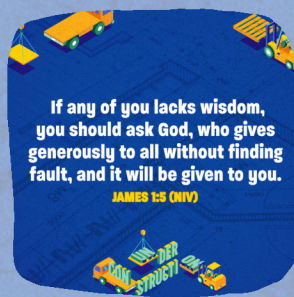


# MEMORIZE



If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

JAMES 1:5 (NIV)

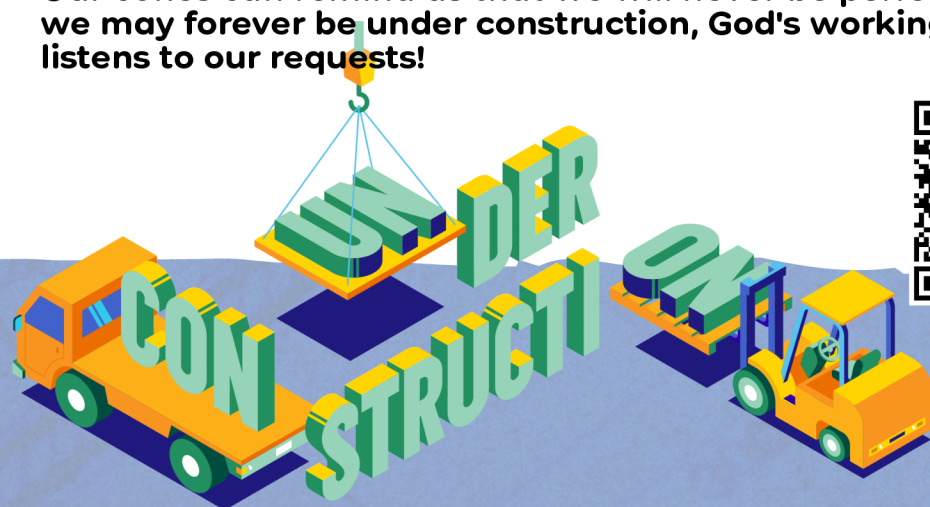


# WISDOM CONES

What is the purpose of a construction cone? Yes, it alerts people that there is construction work up ahead. Solomon knew he was a work in progress so he humbly asked for God's help. So can we!

For this activity, you'll need to give each kid an empty toilet paper or paper towel roll that has been cut in half, orange construction paper, a blank label, white tape, and a precut circle of orange construction paper roughly four to five inches in diameter. Have kids cut their orange paper to size so it covers their tube then glue or tape it down to look like a traffic cone. Have kids add white tape to create the stripes on their cone, then write the Big Idea on the blank labels and stick it on one of the stripes. Then, have kids tape the orange circle to the bottom side of the cone. Scan QR code for a worked example.

Our cones can remind us that we will never be perfect and know all things. Even though we may forever be under construction, God's working with us and we can know that God listens to our requests!





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## FAMILY DEVOTIONAL- WEEK 3





## 2 CHRONICLES 5:1–14 JAMES 3:9–12

It's another busy, busy day on the construction site! Construction often takes a very long time ... have you heard the saying, "Rome wasn't built in a day?" Well, that's true of most building projects. The same was true of the temple Solomon built for God.

The temple was something Solomon's father, David, wanted to build when he was king. Even though God was always with them, the people wanted a place to gather and worship. God told David that his son Solomon would be the one to make this project happen!

That day eventually came. Solomon had thousands of people who helped him and had only the best materials brought in. They cut cedar logs and stone blocks. They laid a strong foundation. Then, the inside was covered in gold. The furnishings were made of bronze, and jewels were everywhere! Finally, the temple was complete.

Solomon's dad, King David, prepared silver, gold, and other furnishings to be placed in the temple to honor God. Because of this, Solomon learned a place to worship God was very valuable to his dad. Even with all the materials ready, there was still a lot of work to do!

They brought in the Ark of God. The Ark—"the Ark of the Lord's covenant"—reminded the people of God's presence. Inside, the priests placed the two tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them and reminded the people God was with them. The Ark was incredibly special and sacred. It was a reminder that God was with them and wanted to know them. They couldn't just place the Ark anywhere in the temple. The Ark entered the temple's inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place. Are you ready to see what they do next?

It was a big deal! People got dressed in fine linens and their best clothes. They played instruments and sang—they had a place meant for worshipping God! The people believed the temple was where God could be with them here on earth, where God's presence could be with them. They were so happy that the temple was finished and in their midst!

"The glory of the Lord filled the temple of God." Even though we know now that God is always with us, they wanted a place to quiet all the noise around them and hear from God.

Today, we can worship God anywhere because God is everywhere, but we can also come to church to worship God with others. When we worship together, we see we aren't alone, and we can help each other remember how awesome God is.

Lets read James 3:9–12.

We probably have all done that at some time. We say we love God, but we sometimes forget to show it to those around us. We all can build each other up. But we also all have the capacity to tear each other down. It's our choice.

This passage reminds us that worshipping God is more than going to church, singing songs, and praying. Worship is about how we live our lives in community with others.

There was a time when Jesus was unhappy with what was going on at the temple. It was supposed to be a place of worship, but it had become more of a marketplace instead! People were being cheated out of their money, and Jesus had to remind everyone that the temple was for worship, which included caring for each other, too. We show God is worthy of our worship every day, not just by praising God but also by how we treat one another. If we want to give God our best worship, we have to do so with every part of our lives.





# SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION

- What was the most important thing that was brought into the temple?
- What did worship look like in and around the temple?
- How do we know God was pleased with the people's worship?
- Read James 3:10
  - What do you think "praising God and cursing others from the same mouth" has to do with worship?
- What are some ways you love to worship God?
- What are some things that may distract us, or keep our minds away, from worship?
  - What can we do about this?
- Where can we worship or show our love to God?



# WORSHIP

"PRAISE GOES ON"

BY ELEVATION CHURCH KIDS

"W-I-S-D-O-M"

BY SOVEREIGN GRACE MUSIC

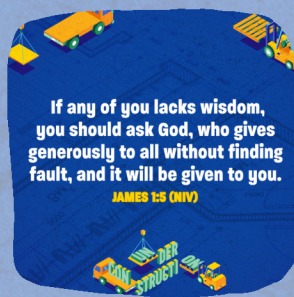


# MEMORIZE



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JAMES 1:5 (NIV)

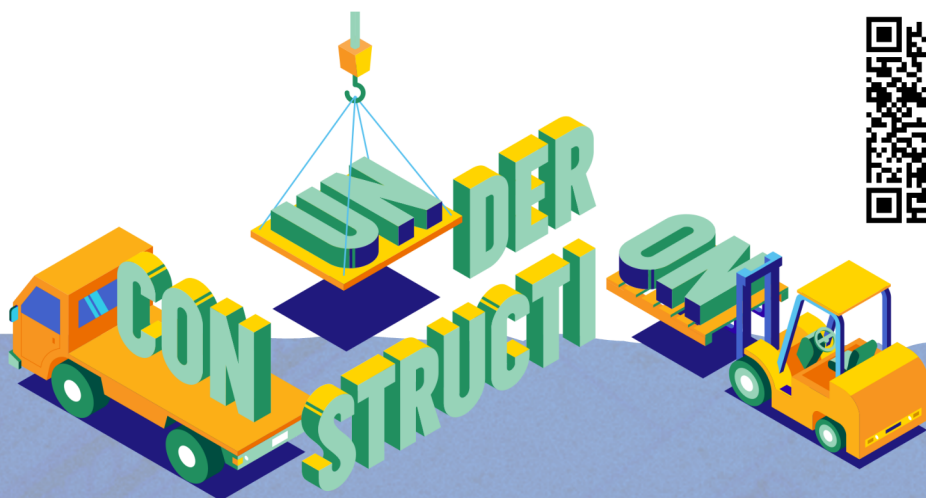


# CONSTRUCT-A-CHURCH

Aren't you glad we have a place to worship God together?

For this activity, you'll need to give each family member an envelope. To make this, open the flaps gently at the seams. Draw themselves worshiping on the inside part of the envelope. Then you can flip the envelope around and design the outside of the building (show an image of your church). Write the Big Idea on their church. You can also use construction paper for kids to decorate their envelope with.

Scan QR code to see a worked example.





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## FAMILY DEVOTIONAL- WEEK 4







# 1 KINGS 3:19–28

## JAMES 3:13–18

Decisions, decisions, decisions! Life is full of decisions! When you're building a church or a road or whatever it is, you have to choose the right people to help you, the right materials to use, and even the right tools for the job! One wrong decision could make it or break it ... literally! What I'm saying is, making the right choices requires wisdom.

God listened to Solomon's request for wisdom. Solomon asked God for wisdom and God said yes. Simply put, it's not just about knowing a lot of stuff. It's about using that knowledge and making the best choice. It's not always easy to do, which is why we need to talk to God. Solomon knew that from the start!

After God answered Solomon's prayer and gave him great wisdom, Solomon settled a big dispute that was presented before him. The situation was this: two women were living in the same house, and they each had a baby. One morning, the first woman woke up and saw that her baby had died. But then she realized ... this wasn't her baby. The other lady must have switched their babies in the middle of the night. But that's not the other lady's story.

So they insisted that the baby alive was theirs and continued to argue in front of King Solomon. They wanted King Solomon to decide who the mom of this baby boy was. How could he know for sure? It's not like they had DNA tests back then! That's a huge decision! If he got this wrong, the real mom and her baby would be separated forever.

So, he used the wisdom given to him from God. What? Solomon was saying that since the women couldn't agree, they would each have to settle for half a baby. If they allowed this to happen, the baby would die. Solomon wasn't really going to harm the baby, but they didn't know that.

Solomon was wise. He knew that no true mom would stand by and watch anything happen to her child ... she would do anything to protect her child, even if that meant giving her child up to someone else. And that's exactly what happened.

It took true wisdom to get this result. Solomon had to go beyond the information he was given and find a way to figure out who the real mother was. This was only possible because God gave King Solomon the wisdom to make the best decision.

God's wisdom may not always be the most obvious way of doing things, but that's because God helps us see more than just the problem at hand. Because Solomon relied on God, he was able to deliver a fair ruling. Now that's true wisdom!

In James 3:13–18, it tells us about two different kinds of wisdom. One kind is selfish and hurtful, and the other is the true wisdom from God.

The first kind of "wisdom" only looks out for themselves. They care about winning and putting others down—which causes confusion and chaos.

Wisdom from God, however, looks very different. God's true wisdom is shown in the way we help others without looking for recognition or anything else in return. We do it because God gave us wisdom, and the least we can do is to help others with it. We can use God's wisdom to help others achieve peace, too.

Jesus once talked about two different kinds of builders: a wise one and a foolish one (Matthew 7). The wise man built his house on sturdy rock, while the foolish man built his house on sand. Having true wisdom is like building a house on a rock, where we turn to God to be our support and strength.

This passage in James reminds us to lean on God's true wisdom. Just like how Solomon settled a tricky matter and the man who built his house on sturdy rock, we can see that God gives us true wisdom.



# SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION

- What problem did King Solomon have to solve in today's Bible story?
- How did King Solomon know who was the rightful mother of the baby?
- Where did King Solomon's wisdom come from?
- Read James 3:17
  - What does true wisdom from God look like?
- Can you think of a time when you had a wise choice to make?
- What are some sources or people you can go to when you are searching for wisdom?
- What is one of the first things you can do when you have a decision to make?



# WORSHIP

"WISDOM"

BY LIFEWAY KIDS WORSHIP

"WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE"

BY GRACE KIDS

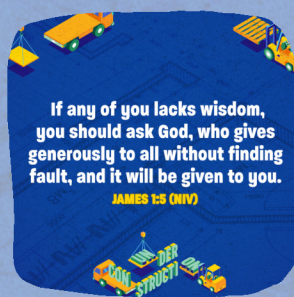


# MEMORIZE



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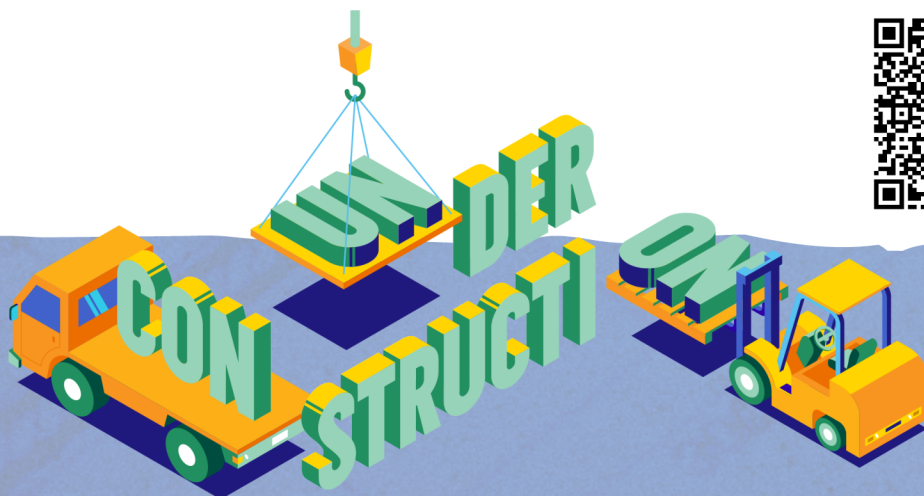
JAMES 1:5 (NIV)



# CONSTRUCTION SIGN

We are all under construction ... God is not done with us! Every day is a chance for us to grow wiser as we learn more about God's ways. Put your sign somewhere visible to help remind you that you can make wise choices because because God gives us true wisdom.

For this activity, you'll need to use white index card. To make this, line the top and bottom of the card with striped washi tape (or design your own borders) and write the Big Idea with orange marker in the middle of the card. Then you can attach two white clothespins on the bottom of their card to make a freestanding sign. You can also pass out two gem stickers to place on the top corners. Scan QR code to see a worked example.





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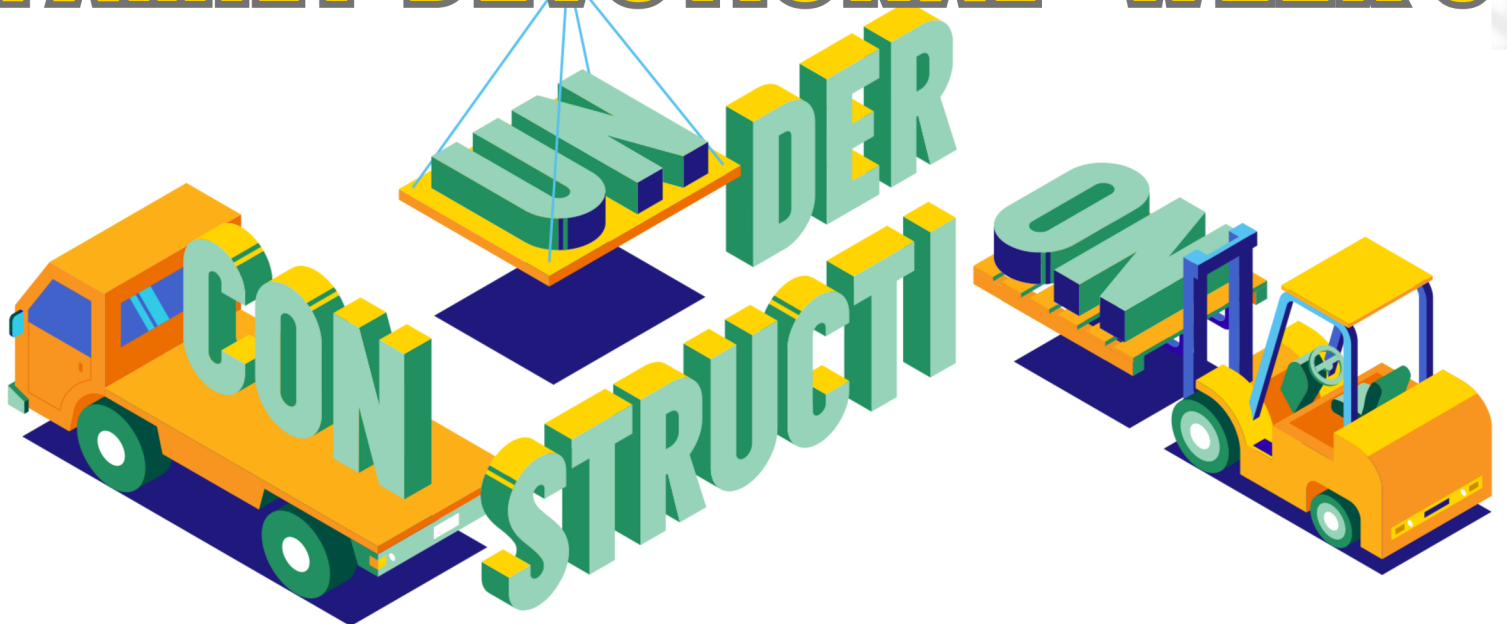
Week 4

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## FAMILY DEVOTIONAL- WEEK 5





## 2 CHRONICLES 9:1-12 PSALM 124

Wow, we've been under construction for a long time! We have been learning about how to follow God's directions, make requests to God, take time to worship God, and ask for God's true wisdom along the way. Today is the final day of construction, and that means something big. Let's see what it is!

King Solomon was no stranger to construction. He hired expert builders and imported all the finest materials for God's temple and his palace.

Once all that building was complete, his kingdom was a wonder to behold ... so much so that rumors of Solomon's splendor spread to neighboring lands and beyond.

At this time in history, there were no cell phones, Google, or social media. Someone couldn't go on the internet to look up pictures or chat online. If you wanted FaceTime, you'd have to travel and meet with someone face-to-face.

So the Queen of Sheba traveled somewhere between 1,200 to 1,500 miles to meet Solomon. She even brought a caravan of people carrying spices, gold, and precious gems.

Not only had the queen heard about Solomon's riches, but she had also heard of his great wisdom. When she asked all her questions, even the most difficult ones she could think of, Solomon did not disappoint. He was able to answer all of them with ease.

The queen was amazed and overwhelmed by all of the big things she encountered ... Solomon's wisdom, the grand palace he had constructed, the food he had laid out for meals, the clothes he and his servants wore, and the massive burnt offerings he gave in the temple. She was impressed with Solomon ... but even she knew that someone else deserved all the credit!

The Queen of Sheba told Solomon that what she saw with her own eyes was far greater than what she had heard. But she knew that all of this came from God—she praised God for placing Solomon on the throne and helping him rule over the people well. This was no small feat Solomon had accomplished, and it was only possible because of God!

What an exchange. The Queen of Sheba brought many riches with her to give to King Solomon, but what she got in return was far greater than what she came with.

He was able to be so generous because God had been more than generous in blessing him and his kingdom. God was with King Solomon, and because of that, Solomon was able to do some incredibly big things!

In Psalm 124, The author keeps saying, "If the Lord had not been on our side." They wouldn't have survived without God helping them to do such big things.

God helps us when we are in trouble. God helps us when we don't know what to do or where to turn. When we feel trapped, God helps us find a way out. Verse 8 says that our help comes from the very God who created all things. It's not just anyone who helps us do big things. God helps us do big things!

Not only does God help us, but God does big things all the time.

God did the biggest thing for us by sending Jesus. And God helped Jesus do the big thing he needed to do—dying on the cross and coming back to life. Because of Jesus, we can talk to God anytime, anywhere, and ask for help and guidance!





# SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION



# WORSHIP

"VERY BIG THINGS"

BY ORANGE KIDS MUSIC

"NOTHING'S TOO BIG"

BY ELEVATION MUSIC

- Why did the Queen of Sheba make the journey to come and visit Solomon?
- How did the Queen of Sheba know that Solomon had great wisdom?
- Who did the Queen of Sheba give credit to for everything Solomon has been able to do?
- Read Psalm 124:8.
  - Where can we look for help in anything we do?
- What are some big things you want to do for God?
- How will others see God through the big things you want to do?
- What can we do when we need help doing big things? Who can we go to?
  - Who are some people who can help us with our tasks?

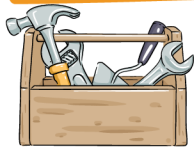


# MEMORIZE



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**JAMES 1:5 (NIV)**



# BIG IDEA TOOLBOX

For this activity, you'll need to have blank gift box. You may need to assemble the boxes. To make this toolbox, write today's Big Idea (or all the ones from this series) then draw pictures of construction tools or vehicles to decorate. You can print out copies of the series graphic to cut and paste and provide construction stickers.

As we went under construction this month, we learned a lot through the story of Solomon: God gives us directions to follow. God listens to our requests. God is worthy of our worship. God gives us true wisdom. God helps us do big things.

It's wonderful to have all of these amazing truths to carry with us in our toolbox for life!

