

Beginner Level, Block 7, Week 1
Solomon—Receiving the Charge from His Father

Point to Emphasize: We can be like Solomon to carry out what our parents tell us.

Reading Reference: 1 Kings 2:1-3; 3:3a; 5:5; 2 Samuel 7:12-13

Memory Verse: And Solomon loved Jehovah, walking in the statutes of David his father...
(1 Kings 3:3a)

Story Sample:

We have been talking about King David for the last few weeks, right? Well, David had gotten very old, and the day when he would no longer be king was getting closer. He had been king for 40 years, and now it was time for someone else to be king. Who would be the next king? Does anyone know? Yes, it would be one of David's sons, Solomon.

David called Solomon to come to him, so that he could give him some instructions. Now, he did not give him instructions on how to be a king like we would think he would. There are many things a king needs to do, but how else could he learn if not by being instructed? Instead of instructing Solomon on what to do, David told him what kind of person he should be. This is much more important than just knowing what to do as king. It takes a very special person to be king. David told Solomon to be strong and to be a man and to keep the commandments of Jehovah. And Solomon did what David told him, because he loved his father very much and also loved God.

Do your parents instruct you to behave a certain way? Maybe they tell you to remember to say "Please" and "Thank you," to be obedient to your teachers, to be kind to others, and many other things. Do they only tell you what to do, or do they also tell you what kind of person you should be? Do they tell you to be respectful and loving toward others? Of course, because you love mom and dad so much, you try to obey them, right? Our parents love us very much and want us to grow up to be polite, loving, responsible and God-loving people.

There was one other thing that David asked from Solomon, which had to do with carrying out specific instructions. He asked Solomon to build the house that David himself had desired to build for God. David had prepared everything for God's house according to the instructions he was given by God, and now he charged Solomon to complete the building. This was a big job, but Solomon followed the instructions that David gave him in an exact way and he completed the house. Solomon built God's house according to the promise of Jehovah that was given to David. Solomon knew that this was what his father wanted as well as what God wanted.

We can all be like Solomon. We can do whatever our parents ask of us, whether it is to behave properly or do what they tell us to do, like emptying the trash or telling our grandpa "thank you.". When we do what our parents tell us, we are not only honoring and showing our love to them, we are also honoring and loving God. Isn't that a great way to be?!

[Storyteller, use the remaining time to give a personal example, or have the children give examples of how they carry out their parents' instructions.]

Beginner Level, Block 7, Week 2
Solomon—Asking Jehovah for an Understanding Heart

Point to Emphasize: We can have a heart to help others.

Reference Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-15; 2 Chronicles 1:1-12

Memory Verse: Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, / And the man who gains understanding.
(Proverbs 3:13)

Story Sample:

Solomon was the most glorious king and the wisest one in human history. Do you know why? One day Solomon went to pray to God, and God asked him what he wanted. If it were me, I might ask for things for myself like good grades, good food, and so many other things. Maybe I'd ask for a nice house for my parents. Maybe I'd think of my brother and sister and ask for something that they want, too, like new toys and new expensive shoes. When God asked Solomon what he wanted, instead of asking for riches and a long life, he asked God for wisdom and understanding of heart so that he could be a good judge and king to God's people. That is so admirable! Instead of thinking about himself, he thought of God's people. Because of this, God gave him not only what he asked for, but he also blessed him with a rich kingdom.

Solomon was a man of such great wisdom that everyone far and wide came to him to hear his words of wisdom. When he judged and spoke, everyone could tell that his wisdom was from God, because no one else was like him.

Everyone who is truly wise has a large heart. Solomon had a heart to care for God's people. A person who has a large heart includes everyone, shares with everyone, and is kind to everyone. They always have a heart to help others.

How can we be someone with an understanding heart? How about I give you some examples, and you tell me what you can do if you have a heart to help others:

- A toddler boy is crying because his shoelaces came undone and he tripped over them; he doesn't know how to tie them (= make sure he is okay, help him tie his shoelaces, and help him up)
- A first grade girl in your class doesn't have a snack for recess (= share the fruits your mommy packed for you for snack time)
- A kindergarten boy in your class forgot to bring his pencils to school (= lend him one of yours)
- Your friend is sad that you got the highest marks in class and he didn't (= don't brag and say, "I'm better than you," but encourage him to try his best next time or ask if he needs help with his assignments)

[Storyteller, give a personal example of how you cared for someone or how someone cared for you.]

Let us be those who have an understanding heart and have a heart to help others!

Beginner Level, Block 7, Week 3
Jehoshaphat—Fearing God and Behaving before Him

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who behave properly and get to enjoy many things.

Reference Reading: 2 Chronicles 17:1-19; 19:10

Memory Verse: But pursued the God of his father and walked in His commandments...
(2 Chronicles 17:4)

Story Sample:

Today we are going to talk about a king named Jehoshaphat—*Je-ho-sha-phet*. Can you say his name? Good job! This king Jehoshaphat was a person who feared God and behaved before Him. Because of this, Jehoshaphat was able to enjoy the good land, the land God had given to the children of Israel.

I think we have all heard the word *behave* before, right? I know I have. When I was young, I heard it A LOT. Before we went somewhere, my mom would always tell me, "You need to behave when we are there." Why do our parents say this? Well, actually how we behave matters a lot. Let me give you an example. Let's say we are going to the library. How should we behave in a library? That's right—we should whisper and be quiet, and we should be careful with the books. When we behave properly at the library, we have such a nice time. When we're quiet and respectful, everyone enjoys having us there. And when we are gentle with the books, many other children can enjoy them, too. As long as we behave properly, the library is such an enjoyable place to visit.

We can say the same thing about being at the playground. How do we behave on a playground? Right! We share the equipment with other children, and we use it safely and properly. When we do that, we make it easier for everyone to have a good time at the playground—no one gets hurt, and no one is left out. The playground is a lot of fun, and whenever we behave properly we get to enjoy all of those fun things!

One time when I was young, I was not behaving very well at school. The teacher sent me to the principal's office. While I was in there, the other students got to have some fun lessons and do crafts and play. They got to do that because they had been behaving, but I had to miss out on learning something new and on having a lot of fun because I had not behaved! That taught me a good lesson—when we behave, we get to enjoy many things with others, but when we misbehave, we often miss out. [*Storyteller, insert your own example of the benefits of behaving.*]

Just like there are proper ways to behave at the library, on the playground, and at school, there is also a way that we should behave before God. God wants His people to love Him and keep His commandments. Jehoshaphat did that. The Bible tells us that Jehoshaphat walked in the former ways of David; he followed God the way David did and he also made the decision to pursue Jehovah. Because he feared God and followed Him, God was with Jehoshaphat. God made the way for Jehoshaphat and his people to enjoy the benefits of the good land.

There are other kings in the Bible who did not behave so well, and they did not get to enjoy so much either. They also ruined things for many people. Jehoshaphat was a different man and a different king. Because of that, when Jehoshaphat was king, the children of Israel got to rest and enjoy the good land. We can be like Jehoshaphat! We can be those who behave properly and get to enjoy many things.

Beginner Level, Block 7, Week 4
Hezekiah—Doing What Was Right and Being Faithful Before Jehovah His God

Points to Emphasize: We can be those who do the right thing by being faithful to do what we are asked to do.

Reference Reading: 2 Kings 18—20

Memory Verse: A faithful man will abound with blessings... (Proverbs 28:20a)

Story Sample:

All of you in this room are about five to six years old, right? Well, imagine that you are twenty-five years old and you are a king. What kind of king will you be?

There was a period in history when the children of Israel had kings ruling over them. Sad to say, they had some bad kings who did bad things. They also had some good kings who did good things! One of the good kings who did good things was Hezekiah. Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he began to reign. Hezekiah did what was good. He did the proper and the correct thing to do as a king. BUT what makes Hezekiah different than the other good kings is that Hezekiah was faithful to God.

What does it mean to be faithful? To be faithful means to be loyal, reliable, dependable or trustworthy. To be faithful also means that you are committed to a person. To be faithful to someone means that person can count on you no matter what! Can you be a faithful person? Can you be faithful to your mom and dad?

When I was young, we had chores at home. Every day, after I finished with homework, I needed to do my chores before having free time to play. Once, my mom needed surgery and was in the hospital for a few days. When she came back to the house, she was so happy to see that I was faithful in doing my chores even when she was not around. I was faithful to do what my mom had taught me and would expect me to do every day **even with no reminders!** That is an example of being faithful. [*Storyteller, insert your own story of being faithful.*]

As a king Hezekiah was faithful to God. Hezekiah remembered all that God had commanded, and he was faithful to do what God commanded. Hezekiah remembered that no matter where they were, all the children of Israel were to go to Jerusalem to worship God. During that time the children of Israel were divided and were not going to Jerusalem. But Hezekiah wanted to be faithful to what God had commanded, so he sent letters to all the people of Israel inviting them to come to Jerusalem to worship God. Oh, I am sure that God was so happy with Hezekiah. Hezekiah was faithful to God! God could count on Hezekiah to do what He had commanded.

You don't have to wait until you turn twenty-five years old to be faithful. You can start today! In fact, you can start right now! You can be faithful to your serving ones. You can be a faithful friend to those around you. You can also be faithful to your parents. By practicing faithfulness as a child today, you will grow up to be faithful to God! I hope that one day you will be like Hezekiah, being faithful to God in following His commandments!

Beginner Level, Block 7, Week 5
Josiah—Loving and Following God at an Early Age

Points to Emphasize: We can love God and follow Him even at a young age.

Reference Reading: 2 Kings 22:1-20

Memory Verse: Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth... (Ecclesiastes 12:1a)

Story Sample:

What do you want to be when you grow up? Who do you want to be like? Maybe some of you want to be a teacher because you like teaching others. Maybe you want to be a doctor or a nurse because you like helping others. Maybe some of you want to be the president. Maybe some of you want to be a police officer or a firefighter. *[Storyteller, encourage all the children to say something. You can also ask them to write or draw what they want to be on the white board.]* It is so wonderful to hear that even when you are young you all aspire to be someone in the future. *[Add everyday living—librarian, secretary, waitress in a restaurant, or being a mom or a dad.]*

If you were to ask me what I wanted to be when I was your age, I wanted to be a cashier. I enjoyed putting price stickers on all my belongings in my room. My sisters would then come in the room and pretend they were buying things and I would be the cashier and bag what they bought. Years later I wanted to be a chef. I would sit next to my mom and just observe the way she was cooking. Many times I was amazed at how yummy a cake could be that just started out as eggs, flour and oil. Then, I wanted to be a doctor. Oh, I wanted to be someone important who would help so many people! *[Storyteller, share with the children what were your ambitions when you were a child.]*

In the Bible there was a boy named Josiah who was only eight years old when he became a king. In the eighth year of his reign he began to seek after God. This king could have sought to have more land, more money, more cattle, BUT his aspiration was much, much higher. At a young age he set his heart to seek Jehovah and to do what was right to make God happy. Josiah did what was right in the eyes of Jehovah. The Bible says that he “did not turn to the right or to the left” (2 Kings 22:2). That means that nothing made him turn away from his goal of loving and following God. Even at a young age we all have the capacity to know who God is. At a young age, we also can aspire to be someone who will follow God’s ways and who will love God.

When I was about your age, I started singing to God and praying to God. After dinner, my parents would gather our whole family and we would try memorizing Bible verses. We would also sing some songs to God. One day, my dad decided to record us singing some songs. I still have that recording, so if you want to hear it, I can play it for you! *[Storyteller, add your story of loving God at an early age.]*

My desire to follow God and to love God did not wait till I was older. It started when I was young, just like you! Even though I wanted to be a cashier, or a chef, or a doctor, I had a feeling deep inside of me that loving God was the BEST thing I could do when I grew older. For me it was FAR more precious to love God than to love something else that I could do with my life. So, it is good you want to be a teacher, a doctor or a firefighter, but I hope that even at an early age all of you will also want to love God and follow God! You don’t have to be a king to love God. Whatever you become when you grow older, I hope you love God above all things.

Beginner Level, Block 7, Week 6
Daniel and His Companions—God Blessing Them with Knowledge and Insight

Points to Emphasize: Our youth is the best time to learn so many different things.

Reference Reading: Daniel 1

Memory Verse: Wise men treasure up knowledge... (Proverbs 10:14a)

Story Sample:

Who has heard about Daniel in the Old Testament? [*Have the children raise their hands.*] Yes, I am pretty sure we have all had heard at least one story about him. Some of those stories happened when Daniel was either in his teenage years or when he was a grown up. Today we are going to find out something about Daniel and his companions, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah when they were young, maybe as young as you.

At the time Daniel lived, God's people had been carried away into captivity. They were no longer able to dwell in their own country but had been taken to a place called Babylon. By this time, Daniel and his companions were in their teenage years. These four young men along with others had been chosen from among all the sons of Israel to live in the king's palace. The first thing they needed to learn in the palace was to understand, speak, read and write another language. They all grew up knowing Hebrew, but now they would learn a very different language. Daniel and his companions had been chosen because it was evident that they liked to learn. If in your teenage years you have the habit of learning, it means that when you were young you started applying yourself to learn different things.

Here is an example: If you are in high school and you are chosen to represent the school in a big spelling bee, it means that you have been learning to spell hard words since you were young. If you are chosen in high school to represent your school at a science fair, it means that you have been learning many different things in science since you were young.

So at an early age, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were interested in learning. They were not content just to sit and watch. They did not spend their time doing nothing. These boys liked learning. They spent their time and energy learning new things.

Here is another example. There was a boy who liked to do puzzles. When he was five he could already do puzzles made for much older children. He liked working on puzzles and he kept trying harder ones as he grew up. He was not the kind of boy who gave up when the puzzle seemed too hard. By the time he was eight years old he could do 300 piece and 500 piece puzzles. He spent time trying to figure out how the pieces of hard puzzles fit together and he eventually got very good at it.

Sometimes it is very easy for us to sit and watch. We may watch for hours but we aren't learning anything. As boys, Daniel and the others spent time to study, to understand things they did not know. They spent time to figure things out just like the five-year-old boy spent time figuring out how to do hard puzzles.

Have you ever seen something that you can't explain? I have. One time I was fascinated with spider webs. How could such tiny creatures make such complex webs. Since spiders are so small, I didn't think they had a brain. But because I was fascinated, I had to look up information on spiders and view pictures and video clips. That's how I learned a lot about spiders that I didn't

know before. Then there was the time I first saw a humming bird hovering near my bird feeder. It seemed to stay suspended in the same spot as its wings moved so fast that they were just a blur. So again, I looked up information. I just had to find out about these birds. *[Storyteller, add your own example of something you were interested in.]*

This week we should all be like Daniel when he was growing up. When we see something we can't explain or something that fascinates us, then we should get into it, spend some time to dig for information, and learn something new. By the time Daniel and his companions were in their teenage years, they had the habit of learning and figuring new things out. We can start now and grow up learning just like them.

Beginner Level, Block 7, Week 7
Daniel—Knowing How to Properly Ask for Something

Point to Emphasize: We can use our manners and speak respectfully to others.

Reference Reading: Daniel 1:3-19

Memory Verse: ...But pleasant words are pure. (Proverbs 15:26)

Story Sample:

Do you remember whom we talked about last week? We talked about four boys—who can tell me their names (Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah)? We learned that from the time they were young they had a good habit of learning so many different things.

Now, I want to tell you more about Daniel. While he and all of God’s people were in this different country, he had to learn many things, including a new language. At that time, the people in that country did some things that were not right for God’s people. One day Daniel was asked to do something he knew was wrong, and Daniel had to make a big decision against the king’s orders. You know what he did? He decided in his heart to follow his parents’ way and to refuse to do something he knew was not right. Daniel did not refuse in a very proud and rude way, but refused in a proper and polite way by saying, “please.”

Daniel made the best decision to take his parents’ way of following God, and he also knew how to properly ask for something. Manners are so important. Daniel knew how to speak respectfully to adults.

What other things can we say to show good manners? (Thank you, May I ___, Good morning, Excuse me.) Did we use these words this morning? Did you greet the serving ones when you came in the door? How about when the snacks were being passed around and you didn’t want any grapes? Did you say, “I don’t want that!”? Or did you say, “No, thank you”? Did you say “Please” when you asked for more crackers?

Daniel was really a fine young man. He made a big decision for God and he used the word “please.” And it was not just him. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah stuck together. They were companions who took God’s way, their parents’ way, together. Isn’t it good that God gave Daniel such companions?

My daughter is 6 years old and my son is 3 years old. Sometimes, my son would ask for a snack but would forget to say “please.” At times, his older sister would remind him, but she would say it in a bossy way, “You forgot to say ‘please!’” Other times, she would remind him in a very nice way, “Remember to ask nicely and say ‘please.’” Whenever his sister would remind him nicely, he would always be happy to say “please.” As their mom it makes me very happy when they are polite to me and to each other. And it’s even better when they remember to say it without anyone reminding them. *[Storyteller, insert your own story about using good manners or not using good manners.]*

Maybe this week we can all practice speaking respectfully like Daniel and practice having good manners and using polite words. We can do this with adults and also with one another. If one of us forgets, we can remind one another in a nice way that we should speak politely.

Beginner Level, Block 7, Week 8 **Daniel—Having the Right Companions**

Point to Emphasize: It is important to have the right companions; the ones that will give us good advice and will help us follow God and follow our parents' way.

Reading Reference: Daniel 2

Memory Verse: He who walks with wise men will be wise... (Proverbs 13:20)

Story Sample:

Here in children's meetings we have many secrets to share with you which will help you grow up in the best way! As you are growing up you must know one important thing. It is not good to be alone. You might say, "I have friends! I have friends at school and in my neighborhood and we play together!" And I would answer, "To have friends is very good. However, to have companions is much better!" So, what are companions? Are companions and friends the same thing? No. A friend is someone with whom you share the same likes and whom you spend a lot of time with. Let's say you like to play with Legos and there is another boy who lives in your neighborhood and you get together to play with Legos. That's a friend! Now, you would say, what is a companion? A companion is someone together with whom you fear and love God and you respect one another. As companions you can read the Bible and sing children's songs together. In this way, when you encounter a problem, you can help one another with advice or caring words.

The Bible has the most awesome stories about companions! In the Bible we find a story about four brilliant teenage boys who were companions. They were not alone. They had one another. They each had the best companions. Who can tell me their names? Right! Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Now, one day these four teenage boys were in REAL danger. They were in danger of being destroyed. Daniel was the first to hear of their trouble. What do you think he did when he found out? Did he decide, "I'll run away right now and get to safety by myself"? No! Did he decide, "I'll go and fight whoever wants to destroy us"? No! Daniel went to his companions. He must have known he couldn't solve this problem all by himself—he needed help! Not just from anybody, but from someone who would help him do the right thing—seek God and follow what he had learned from his parents when he was growing up.

I have never been in REAL danger. But I've had situations here and there when I was in trouble and needed advice. My parents moved me to a different school when I was in second grade. In my new school I had to make new friends. After getting to know my classmates better, I realized that some of them would give me advice that was not good. They would try to get me do things that were different from what my parents had taught me. Then I started paying attention to the classmates who, when I was in trouble, would help me be obedient to my teacher, follow instructions, or help others who were in need. These were the classmates whom I chose to call my companions. Even today I keep in contact with them. They always gave me good advice. *[Storyteller, insert your own story about choosing the right companions, those who would give you good advice and would help you follow God and follow your parents' way.]*

When you spend time with someone, you will eventually do what they do. So, we need to be VERY careful when we choose a companion.

So, Daniel went to his companions and told them what was happening. Because they had been raised in families who knew God, they knew they needed to pray. So they did! And do you know what happened after they prayed? God answered their prayers! Daniel knew he could never find

an answer to his problem by himself. This teenage boy knew he needed to go to his companions. He needed to go to the companions that would give him good advice. Daniel's companions helped him talk to God and follow what they learned from their parents.

As you are growing up, it will be important that you have companions who will give you good advice and help you follow God and your parents' way. We should carefully choose companions who will help each other. You help them and they help you with good advice and encouragement. You can also have companions that are older than you. They can lead you and you can listen to them and receive help. By having good companions we can be like Daniel who prayed together with his companions.

Beginner Level, Block 7, Week 9
Daniel—Praying to God for God’s Interests

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who pray for what God needs.

Reading Reference: Daniel 6:10; 2:18, 20-23; 9:5, 10, 19

Memory Verse: ...They ought always to pray and not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)

Story Sample:

Who remembers whom we’ve been talking about for the past few weeks here in the children's meeting? That's right! Daniel! Daniel was special for many reasons, and today we are going to talk about one very special reason. The Bible calls Daniel a man of preciousness. What do you think it means to be a man of preciousness? It does not mean only physically beautiful! The dictionary says that something precious is something invaluable, priceless, dearest or beloved. Would you like to be someone whom God calls a man of preciousness or to be someone who is without any value? I am sure that we all would like to be someone whom God calls a person of preciousness. Now, what made Daniel a man of preciousness? Let’s see!

Daniel’s preciousness came from his willingness to pray! Daniel knew how to come to God and talk to Him. Whenever something happened, he would go to God and pray. The Bible tells us that Daniel prayed three times every day. Nothing could stop Daniel's praying.

What do you think Daniel prayed for? Sometimes he prayed when he needed God’s help, and other times he prayed to thank God for helping him. But he didn’t only pray when he needed help. He didn’t only pray for himself. He also prayed for what God needed—he prayed that God could get what He wanted.

From an early age, my parents taught me to talk to God. Not only did they teach me to pray, showing me how to do it, but often times I would find my dad and my mom praying, even on their knees. I would pray before eating a meal and thank God for giving me something to eat. I would pray in the morning and thank God for the day ahead. I would also pray at night before going to bed and thank God for the day He gave me. I remember, though, the day when my dad gathered us in our living room and said, “We need to pray. God needs a building in Anaheim to be able to gather many people from the entire earth and speak to them.” I was in awe. I said, “I have been praying for the things I wanted, but now I get to pray for something God needs!” It was an awesome moment when we all prayed as a family for God to have the building He needed.
[Storyteller, insert your experience of praying for God’s needs.]

If you want to be teens and young men who pray, you should start talking to God and telling Him your concerns now, as children. In this way, you will keep growing and in your teenage years and as young adults you will have many times to pray to God for your needs. Later, you will be on your knees praying for what God needs. I really hope that you all will be these kind of children, precious to God, learning to come close to God and talk to Him.

Beginner Level, Block 7, Week 10
Daniel—Reading the Bible

Point to Emphasize: We want to be those who read and even memorize the Word of God.

Reading Reference: Daniel 9:2, 13; Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10-14

Memory Verse: In my heart I have treasured up Your word... (Psalm 119:11)

Story Sample:

Who can tell me what the Bible is? (The word of God!) Who can tell me who wrote the Bible? (God, but He wrote it through many men who loved Him.) Who can tell me why God wrote the Bible? (To tell us who He is and what He wants to do. We can know God by knowing the Bible.)

When you want to learn about something, you can go to a book, right? If you want to know about words, you can study the dictionary; if you want to learn about science, you study a science book. And, if you want to know about God, you go to the Bible!

In the last few weeks we have talked a lot about Daniel. He is such a good pattern to us! He knew how to study well, he treated others respectfully, he chose the right companions, and he prayed to God. And one more thing—he read the Bible.

In the book of Daniel, we are told that he understood things that were to happen to the people because of what he remembered reading in the Scriptures from the book of Jeremiah. Daniel also spoke of what he had remembered from reading the laws of Moses. So, we know he read the Bible. When he read it, he learned what God wanted to say to His people. God's word caused Daniel to want the same thing that God wanted.

And not only did he read it, he remembered it. Sometimes I can read something, but later on I don't always remember what I read. That's why I like to memorize the Bible, so that I don't forget. I think Daniel must have memorized some of it, too. Otherwise, how could he have spoken about the things in the Scriptures? Because of this, he became so useful to God.

I remember that as I was growing up, reading the Bible was a big help to me. And the more I read, the more I loved God! I also loved to memorize verses. There were so many times a verse would come to my mind and make me feel better and even help me. I learned to treasure, and even love God's word! Did you know there is a verse in the Bible about treasuring God's word? Psalm 119:11 says, "In my heart I have treasured up Your word." Let's all say this verse together. How about if we all try to memorize this verse this week? Maybe you could have your parents help you. That would be so good!

I know some of you are just beginning to learn to read. It is so fun to learn to read! I hope you will all try to learn to read the Bible every day, so that you too can know and treasure the Bible like Daniel one day.