

WISDOM'S INVITATION

Old Testament Lesson #182

Solomon was the son of David. He became king after David passed away. He was a young man at the time, and God offered to give him anything he desired. Solomon asked God to grant him wisdom so that he would know how to rule over the nation the right way.

Solomon became famous around the world because of his wisdom. They came from all over to hear the wisdom that Solomon had. It says in 1 Kings 10, "King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart" (1 Kings 10:23-24).

Solomon recorded the wisdom of God in the book of Proverbs. One of the many topics that Solomon wrote about was wisdom. In one place Solomon says that the "fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). There needs to be a respect and reverence for God first in order to grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline" (Proverbs 1:7).

Wisdom is something to be desired and to seek after. In chapter 8, Solomon likens the call of wisdom to a woman standing along a pathway, calling out to men to come and to get wisdom. Wisdom is calling out, "To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding" (vv. 4-5).

Solomon goes on to describe how wisdom existed from the very beginning when God created everything. Solomon writes how the "LORD brought me [wisdom] forth as the first of his works" (v. 22). Wisdom was "appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began" (v. 23). God's wisdom is reflected in all that He is and all that He created. It was as if wisdom was in the beginning a "craftsman at his side ... rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind" (vv. 30-31).

Solomon's advice to everyone is to listen to the call of wisdom, to seek it out and become wise. Let's listen to her call, "Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways" (v. 32).

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- In 1 Kings 3 it records how Solomon was granted wisdom by God. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked Solomon what he would like God to give him. Solomon did not ask for riches, a long life or the death of his enemies. Instead, he asked God to grant him wisdom necessary to be a good king. This impressed God, so God gave him that wisdom.
- In addition to what is recorded in the book of Proverbs, it says concerning Solomon that he "spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five" (1 Kings 4:32).
- Solomon is also given credit for writing the book of Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.

ANSWER KEY:

woman, stage, price, adult
understanding, prudence

to all people - even the foolish and the simple

eternity, beginning, before the world began.

Before the world began there was the wisdom of God.

In the grid write a 5-letter synonym for each of the 4 given words.
Use the letters to find 2 synonyms Solomon uses for wisdom.

(1) FEMALE	//	[]	()		{ }
(2) PLATFORM					
(3) COST					
(4) GROWN-UP					

(4) {1} [4] {2} [3] /2/ [2] ||| {1} [4] (3) {1} |2|

/3/ [3] (4) [4] {3} {1} |3| {3}

To whom is wisdom offered? Use the code to find out.



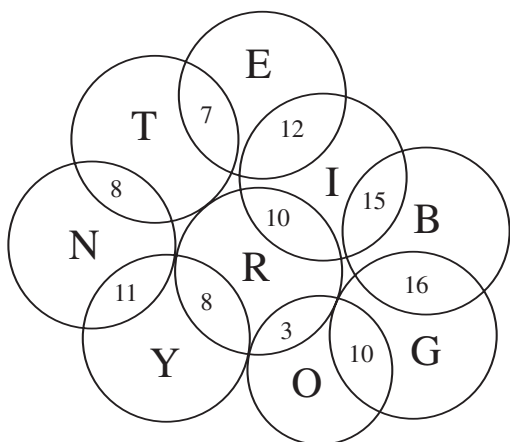
L O E P S H I A T E M V N F D

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The letter in each circle has a numerical value. The sum of the values of overlapping circles is given. When you determine each letter's value, you will be able to figure out the answer to the question. (E is already given.)



How long has wisdom existed?

FROM E

4 3 4 2 5 8 3 6

FROM THE _____

7 4 9 8 5 5 8 5 9

F H W L D A

7 4 1 2 4 3 4 1 2 7 4 9 5

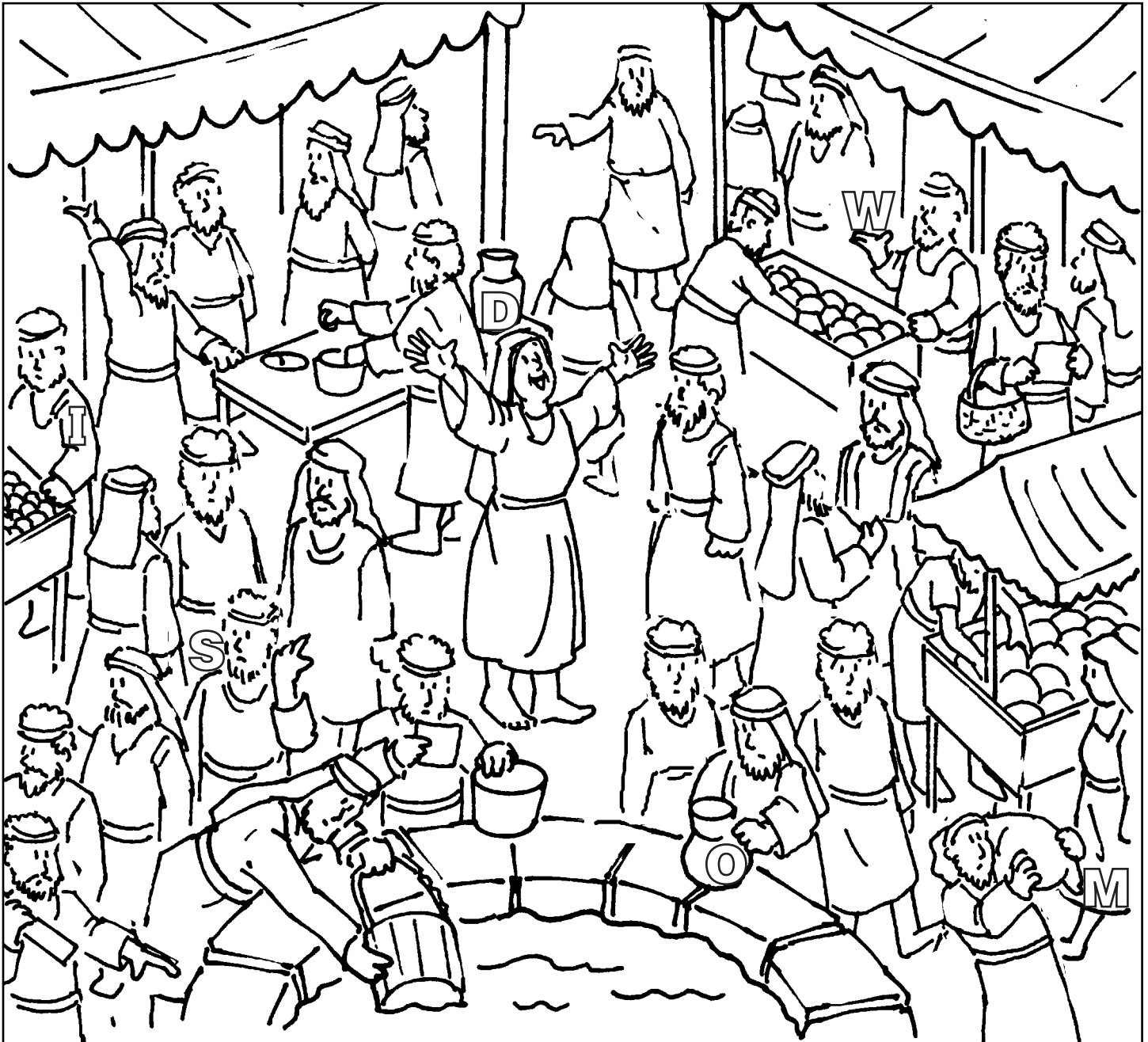


Name _____

Wisdom is like a woman calling out to you.

Find the hidden letters in the picture below.

W I S D O M



Name _____