

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 198. Asking God for wisdom



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** 1 Kings 3:7-12

'Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?' The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, 'Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.'

**LOOKING FURTHER:** James 1:5; Matthew 6:33; Psalm 33:4; Philippians 4:19

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

You may have heard someone say, 'We need the wisdom of Solomon to sort this out.' In today's passage, you can see where this phrase came from.

King David had died and his son Solomon had been made king over a vast number of people. The thought of what lay ahead was clearly daunting for him; he had no previous experience. God said to him in a dream, 'What do you want from me? Ask for anything you like' (v.6). Solomon was given an amazing opportunity to indulge himself. It appears that he had already been thinking about what he lacked but definitely needed. So, he asks for the ability 'to distinguish between right and wrong' (v.9). That would take a lot of wisdom! God granted his request and, to this day, Solomon is renowned for his wisdom – just as God said he would be (v.12).

As Christians, we can ask God for wisdom if we lack it (James 1:5). As we seek God's Kingdom rather than our own, God gives us everything else that we need, too (Matthew 6:33).

God does not abandon us in our difficulties, or the seemingly impossible situations that we can find ourselves in. He knows our needs and is a loving and compassionate God. Furthermore, as we rely on Him, we can show others that God does what He says He will do - 'He is faithful in all He does' (Psalm 33:4).

God will supply all our needs - not just material ones - according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

With God's help, we all can learn to live and act wisely in whatever situation we find ourselves.

### Reflections:

- Are you in a situation where you have no idea what to do? God can step in and give you wisdom if you ask Him (James 1:5).
- What new adventures could unfold for you as you put your faith and trust in Him?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



# WISDOM

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

