

The power of the Pope and the church leaders continued to grow until by the thirteenth century, everyone one feared the anger of the system - even kings bowed to and obeyed the Pope rather than face the consequences. Most Church leaders were corrupt; true Christians and anyone who dared to disagree were martyred. The progress of civilisation in the Roman world stopped; learning in the arts and science fields was prohibited and the Bible seemed lost.

But as with the early Christian church, the persecution also pushed the true Gospel of Jesus further; it spread to Britton: England, Scotland and then Ireland. When the Saxons from Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands invaded the Brittons, they brought idol worship again, but a school of true Christianity was established on the island of Iona in the Hebrides off the coast of Scotland, and from here missionaries went out to spread the Gospel to not only Britton, but Germany, Switzerland and Italy.

The most famous missionaries of this time were the Waldenses. They had a copy of the Holy Scriptures and while the rest of the Roman Empire was led astray, they rejected idol worship and kept the Sabbath. They lived, hidden in a secret valley among the mountains in Italy – right in the heart of the Roman Empire! Children were taught to be very careful in what they said, to work hard and most importantly, to love the Word of God. Young people also spent time making copies of parts of the Bible, often working in caves.



Yet they did not stop there; instead, when a young person had learned all they could at home, they were sent to a school or university in France or Italy to learn more but also to if possible to share hidden pieces of scripture with those who were open to truth.

To become a minister, a young person was required to serve three years as a missionary - a dangerous thing in those days. Instead of working openly, they posed as merchants or peddlers; they would sell their goods and when given the opportunity, share the scriptures with their customers. In this way the true Gospel was kept alive and even spread throughout Satan's territory, although many of these missionaries and those who believed them became martyrs; Satan was not successful in destroying the truth.

Solomon's Choice

Sabbath

If you could have anything in the world, what would you pick?

Number these things with 1 being the most important and 12 being the least important to you.

- ☐ Lots of money
- ☐ To be famous
- ☐ To be popular
- ☐ To have lots of friends
- ☐ To have a nice house
- ☐ To have the latest phone, gadget or toy
- ☐ A really fast car
- ☐ A swimming pool
- ☐ To be the smartest in school
- ☐ To have new clothes
- ☐ To have a great face book page
- ☐ To get a good job



Sunday

When David was an old man, another of his sons, Adonijah, decided that he should become the king. When David heard, he called the leaders of Israel, the priest and prophet, and crowned his son Solomon. Before David died, he commanded Solomon to always obey the Lord.

One night God gave Solomon a dream, and in the dream God said He would give Solomon whatever he wanted. Solomon remembered what his father David had said so He asked God to give him the wisdom he needed to lead God's people. God was pleased with Solomon's choice and said, "Because you have asked for wisdom instead of riches or fame, I will give you wisdom, riches and fame!" Then Solomon woke up.

Now when people had problems, they would come to the king for a judgment, and one day two women came. They both had babies and one of the babies had died. When they woke up in the morning, one of the women found that her baby was dead, but then she realised it wasn't even her baby! Now both women were saying that the living baby belonged to them.

No one else could tell the babies apart; how could Solomon decide who was the right mother?

The women kept arguing until King Solomon said, "Bring me a sword."

A sword was brought to the king, and then he commanded: "Cut the baby in half and give half to each mother!"

One of the women said, "That's fair. Neither of us will have a child then."

But the other woman cried, "No! Please don't hurt him. She can have him; just let him live!"

Then King Solomon said "Don't hurt him. The

woman who cares about him is his real mother!"



Friday

As you grow older you will have more and more choices to make; having wisdom can save you a lot of trouble. In the middle column are some choices you may have to make; draw a line to the left column to show what can happen if you make a good choice and to the right column to show what may happen if you make a bad choice. The answers are on the back page.

Results of good choices	Choices you will make	Results of bad choices
A clear mind to help you make good and safe choices	Drinking Alcohol	Damages your brain and makes it hard to make good choices; it may even kill you!
Healthy lungs	To wear a bike helmet	Poor judgment like drink driving
Good practice for when you get a job and better grades to help get a better job	Smoking	An accident will cause brain damage.
Your brain will be protected in an accident	Taking drugs	Lung cancer
Food to help your body and brain to work the best they can	Skiping School	Harder to get a job and almost impossible to get a good job
The brain that hasn't been damaged	To eat lots of good food like vegetables or lots of junk food	Health problems later in life, including bad teeth, and weight problems

Thursday

Have you ever wished that you were more wise? That you could work out all the correct answers so that you could do well in tests and always make the right decision?

Read what the Bible says about wisdom in James 1:5^{NLT}

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Monday

News of the king's wisdom spread throughout the land; even to foreign lands. When the queen of Sheba heard, she came to see for herself. She was amazed at Solomon's wisdom and his wealth. She left saying "It is all true. You and your people have been blessed by your God."

What is wisdom? The World English Dictionary says wisdom is the "ability to think and act utilizing knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense, and insight." Wisdom helps a person make good decisions and the opposite of being wise is to be foolish.

The Bible has a lot to say about wisdom; Solomon himself wrote, "Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life," and "wisdom can save your life." Proverbs 19:20, Ecclesiastes 7:12^{NLT}

But even Solomon, as wise as he was, didn't always make wise choices. Unfortunately, he followed his father's example in marrying multiple wives. 1 Kings 11:1 mentions Pharaoh's daughter from Egypt, Moabites, Ammonites, Edmonites, Sidonians, and Hittites. How many wives does 1 Kings 11:3-8 say Solomon had? And what happened because of it.

Because Solomon worshipped idols, God said that trouble would come to Israel, although the worst didn't happen until after Solomon's death. But Solomon found out that worldly wisdom without God, made life seem meaningless; you can get a good sense of this by reading the book of Ecclesiastes which he wrote.

Read each of the following and think about what Solomon had found.

Ecclesiastes 1:13-18_____

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11_____

Ecclesiastes 5:10_____

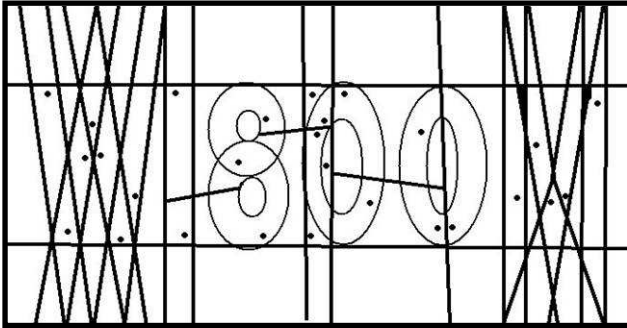
Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13-14_____

Conclusion: Without God, life is meaningless.

Tuesday

Solomon was probably the greatest king ever; he is certainly remember as being the wisest king,

What was Solomon's good choice? Colour in the shapes with dots.



These days we have DNA tests to prove which mother belongs to which child. But back when Solomon was the king, they didn't have DNA tests.

Find the words from Monday that Solomon used to tell who the real mother was.

M O T H E R W B A B Y
I S D A O M S O N L O
M H A L F O G N D S W
I S D F O M I S O L O
M T O N S W V I S D O
M O S O I L E A C H O
M O N S N W I S U D O
M S O L O M O N T H E

Have you ever seen a lady in a shopping centre with a baby and wondered if that is really her baby or if she is just looking after it?

Have you ever played match the parent to the child by looking at photos.

Unless a family has a unique feature, (like unusual hair, or a differently shaped face etc) it can be very hard to tell who a young baby looks like.



Wednesday

How can you get wisdom? Using the definition from the dictionary:

- Increase your knowledge; learn from books, by listening to people, at school and most importantly, learn from the Bible.
- Learn from your experiences, both good and bad; but that doesn't mean you should go out and do dangerous things like taking drugs just to get the experience. There is saying: "A wise man learns by the experience of others; a fool, by his own." So be wise, and learn what you can from other people.
- James 1:5^{NLT} says, "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you." And Psalm 111:10^{NLT} says "...all who obey His commandments will grow in wisdom." And this is the most important type of wisdom, because as Solomon found, without God life is meaningless.

So the best wisdom of all, the type that Solomon had, comes from God; we need to ask God every day to give us wisdom to help us through the day, and we need to do our best to follow God and do what He wants us too. Then God will be with us and bless us, like He did Solomon.

James 3:17^{NLT} talks about the wisdom that comes from God. Fit the underlined words into the grid below.

But the wisdom_(6 letters) from above₍₅₎ is first₍₅₎ of all pure₍₄₎. It is also peace₍₅₎ loving₍₆₎, gentle₍₆₎ at all₍₃₎ times₍₅₎, and willing₍₇₎ to yield₍₅₎ to others₍₆₎. It is full of mercy₍₅₎ and good₍₄₎ deeds₍₅₎. It shows no favouritism₍₁₁₎ and is always sincere₍₇₎.

