

Your host packet contains the following to help you set up a fabulous party.

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Brief overview of "The Search for Wisdom"

This version is designed for adults or teens to play the characters for youth who will be your guests. You can invite as many guests as you wish but it is suggested you form groups (4-7 works best) and especially with younger people appoint a group leader or spokesperson for the group.

If you have time, groups can choose their name and make a banner to represent them.

Solomon who sends them on a mission to find wisdom. It's up to them to interview 7 characters who may or may not be telling the truth and the whole truth, check the scripture and use what they know about God and the Bible to discover where wisdom can be found. After interviewing the seven other characters they fill out their report, including whatever evidence they have that they have chosen the right character.

Host Time Line for "The Search for Wisdom"

To start:

Select a date, location, guests and refreshments

Round up volunteers to play the characters and give them their characters sheets along with instructions that they are for their eyes only. Keep a copy in the event someone cannot show up at the last minute.

Two to three weeks before the party:

Modify invitations for your event and print one for each prospective guest. (If you are opening this to any and every one start putting out you flyers and making announcements)

Finalize your menu.

Have alternative volunteers in mind in case of an emergency cancellation by an essential character.

Decide if you will have the guests vote on an Academy Award winner for best acting.

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Decide where the characters being interviewed will be stationed.

The day of the party:

Set the scene with any music, additional props and the set up for refreshments that you have chosen. Run off “My Leads” and “Job’s Riddle” forms for the number of guests. If you choose not to give an Academy Award for best character portrayal, delete the section of “” that asks for nominations. If you are accepting nominations you may elect to give some sort of gag prize to the winner.

When the guests have arrived:

If guests are bringing some of the refreshments indicate where they should be placed. Distribute name tags if you wish to use them, divide guests into 4-7 groups. Assemble the groups into a central location.

Read over the “Rules of the Game” (you may want to distribute a copy to each guest or leave a few around for them to refer to)

Hand out “My Leads” forms and pencils

Have Solomon do opening statement including the Wise Ruling Skit (All the characters except Solomon should take their places at this time)

Read and explain as necessary the rules and clues. If you are going to serve refreshments at the end in the order in which the most evidence was gathered now is a good time to mention it.

Hand out Job’s riddle and explain where each group will start and how they will rotate.

Set a time when all groups will meet back in the central location. It’s usually a good idea to also establish a 15, 10 and a 5 minute warning. Generally you should allow 45 minutes to an hour for groups to rotate through all 7 characters

When everyone is assembled give them 5 minutes to finalize their reports and hand them in.

If they wish, they may nominate someone for an Academy Award for bringing their character and the party to life.

Collect the “Investigator Reports” forms and determine who succeeded. While the host does this Solomon and the other characters should give their statements designated for THE END. The order they proceed in is.

Wise Man

Eve

Solomon

Minerva AKA Athena

Folly

Wise Builder

Wise Virgin

Wisdom

(Optional – the wise builder can segue into an invitation)

Have the participants give the volunteers who put the event together and played the characters a round of applause.

Announce who successfully discovered true wisdom and which team put together the most evidence..

(And the Academy Award if giving one). If you are giving prizes - do so now.

Dismiss groups to the refreshments, possibly in the order of who gathered the most evidence.

Suggestions for “The Search for Wisdom”

Invitations

We encourage you to mention Proverbs in invitations or publicity. If the guests are familiar with it already it will be to their advantage and for those who are not, they have an opportunity to check it out prior to the party.

Casting

Solomon has the most lines but his part can be shared with other characters you add such as a wife, his mother Bathsheba, his army general Beneniah, even nameless servants. Characters need not memorize their dialogue and can change the sample included to suit them. Minerva, Folly, Wisdom and the Wise Man need to have extra Bibles that individuals or groups can “purchase” with their rubies. You may want to consider providing other books considered “wisdom literature” for the Wise Man to try to sell to the investigators.

If this is done in the evening and weather permits it works well to have The Wise Man and Wise Virgin stationed outside. See their character sheets for details. Two of the female characters can double as the women in the Wise Ruling Skit. If you have enough volunteers these can be separate roles.

Props/set

Each guest should provide their own costume. You may ask the main characters to bring their own props or provide them once they arrive at the party. You will need three “rubies” for each person or group. We suggest using red glass craft stones.

You will need to run off enough copies of the Diploma of Wisdom for Folly to give out should individuals or group wish to purchase them. Each individual or group will also need their own copy of the rules, clues, The Investigator Report, Leads sheet and invitation. You will need one fake horoscope to give the Wise Man and one copy of the Academy Award should you choose to give one out. These are all found in the Reproducibles packet.

Prizes

If you decide to give prizes here are some suggestions.
Pencils, scripture magnets, bookmarks, bumper stickers.

For special groups

If you would like more control of the group or you know your guests need more direction, have each character stand and give their information in their own words to the entire group. Allow questions after each character speaks and then after all seven have talked to the group. Then allow an additional 15 minutes for those who want to look up their scriptures, ask characters something on their own or just think about what they have learned.

Online Bible games about wisdom and Solomon

Board the Wisdom Ship <http://www.quia.com/ba/188913.html>

Ecclesiastes 1-2 <http://www.quia.com/rr/534035.html>

Ecclesiastes 3 column matching <http://www.quia.com/cm/380580.html>

Ecclesiastes 4 & 5 rags to riches <http://www.quia.com/rr/642823.html>

Ecclesiastes 10 wheel of fortune <http://www.quia.com/hm/662151.html>

Wisdom Scriptures 1 <http://www.quia.com/rr/353198.html>

OPENING STATEMENT

(By Solomon)

I thank all of you for demonstrating your wisdom by coming. Let me tell you about myself and the predicament I now find myself in.

I was the wisest man in the world. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to me during the night in a dream. God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

I answered, "You made me king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Give me wisdom and a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.

And he did. God gave me wisdom and very great insight, and understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. My IQ was over 200! (*Bragging*) My wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. I was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. My fame spread to all the surrounding nations.

(*Starting to brag even more*) I spoke three thousand proverbs and 1005 songs. And all the songs were top 40 hits. I was the world's top scientist. I described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. Men of all nations came to listen to my wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom. So did the Queen of Sheba. She was impressed with my wisdom AND my wealth.

She came to test me with hard questions and talked with me about all that she had on her mind. I answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for me to explain to her. When the queen of Sheba saw all my wisdom, my palace, the food on my table, our clothes (we were styling), and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

She said to me, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard.

Let me tell you about one of the first court cases I was judge of.

A WISE RULING SKIT

Two women came to me in court one day. We'll act it out so you can see what happened. I'll need someone from the audience to play my guard. All you have to do is bring my sword when I tell you to. Who would like to volunteer? *(Pick a volunteer and have them stand beside you)* *(Solomon then picks two of the female characters – who have been prearranged to do the skit – to act as woman 1 and 2)*

Woman 1: My lord, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was there with me. The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him. So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She switched the babies so the next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne."

Woman 2: "No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours.

Woman 1: No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine. *(Argue back and forth until Solomon interrupts)*

Solomon: This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead,' while that one says, 'No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.' *(Pause to consider)* Bring me a sword. *(Guard brings a sword)* Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.

Woman 1: Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!

Woman 2: Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"

Solomon: Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother. When all Israel heard the verdict I had given, they held me in awe, because they saw that I had wisdom from God to administer justice.

(Really bragging now) I was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. The whole world sought audience with me to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart. Year after year, everyone who came brought a gift—articles of silver (although in my day silver was as common as plain old rocks) and gold, robes, weapons and spices, and horses and mules. I had four thousand stalls for chariot horses, and twelve thousand horses. I'm so rich that I want each group of

you to have 3 of my rubies. I have more than I can use or even count (Assistant gives 3 rubies to each group)

Now I know God had said the king wasn't to get a bunch of horses. He was afraid the kings would start trusting in their armies and horses and forget to trust him to fight our battles. But I wasn't afraid of wars. I made all these peace treaties. I made an alliance with Pharaoh of Egypt by marrying his daughter. I figure, why stop with one treaty and one royal wife. I married many foreign women, 700 to be exact.... And 300 concubines, lesser wives, besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites.

They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." But I figured with brains like mine – no problem

Now – I have a riddle for you. This comes from the book of Job. I would solve it myself but I seem to have temporarily misplaced my personal wisdom. I will reward you greatly if you can find wisdom for me.

Your mission tonight is to interview several people and figure out whom or what is wisdom. Feel free to use those rubies I gave you to buy whatever you need along the way. I really need to get my wisdom back and I'm counting on you all to solve this riddle by Job (He was another pretty smart guy) and tell me which one of the people you meet is wisdom. You can take notes on your "Search for Wisdom Leads Sheet" to help you remember.

CHARACTER DOSSIERS

WHO YOU ARE: Eve

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES/BACKGROUND: Genesis 3

COSTUME AND PROPS NEEDED: Biblical (can be fur) and sliced fruit (one slice per guest)
Possibly a fake or real snake wrapped around her neck.

WHAT YOU TELL THE INVESTIGATORS:

To get wisdom all you need to do is eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which is located in the middle of the Garden of Eden OR trade a ruby for a piece of fruit I have.

Sample Dialogue: Don't read directly from sheet; put into your own words.

Wisdom is very important to have. But it is NOT easy to get. The only place to get wisdom is from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Your first problem is finding the Garden of Eden. Then you have to figure out how to get by the angel with the flaming sword that guards it. OR you could make a simple deal with me – a ruby for a piece of my fruit, which came off the tree.

Now you may have heard rumors that 'You must not eat from the tree and you must not touch it, or you will die. You will NOT surely die. When you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. The fruit is good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom. I'll trade each of you a piece for a ruby

If they trade: Smart move. Now you'll really know everything worth knowing.

If they refuse to trade:

Check with the other people. Then come back to me. However, since you didn't take my deal the first time I'm going to charge you two rubies.

AT THE END:

There are many wrong ways to pursue knowledge and wisdom. I chose to believe Satan, the father of lies instead of God, the father who loves us. I chose to obey and rely on what sounded wise to me rather than trust that God knew best.

Don't be fooled by what looks pleasing to the eye or by some sales pitch from one of Satan's agents. Listen to God and obey Him.

WHO YOU ARE: MINERVA AKA ATHENA

COSTUME & PROPS: Roman toga, sandals, pieces of armor, a cloak.
Minerva/Athena is boastful, confident and proud.

WHAT YOU TELL THE INVESTIGATORS:

I am the great Goddess of wisdom and war. Win a fight and win wisdom.

Sample Dialogue: Don't read directly from sheet; put into your own words.

I have 2 names. My Greek name is Athena and my Roman name is Minerva but really – it's like having a name and a nickname or street name or alias. Athena AKA Minerva, you know what I mean?

I am the goddess of wisdom and war. I am the favorite child of Zeus AKA Jupiter. I popped out of his head fully grown and wearing armor. I came up with the idea of the Trojan Horse during the War. I'm like the smartest thing on the planet.

The Aegis is the most important part of my armor – it's got the wisdom. It kinda looks like a cloak shaped like a bright-edged thundercloud but I've toned it down so you mortals can get close to me. Some artists show it covered with scales and fringed with serpents, and with the head of Medusa fastened in the middle. The Aegis could also serve as a shield.

If you're looking for wisdom – all you need do put on my Aegis for a moment or two. It costs 4 rubies so you'll have to make war on another group and take one of theirs. I love war, don't you?

If they trade: Great. Put on my Aegis for a moment and pass it around so everyone has a chance to experience it.

If they refuse to trade: If you change your mind, I'll be here.

AT THE END:

Like the wise men of the east, the wisdom of Greece and Rome were based on human wisdom. Many cultures like the Greeks and Romans believed in many gods. They worshipped wisdom, pleasure, beauty, war and many other things. Not much unlike people today who choose to worship beauty, pleasure, etc. instead of their creator. The truth is there is only one God. He created everything, is all powerful, all knowing and everywhere. Worship Him alone.

WHO YOU ARE: FOLLY (But claim your name is wisdom)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES/BACKGROUND: Proverbs, especially 9, 14, 15

COSTUME and PROPS: Cap, gown, glasses, anything to make you look academically inclined and smart. Diplomas for any group who can answer your questions. (See reproducibles packet)

WHAT YOU TELL THE INVESTIGATORS:

A pack of lies, any lies. Occasionally call out loud “I am wisdom! Let all who are simple come in here! I can help any of you who lack judgment.”

Sample Dialogue: Don’t read directly from sheet; put into your own words.

Come in ! Come in. *(Suspiciously)* You didn’t come here to beg, did you? I expect cold hard cash in return for my help. Now what is it you need from me?

Wisdom? I got wisdom. All you have to do is answer my 3 questions.

(If they see the Bibles and want one) Tell them a Bible isn’t necessary, they have learned in school everything important to know but if they insistWhat do you have to trade? *(Only accept rubies or stolen food or water. You will trade a Bible for a ruby if they ask, but try to talk them out of it claiming it doesn’t have the answers to your questions or any important questions in life)*

Tell them you will ask them three questions. If they can get two of the three right you will give them a drink of water that will make them wise. Feel free to give them hints.

Question 1: Which explorer was the greatest of all discovering America? (Take either Columbus or Leif Erickson)

Question 2: Which philosopher was one of the three greatest wise men of all time (Accept either Socrates, Plato or Aristotle)

Question: Who was the greatest scientist of all time discovering the true origin of mankind? (Charles Darwin)

They answer the questions: You are so wise. Take this diploma which shows how wise you are.

If they refuse to trade: Did you know the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them? That’s what’s going to happen to you – you’ll be destroyed for not acting quickly enough.

AT THE END:

Speaking of lying – I’m a big one. My name was actually Folly and the book of Proverbs mentions me several times. Folly deliberately tries to deceive and lead people away from God. Folly comes from the same root word as fool. As the Psalms tell us not once but twice – The Fool in his heart says there is not God. All the college degrees and academic awards don’t mean a thing if you don’t have God. You cannot depend on the wisdom of men. The Bible is God’s authoritative word and does have the answers to all the important questions in life, those that deal with eternal life as well.

WHO YOU ARE: WISDOM

COSTUME AND PROPS: A garland and crown for yourself, Bibles, garlands or crowns to give to those who can answer your 3 questions.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES/BACKGROUND: Proverbs, especially 4, 5, 8,

WHAT YOU TELL THE INVESTIGATORS:

Call out as people approach or go by you “Let all who are simple come in here! If you lack judgment Get wisdom, get understanding”; “Do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake me, the one they call wisdom, and I will protect you and watch over you”

Sample Wisdom Dialogue:

Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom; though it cost all you have, get understanding. To fear the LORD is to hate evil. Trade all your rubies for this Bible. Then I will ask you three questions. If you can answer them (And you may use your Bible) I will set a crown upon your head or a garland around your neck.

Question 1: According to James 1, if you lack wisdom, what should you do? (. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.)

Question 2: When the King talked to these 4 men, he found that in every matter of wisdom and understanding they were ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom. Three of the four were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Who was the fourth man? (Daniel)

Question 3: According to James 3 how is earthly wisdom described and how is heavenly wisdom described? (13Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.) 17But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

If they trade: Set a garland or a crown on one person’s head. Tell them that wisdom is better than gold, silver, rubies

If they refuse to trade:

You should have left your simple ways. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and I fear you have no wisdom for you have made an unwise choice.

AT THE END:

I am the true wisdom. Job’s riddle is actually from both Job and Proverbs which says “Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding”

WHO YOU ARE: THE WISE VIRGIN (number 7 in the parable Jesus told)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES/BACKGROUND: Matthew 25

COSTUME AND PROPS: Biblical, lamp and flashlights. If this takes place in the evening and weather permits having this character outside works well.

WHAT YOU TELL THE INVESTIGATORS:

If you are wise – you rely on yourself, like I did.

Sample Dialogue: Don't read directly from sheet; put into your own words.

One of my friends was getting married. It was going to be a big deal. I got dressed in my finest, did my hair to perfection and took my lamp to meet the bridegroom. I thought ahead, as did 4 of my friends, to bring extra oil. Oil is what keeps the light in your lamp burning – kinda like batteries that you use today. So think of it as taking extra batteries for your flashlight. (Use props here)

Who knew how long it would be? The groom could get stuck in traffic or his mule might get a stubborn streak and have to be coaxed. He might even get lost and you know how men are about asking for directions.. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and we all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

We woke up and 5 of us got our lamps lit. . The 5 foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

We refused, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' So they left – can't you tell how foolish they were – thinking an oil store was going to be opened at midnight?

While they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. We who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' So they missed the wedding and the feasting and the fun all because they were foolish. If you are wise – you rely on yourself.

So... if you are going to be wise you need extra oil. I'll be glad to sell each of you some for just one ruby if you'll sing "This Little Light of Mine". Otherwise the price is two rubies. I just anoint your foreheads with a bit of my oil and you're good to go.

If they trade: Place a drop of oil on your fingertip and dab it on the forehead of each of the group members

If they refuse to trade: You're foolish not to take this offer.

At the end:

It is wise to plan ahead as I did. But knowing enough to take extra oil is only a fraction of what it means to be wise. Wisdom that comes from God is much more than that. Man's wisdom is not even a match for God's foolishness, much less his wisdom.

WHO YOU ARE: WISE MAN (MEN)

(This character's lines can be split between as many Magi as desired)

COSTUME AND PROPS: Biblical with jewels, gold, incense and myrrh. If played when it is dark outside and not too cold it works well to have the Wise Man stationed outside. Possibly other books of "wisdom literature".

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES/BACKGROUND: Matthew 2

WHAT YOU TELL THE INVESTIGATORS:

Let's check your horoscope to see if today is the day you'll become wise.

Sample Dialogue: Don't read directly from sheet; put into your own words.

I'm one of the Magi or wise men from Matthew 2. Remember us – we followed the star and found Jesus? I spend much of my time star watching. This is what you need to do if you want to find wisdom. That stuff about the leprechaun's pot of gold being found at the end of a rainbow is just a fairy tale. But finding cool stuff where the stars lead is true. We found Jesus by following a star.

We saw a star in the east and followed it until it stopped over the place where the child was. When we saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, we saw the child with his mother Mary, bowed down and worshiped him.

I happened to know which star in the sky is the wisdom star. If you'll give me some gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. OR a ruby, I'll point out the star that will lead you to wisdom. I can also read you your horoscope and let you know if today is your lucky day to find wisdom. It is true you can tell the future by being able to read the stars. Astrology, anyone?

(If asked, but ONLY if they notice the Bible and initiate a trade, do you trade a Bible for a ruby)

If they trade: Ask what their zodiac sign is and read the fake horoscopes found in the reproducible packet until you come to someone with Leo (or the third of 4th person who gives you a sign). Read that horoscope and then tell them the wisdom star is the brightest one in that constellation. (If it's dark outside, point to something in the sky)

If they refuse to trade:

I can see you're just acting foolishly. Don't study the right things, I suppose.

At the end.

I (we) were considered wise men or magi of our time but we did not have the real true wisdom of God. Astrology and horoscopes are not Biblical ways to find wisdom or find your future. The best thing to do about your future is to put it in God's hands. The fear or respect of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Look to God, not what he created for wisdom.

WHO YOU ARE: WISE BUILDER

COSTUME AND PROPS: Construction worker with jeans, work shirt, work boots, tool belt, hard hat, roll of duct tape and hammer, nails and other tools.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES/BACKGROUND: Matthew 7:24-25

WHAT YOU TELL THE INVESTIGATORS:

Duct tape is the answer to everything.

Sample Dialogue: Don't read directly from sheet; put into your own words.

I'm the wise man who built his house on a rock. If you have a Bible you can find me in Matthew 7. The foundation of a house is most important. If your foundation is sloppy, the house will fall over. I dig down deep and lay the foundation on rock. If a flood comes, the water may strike that house but cannot shake it, because it is well built.

But the foolish man builds a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the flood or high waters strike that house, it will collapse and fall apart.

Wise people built their lives on wisdom and wisdom is a rock. If you have a rock, you have wisdom. But you can't carry around a rock the size of a house's foundation. Luckily duct tape has been invented and that's pretty much an answer to everything. I can give each of you a piece of my duct tape and I won't even charge you.

If they refuse to trade: You foolish, foolish people.

If they refuse: You're all set. Have a nice day. Watch out for the sand.

At the end:

Having the proper foundation doesn't mean rock or cement. It means having God as the foundation of your life. I was a wise builder by human standards but there was a builder in the Bible much wiser than I. Remember, Jesus was a carpenter. When we had a serious problem he didn't try to fix it with duct tape. He fixed it with nails and wood. He died in our place on the cross. If you have made unwise choices, he can make things right between you and God.

WHO YOU ARE: SOLOMON

COSTUME AND PROPS: Biblical, fine expensive jewelry and crown, sword

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES/BACKGROUND: 1 Kings 3-7, 10-11 and 2 Chron. 1-3, 5, 9

HOW YOU INTRODUCE THE PARTY: (You can read this)

I was the wisest man in the world. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to me during the night in a dream. God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

I answered, "You made me king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Give me wisdom and a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.

And he did. God gave me wisdom and very great insight, and understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. My IQ was over 200! (*Bragging*) My wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. I was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. My fame spread to all the surrounding nations.

(*Starting to brag even more*) I spoke three thousand proverbs and 1005 songs. And all the songs were top 40 hits. I was the world's top scientist. I described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. Men of all nations came to listen to my wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom. So did the Queen of Sheba. She was impressed with my wisdom AND my wealth.

She came to test me with hard questions and talked with me about all that she had on her mind. I answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for me to explain to her. When the queen of Sheba saw all my wisdom, my palace, the food on my table, our clothes (we were styling), and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

She said to me, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard.

Let me tell you about one of the first court cases I was judge or.

A Wise Ruling

Two women came to me in court one day. We'll act it out so you can see what happened. I'll need someone from the audience to play my guard. All you have to do is bring my sword when I tell you to. Who would like to volunteer? (*Pick a volunteer and have them stand beside you*) I'll also need two women to read the woman 1 and woman 2 parts. (*Choose volunteers*)

Woman 1: My lord, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was there with me. The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him. So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She switched the babies so the next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne."

Woman 2:"No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours.

Woman 1: No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine. (*Argue back and forth until Solomon interrupts*)

Solomon: This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead,' while that one says, 'No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.'*(Pause to consider)* Bring me a sword. (*Guard brings a sword*) Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.

Woman 1: Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!

Woman 2: Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"

Solomon: Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother. When all Israel heard the verdict I had given, they held me in awe, because they saw that I had wisdom from God to administer justice.

(*Really bragging now*) I was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. The whole world sought audience with me to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart. Year after year, everyone who came brought a gift—articles of silver (although in my day silver was as common as plain old rocks) and gold, robes, weapons and spices, and horses and mules. I had four thousand stalls for chariot horses, and twelve thousand horses. I'm so rich that I want each group of you to have 3 of my rubies. I have more than I can use or even count (*Assistant gives 3 rubies to each group*)

Now I know God had said the king wasn't to get a bunch of horses. He was afraid the kings would start trusting in their armies and horses and forget to trust him to fight our battles. But I wasn't afraid of wars. I made all these peace treaties. I made an alliance with Pharaoh of Egypt by marrying his daughter. I figure, why stop with one treaty and one royal wife. I married many foreign women, 700 to be exact....

And 300 concubines, lesser wives, besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites.

They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." But I figured with brains like mine – no problem

Now – I have a riddle for you. This comes from the book of Job. I would solve it myself but I seem to have temporarily misplaced my personal wisdom. I will reward you greatly if you can find wisdom for me.

Your mission tonight is to interview several people and figure out who or what is wisdom. Feel free to use those rubies I gave you to buy whatever you need along the way. I really need to get my wisdom back and I'm counting on you all to solve this riddle by Job (He was another pretty smart guy) and tell me which one of the people you meet is wisdom. You can take notes on your "Search for Wisdom Leads.

At the end:

(Ashamed) Remember how I told you how wise I was and how rich I was...I hate to say it but I relied on my own wisdom and own ideas instead of God's. I relied on my treaties made by marrying foreign women who God said not to marry to keep my country out of war. I should have relied on God, like my father David did,

My wives led me astray. As I grew old, my wives turned my heart after other gods, and my heart was not fully devoted to the LORD as the heart of David my father had been.

If you have wisdom you show it by your good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. Humility is the opposite of bragging. I didn't have much humility.

Selfish ambition does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. Selfish like having the most stuff and the most wives. Building up armies and horses and chariots and depending on myself instead of my maker.

Wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. It has nothing to do with rocks or oil or fruit. Now that I am thinking more clearly, I was the one who authored part of the riddle with Job. I think I added some of my Proverbs to it. But that's another mystery for another time.

Thank you for helping me see that respecting God, trusting in Him is the wisest course for my life and yours as well.

Diploma of Wisdom

Let it be known that

has been awarded a PhD in Wisdom.

F. Wisdom

Date

Academy Award

Presented to

for a smashing portrayal of the character

Thanks for bringing our event to life a vivid character we
will never forget.

Academy Director

Date

Date

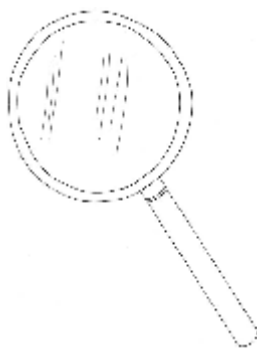
[[fill in guest's name],

You are invited to attend a mystery party being hosted by [fill in your name] at [fill in party location, time, date and phone number].

King Solomon requests your presence at his palace to help him find Wisdom. He seems to have misplaced his and needs the assistance of discerning and knowledgeable persons like yourselves to regain it. You'll meet many people who may help you or who may not be so helpful. All the guests will try to solve the mystery. You do not need to be an actor or have knowledge of investigations to have a great time. Use your mind and the clues to get to the bottom of this dastardly problem.

Please come dressed as your character.

When your host gives you your character sheet, please do not show it to anyone, before or during the party. The sheet will explain who you are, who and what you know and give you suggestions for props and costumes. It is for your eyes only. If you have questions prior to the party contact [fill in host name and phone number]



The Investigator Report

My Search for Wisdom Leads Sheet

| The Character I talked to | What we talked about | Things they said | Lies or truth? |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Your name:

Who is the real wisdom?

Who is lying?

How did you figure it out? What evidence do you have?

The character I nominate to get the Academy Award is

THE SEARCH FOR WISDOM MYSTERY PARTY RULES

1. No one may look at another person's character sheet.
 2. Characters should not read straight off their character descriptions but instead tell others the information in their own words. Truth tellers should be sure what they say is true.
 3. Investigators can ask characters other questions but they might not know the answer. They may tell you they don't know or might even lie about it.
 4. If another group is talking to a character your group wishes to visit you must wait far enough away that you cannot see or hear their interaction with the character.
 5. At then, end of the party you will be asked who you think is really wisdom and how you figured it out. Be sure you put all your evidence down because if several people all guess correctly, the winner will be chosen on the basis of who wrote down the most evidence.
 6. You may not have or look in a Bible unless you buy one from a character. Not all characters sell them
 7. More than one character may lie to you.
 8. Some characters are telling the truth mixed with false information.
1. Having a Bible can help quite a bit.
 2. Several people or groups may figure out the correct person. The winner will be determined on who lists the most evidence to back up their choice.
 3. If a truth telling character is asked a question and they don't know the answer they should simply say they don't know."
 4. If a liar is asked a question they can tell the truth, they can change the subject, tell half the truth, tell a flat out lie or refuse to answer. They can also say "I don't know"
5. **The most important of all rules: have fun while learning about God**

Horoscopes (For the Wise Man character)

Aries (March 21-April 19): Don't let people walk all over you. Stop turning the other cheek and get some real results with a punch or two.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): If you want to be a star then rely on the stars. You're entering a cycle in which the world needs you to shine. Try dyeing your hair green or purple.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Requests that you think of as out-of-line are not at all. You'd be surprised at how much work you can get out of if you just try.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Why is your love life in ruins? Getting a wider variety of opinions helps. Tell everyone you meet, including strangers, about your problems.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You're so wise you'll know the best way to win your next fight. Just give in to your inner urges and go for it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Just being where you're supposed to be is work enough. So get comfortable and make yourself at home. Let your personality shine like the star it is.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): It's like the stars have procured for you a magic cream to take away that persistent irritation. Relationship issues clear -- suddenly the other person changes for the better.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Don't strive to improve yourself. You're emanating a love so powerful it can stretch to the far reaches of the universe.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Real life seems challenging. So take it easy, sit back and do nothing until you feel like doing something.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Whatever it is, you can handle it. You just need the right tools to take over the world. Try Ebay.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Work on your game skills. True love will walk into your life in a much unexpected way.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Once you see what's needed to make things work, you quickly transform from listener to complainer. Your star quality personality will help others realize they can complain too.

Job's Riddle

"But where can wisdom be found?
Where does understanding dwell?

Man does not comprehend her worth;
it cannot be found in the land of the
living.

It cannot be bought with the finest gold,
nor can its price be weighed in silver.

It cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir,
with precious onyx or sapphires.

Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it,
nor can it be had for jewels of gold.

Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention;
the price of wisdom is beyond rubies.

The topaz of Cush cannot compare with it;
it cannot be bought with pure gold.

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
the man who gains understanding,

for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.

She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with
her.

Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.

Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.

"Where then does wisdom come from?
Where does understanding dwell? "

God understands the way
and he knows where she dwells

She is a tree of life to those who embrace
her;
those who lay hold of her will be
blessed.