

## FEBRUARY DEVOTIONAL IDEAS FOR SENIOR ADULTS

### *"The Wisdom of Solomon"*

*Materials needed: Song books or song sheets, accompanist, large poster sheet with printed words, "WHAT IS WISDOM?"*

*Ahead of time: Arrive early enough to visit with residents. They are usually delighted to have the attention and to be able to talk with other people. Of course, some do not feel like conversing. Ask questions about their home town, discuss the weather, their home church, their participation in these devotional times. Laugh with them. Sincerely make them feel special.*

#### DEVOTIONAL TIME

- **Begin by leading the group in singing some familiar hymns.**
- **(Hold your Bible open to 1 Kings 3) Today, we are going to be considering the WISDOM of King Solomon, who became the king of Israel when his father, King David, died."**
- **When Solomon was made the King of Israel, he felt like a little child who didn't know what to do. He went up into the hills and prayed to God, telling God that he did not know how to be king nor how to care for and judge the multitude of people in the kingdom of Israel. (Read aloud 1 Kings 3:7)**
- **Solomon sincerely asked God to give him an understanding heart and wisdom. (Read 1 Kings 3: 8-9)**
- **Stop here and ask, "WHAT IS WISDOM?" Allow a little time for answers..**
- **The dictionary defines "wisdom": "the quality of being wise; the power of judging rightly and following a wisest course of action"**
- **In his prayer, Solomon admitted he needed help to know how to be King and asked God to give him wisdom. Solomon's request pleased God. (Read aloud 1 Kings 3:13)**
- **God was pleased and answered Solomon's prayer! (Read aloud 1 Kings 3:12)**
- **God honored and answered Solomon's prayer by giving Solomon a wise and understanding heart, but because Solomon's prayer was sincere and unselfish, God also gave Solomon more than he asked for. (Read aloud 1 Kings 3:12-13)**
- **Solomon became the richest and wisest King on the earth. The whole world wanted to hear and learn from Solomon's wisdom – the wisdom that God had given him. (Read aloud 1 Kings 4:39-42)**

#### FIVE THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM SOLOMON'S PRAYER

- **1) When, like Solomon, we pray, admitting and acknowledging our needs, God will listen.**
- **2) When we pray, sincerely seeking God with all our hearts, God will answer us.**

- 3) When we truly rely on and trust God, He will help us be and do what he calls us to be and do.
- 4) No matter our age or circumstances, when we thank and honor God, and ask for wisdom, God will us wisdom and help us be wise in using the blessings that he gives us.
- 5) Read Proverbs 2: 6-7: "God grants wisdom! His every word is a treasure of knowledge and understanding. He grants good sense to the godly."
- Verses 9-10: "He shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time. For wisdom and truth will enter the very center of your being, filling your life with joy." (TLB)
- Whatever our age and our circumstance in life, God wants you and me to ask for and receive wisdom and understanding so that our lives will be better and more satisfying.
- Of course, we are human, which means we will have pain and heartaches, trials, grief.

### BUT, BE WISE!

- When you pray and ask for wisdom, God can and will provide the understanding and wisdom to help you cope with the difficulties in your life and to deal with the good things in your life.
- Solomon's prayer proves that God answers sincere God-honoring prayer.

### A CRAFT IDEA - "A WISE OLD OWL"

*Materials needed: 8 ½ x 11 sheets of white paper on which a copy of a large, simple owl drawing (see ideas on Pinterest) under which has been printed the words, BE WISE and PROVERBS 2:6-7, colored pencils, brightly colored sheets of construction paper, scissors, glue sticks*

While the residents are coloring their owl pictures, ask if they have known any persons that they feel are wise and what they did that was wise. Mention that the Proverbs verse says that God gives wisdom. Some may choose to cut out their colored owl-picture and the words and mount them on a sheet of brightly colored construction paper.