

Wise Guy

The Scene: the king's palace

The Simple Setup: a chair at center stage for Solomon

For Extra Impact: Drape the chair with a purple sheet or blanket so it looks regal. Wrap a baby doll in a blanket for

Mother 1 to carry.

Bible Story
Solomon's Wisdom
Scripture
1 Kings 3:16-40

The Characters

Narrator: a friendly storyteller

King Solomon: a guy

Mother 1: a girl

Mother 2: a girl

Palace Guard 1: a guy

Palace Guards: kids willing to make

announcements and pretend to blow trumpets

Courtroom Observers: kids willing to laugh, point, gasp, and cheer during the trial

The Skit

After you've assigned the roles of Solomon, Palace Guard 1, and both mothers, form the rest of your children into two groups: the Palace Guards and the Courtroom Observers.

As the skit begins, there's a chair at center stage. Palace Guard 1 and Palace Guards are scattered around the chair. The Observers are at stage right.



Start the "Solomon's Wisdom" track on *The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children's Ministry CD* (track 18). Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.

Narrator:

There once was a famous King named Solomon. Solomon was famous PARTLY because of his family—King David was his father. But Solomon was ALSO famous because he was very wise. God told Solomon he could ask for ANYTHING he wanted, and Solomon asked for WISDOM. Solomon wanted to be a good king. People came from all OVER to have King Solomon settle their problems. See how there are Courtroom Observers? They're craning their necks and looking to catch a glimpse of King Solomon.

Palace Guards: Hear ye, hear ye. EVERYBODY RISE. Here comes King Solomon!

narrator: The palace guards opened the great palace doors and blew their trumpets loudly. King Solomon walked slowly, in a very KINGLY fashion, across the palace courtroom. The Courtroom Observers whispered to each other, and pointed at the King. THEY'D heard how smart King Solomon was! Then King Solomon sat in his kingly chair and rubbed his kingly chin, wisely.

King Solomon: Okey-dokey, what's on the agenda TODAY? Do we have WARS to settle? COUNTRIES to make or break? What special problems shall I use my wisdom to solve?

Palace Guard 1: Well, sir, the first case today is about...uh, well, it seems to be centered around...

King Solomon: SPEAK up, my good guard. We don't have all DAY. Out with it!

Palace Guard 1: Well, today's case is about a BABY, sir. It seems to be a case of mistaken identity.

narrator: The Courtroom Observers giggled behind their hands, and the Palace Guards rolled their eyes and smiled at each other. THIS was new stuff.

King Solomon: Very well. Call the witnesses.

Palace Guards: The court calls Mother 1 and Mother 2. Oh—and the baby, too.

narrator: Mother 1 and Mother 2 walked up to Solomon's throne. Mother 1 was gently rocking a baby in her arms.

King Solomon: OK, who wants to begin?

Mother 2: I will, your highness. You see, this WOMAN and I live in the same house, just the two of us. I had a baby, and then three days later, SHE had a baby. But one night, her baby died because she rolled OVER on it.

narrator: The Courtroom Observers gasped and covered their mouths with their hands. The Palace Guards reached for their swords. They thought they might have to ARREST someone.

Mother 2: After her baby died, SHE got up in the night and stole MY baby while I was asleep. She laid her DEAD baby next to me. In the morning, when I tried to feed my baby, he was dead! When I looked more CLOSELY, I saw that it wasn't MY son at all.

Mother 1: It WAS your son. The living baby is MINE, not yours!

Mother 2: No, the living baby is MINE!

narrator: The two women argued back and forth. They YELLED at each other. They jumped UP AND DOWN. Finally, King Solomon put his hands over his ears.

King Solomon: ENOUGH! Stop! I can't STAND it!

Let me see if I have this right: BOTH of you say this baby is yours. BOTH of you say the dead baby belongs to the other mother.

narrator: Mother 1 and Mother 2 BOTH nodded their heads. The Courtroom Observers looked first at Mother 1 and then at Mother 2. Then they looked at Mother 2 and then Mother 1. The Palace Guards scratched their chins and looked confused.

King Solomon: Well, there's only one way to SETTLE this. Bring me a SWORD!

narrator: Palace Guard number 1 handed over his sword to the King. The Courtroom Observers held their breaths.

King Solomon: Let's cut the living child in two, and give HALF to one woman and HALF to the other!

narrator: The Courtroom Observers gasped. A couple of them FAINTED. The Palace Guards shook with fright.

Mother 2: Oh, no, your highness! Give HER the child—please don't KILL him!

Mother 1: It's OK with me—that way he'll be neither yours NOR mine. Divide him between us!

King Solomon: We won't kill the child. Give him to the mother who wanted him to live. She's the REAL mother. Only the REAL mother loves him that much and cares what happens to him.

narrator: The Courtroom Observers and Palace Guards CHEERED at the King's decision. AND news of the King's wisdom spread far and wide.





To Talk About

- ◆ When given a chance to ask for anything, Solomon asked God for wisdom. Why do you think he did that? If you could ask for anything, what would it be? Explain.
- ◆ What special talents has God given you? How can you use those talents for God?
- ◆ What do you do when you have a problem to solve? Where can you go for help?

Topical Tie-Ins: Wisdom, Problem Solving