

God Gives Understanding

Sam was angry. He had been studying for his history test, but when he reviewed two hours later, he could not remember something as simple as the date that President Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address. Many other facts he had studied about the Civil War were jumbled in his brain. Sam was frustrated and confused. He threw his book on the floor and shouted, “I just can’t remember it all! I’m not smart enough.”

Sam’s dad heard the noise and came in to help. After some encouragement from his dad and more hard work, Sam was able to get the information more **organized** in his head. The next day, the test went well. Sam did not answer every question right, but he did better than he thought he would the night before.

God has created people with minds to learn many facts and the wisdom and ability to make connections between those facts. When we say that God has given me “my reason and all the powers of my soul,” it means that He has given you and me a brain to learn and think and understand. We can learn about God in our mind, and know His law in our conscience.

When King David’s son Solomon began to reign over Israel, God invited him to “Ask what you wish Me to give you.” What would you ask God to give you? A long life, money,

or fame? Solomon asked God to give him wisdom and **discernment** to rule the people. Solomon became known throughout the world for his wisdom. He had great knowledge of trees, plants, and animals. He also composed



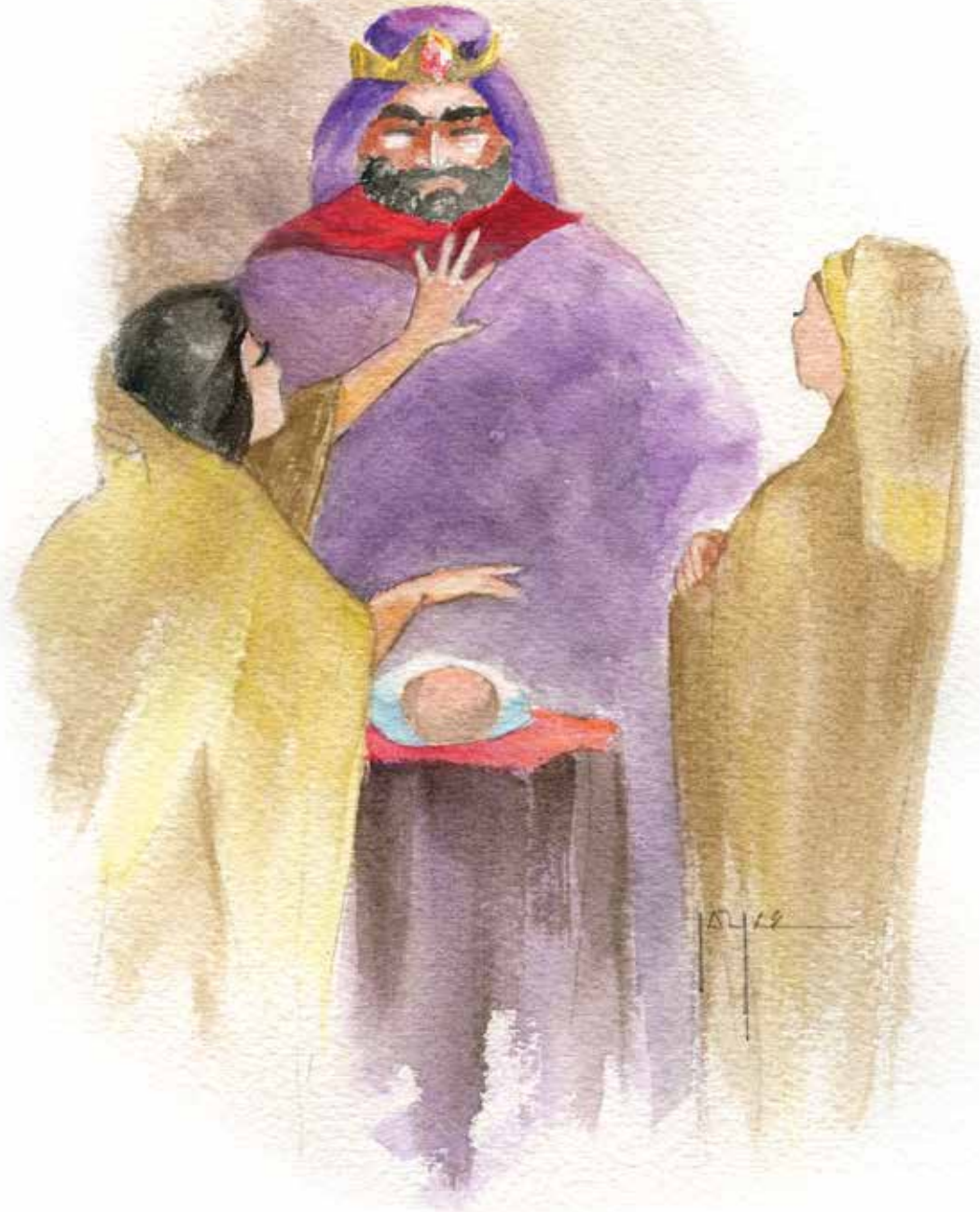
1,005 songs and 3,000 **proverbs**. Many of them are recorded in the Bible.

One day, two women came to King Solomon. These women lived in the same house and were fighting with each other. Each of them had a baby, but one baby died during the night. Both claimed to be the mother of the living baby.

Solomon listened to the facts of their case, but it appeared impossible to know which woman was telling the truth. Solomon made his **judgment**: “Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.” One of the women thought this was fair, but the other woman said, “Give her the living child, and by no means kill him.”

Solomon wisely understood that the woman who would rather give up her baby so he could live was the true mother. The one who was willing to let the baby die was lying. The child was then returned to his mother. When the people of Israel heard about this, they recognized the wisdom God had given to their king.

God has given people minds to learn, think, understand, and **comprehend**. God has given doctors minds to learn about the body and help heal it. God has gifted teachers with brains that can transfer facts from books and papers so you can learn them. Your parents have been blessed by God to discern how best to raise you.



God has given you a mind to learn many different things. Some of them you may learn from your parents or teachers. Other things you may learn from reading, listening, or **observing**. The most important things you can learn are found in God’s Word. As you **meditate** on all the things you learn, you can put them together to better understand your part in God’s creation. Thank God for the mind and abilities He has given you.

ACTIVITY 1

Fill in the missing words. How many can you complete without looking back at the lesson?

1. King David had a son named _____.
2. When _____ became king, he asked God to give him _____ and _____.
3. Solomon became known throughout the _____ for his wisdom.
4. Solomon wrote 3,000 _____.
5. Two women came to Solomon because one of their _____ had died during the night.
6. Both women claimed to be the mother of the _____ baby.
7. When Solomon made his judgment, he knew the true _____ would be willing to give up her baby so he could live.
8. God has given people minds to learn, think, understand, and _____.
9. The most important things you can learn are found in _____.



ACTIVITY 2

Memory Verse Review

Let's review our memory verses from the first six lessons.
Draw a line from each verse to where it is found in the Bible.

1. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
 2. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them. **Psalm 139: 14**
 3. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host. **I Thessalonians 5:24**
 4. You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. **Proverbs 9:9-10**
 5. Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. **Psalm 32:7**
 6. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well. **II Timothy 3:14**
- Psalm 33:6**

Choose your favorite verse from the above. Write it on the lines below. Can you write it from memory?



Catechism

The First Article of Creation

I believe in God the
Father Almighty, . . .

What does this mean?

. . . my reason and all the
powers of my soul, . . .



Memory Verse

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righteous man and he will increase
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—Proverbs 9:9–10

Enrichment Memory Verse: Psalm 19:14