

Unit 12 • Session 4

The Kingdom Divided

2-3's Lesson

BIBLE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 11–12

STORY POINT: God divided Israel into two kingdoms.

KEY PASSAGE:

James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does God know? God knows everything.



INTRODUCE THE STORY Opening Activities (30 MINUTES)



TEACH THE STORY Large Group (15 MINUTES)



EXPERIENCE THE STORY Small Group (15 MINUTES)



Opening Activity Supplies

1 Paper bag (per class)
2 Colors of construction paper cut into squares for each child

Large Group Supplies

Bible
Bookmark
Crown
Key passage marker

Small Group Supplies

2 cups & 12 Popsicle sticks per group
Bible story coloring page
Bible story picture
Story Point
Big picture question

LEADER Bible Study

King Solomon loved God. He received wisdom from the Lord and was dedicated to building His temple. But early on, we see hints that Solomon's heart was not completely devoted to God. He married foreign wives who turned Solomon's heart away from God. (1 Kings 11:4)

Solomon gradually abandoned what he had believed. Israel had a history of turning away from God, and Solomon was no exception.

God was angry with Solomon. He had warned him twice not to turn to false gods. God planned to discipline Solomon by taking the kingdom away from his family. God was going to take the kingdom from Solomon's son Rehoboam—every tribe except for one. God graciously left one tribe for Rehoboam, keeping the promise He made to David. (See 2 Sam. 7:16.)

God set apart Jeroboam, one of Solomon's servants, to become leader over 10 tribes of Israel. Parts of the tribe of Benjamin followed Jeroboam, and some followed Rehoboam. When Solomon died, all of Israel gathered to make Rehoboam their new king. They asked Rehoboam to lighten the burden of service Solomon had given them, but Rehoboam refused. In fact, he promised to make their work even harder.

Israel rebelled against Rehoboam and made Jeroboam king. Only the tribe of Judah stayed with Rehoboam. So the kingdom was divided into two kingdoms—the Northern Kingdom was called Israel (ruled by Jeroboam) and the Southern Kingdom was called Judah (ruled by Rehoboam).

Every king failed to lead God's people perfectly. God had a plan to send them a better king, a perfect king. God would use the house of David—the single tribe He reserved for Rehoboam—to bring into the world His Son, Jesus, to become King over all of God's people forever and lead them back to God.

The BIBLE Story

The Kingdom Divided

1 Kings 11–12

King Solomon loved God, but he did not love God with his whole heart. He disobeyed God and married women from other nations. **Solomon's wives led him to worship false gods.**

This made God angry. God said to Solomon, “Since you have done this, I will take away the kingdom from you. **You will be king the rest of your life, but when your son becomes king, he will only be king over one tribe.**”

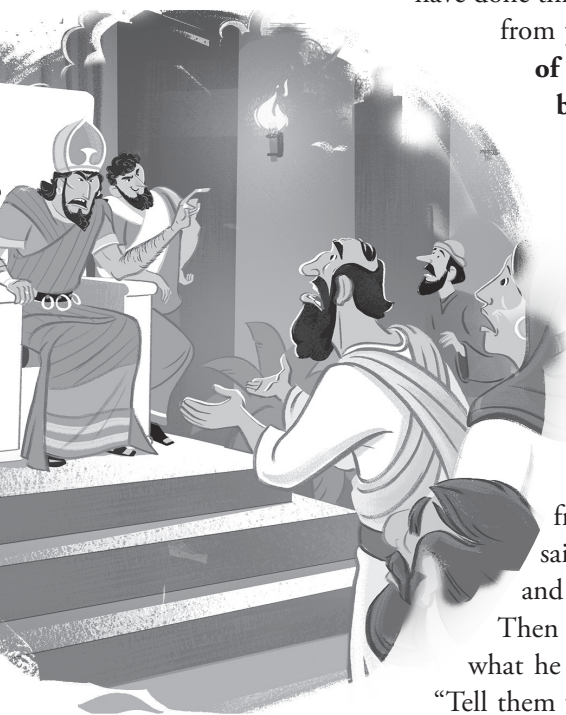
When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam (REE huh BOH uhm) **became the king. The people told Rehoboam,** “Your father, **Solomon, made us work too hard. We will be happy to serve you if you make our work easier.**”

Rehoboam asked his father's friends what he should do. They said, “Be kind to the workers, and they will work for you forever.”

Then Rehoboam asked his friends what he should do. Those friends said, “Tell them you will make them work even

harder!” So **Rehoboam told the workers, “I will make you work even harder!”**

This was bad news for **the people.** They **did not want to serve a king like Rehoboam, so they made Jeroboam** (JER uh BOH uhm) king. Jeroboam had been **one of Solomon's officials.** Now he was **king of the**



Northern Kingdom of **Israel. Rehoboam ruled over only one tribe: the Southern Kingdom of Judah.**

Rehoboam did not like being king of only one tribe. He planned to attack Israel, but God sent a prophet to stop him. The prophet had a message from God. "Do not fight them; the people of Israel are part of your family. I am the Lord, and I am in control of what is happening." So Rehoboam went home.

Now Jeroboam was the king of Israel. Jeroboam wanted to make sure the people never went back to their old king. Instead of letting them go to Jerusalem to worship God at the temple, **Jeroboam made two golden calves** for the people to worship.

"Look!" he said. "These golden calves are the gods who saved your families out of Egypt. You can worship them."

What Jeroboam did was a sin! Those calves did not save God's people. God led His people out of Egypt. Jeroboam tried to make Israel seem like a better place to live than Judah. **Jeroboam led all the people to worship false gods instead of the one true God.**

Christ Connection: No king led God's people perfectly. Solomon disobeyed God, and Israel was divided between two kings. God's people needed a perfect king. God would send His own Son, Jesus, to be King. Jesus is better than Solomon. Jesus is a perfect King who brings God's people together.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Kingdom Divided

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 11–12

STORY POINT: God divided Israel into two kingdoms.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

Opening Activities

Welcome time

Intro Music

[Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers.]

LOW PREP

Divide into two kingdoms

• 1 Paper Bag
• Construction
paper, 2 colors
(more squares
than children
per class)

Place two colors of 1-inch squares of construction paper in a bag. Make sure you have more squares than children in your group. Choose two preschoolers to be “kings” or “queens.” Give each a different colored square and instruct the kings/queens to hide the square in their hand. Invite the rest of the group to draw a square from the bag. When everyone has a square, the kings should reveal their square. Preschoolers with a matching square should line up behind their king. The kingdom with the most children wins. Collect the squares and play again.

SAY • Dividing into two kingdoms was fun! In today’s Bible story, the kingdom of Israel divided into two kingdoms, but this dividing was not fun! In fact, it was very sad. Listen to our Bible story to hear why God’s people divided into two kingdoms.

Transition to tell the story

[Show the countdown video to gain the attention of all the preschoolers as your transition to Large Group.] Choose a few line leaders. Guide the rest of the group to put their hands on the shoulders of the child in front of them.

Encourage the group to stay together as they move to find their seat.

Sing

Sing the key passage song, “Ask God,” and the theme song, “You are Great.”

• Video:
Countdown

• “Ask God” song

• “You are Great”
song

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Kingdom Divided

Large Group

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 11–12

STORY POINT: God divided Israel into two kingdoms.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- Bookmark
- Crown

· [CG: Giant Timeline](#)

[Place a bookmark at 1 Kings 11 in your Bible and enter wearing a crown. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.]

SAY • Today is our last Bible story about King Solomon from the Book of 1 Kings. We know this story is true because the Bible is God's Word!

[Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.]
Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

- [Video: "The Kingdom Divided"](#)

· [CG: Story Point](#)

· [CG: Bible Story Picture](#)

Watch the Bible story

[Show the Bible story video. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.]

SAY • King Solomon sinned when he worshiped gods that people made instead of the one true God. God did not like that Solomon disobeyed Him. **God divided Israel into two kingdoms.** But the new king of Israel, Jeroboam, also sinned when he made gods for the people to worship! No king led God's people perfectly. God's people needed a perfect king. God would send His own Son, Jesus, to be King. Jesus is better than Solomon. Jesus is a perfect King who brings God's people together.

Practice the key passage

[Place the key passage marker at James 1:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Help preschoolers to say the key passage with you.]

SAY • You may not remember the key passage perfectly, but you can ask God for help! In our Bible story we learned that no king led God's people perfectly either. But Jesus is our perfect King who is always with us. He can give us wisdom to remember His Word!

·Key
Passage
Marker
·Bible

·CG: Key
Passage

Learn the big picture question

SAY • God knew that Solomon would disobey him and so would every other king after him. God knew that His people needed a perfect king. ***What does God know? God knows everything.*** God always planned to send Jesus to be our perfect King.

·CG: Big
Picture
Question

Pray

[Pray before dismissing to small groups.]

LEADER • Father, thank You for Your faithfulness. Even when Solomon disobeyed, You kept Your promise to David. Even though we make wrong choices you are faithful. Help us have wisdom to Obey You. Amen.

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



Small Group

SESSION TITLE: The Kingdom Divided

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 11–12

STORY POINT: God divided Israel into two kingdoms.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

Work really hard

Lead the preschoolers through simple exercises, such as jumping with both feet, running in place, and curling their biceps while you count to 10. Tell the story.

SAY • King Solomon disobeyed God and it split the kingdom. When his son Rehoboam was king, Rehoboam made the people work hard too. **GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING.** People from David's family were kings of Judah, the smaller kingdom.

Divide the kingdom

Write the names of the twelve tribes on individual craft sticks. Help toddlers count the sticks as you name each tribe. Write Israel on one cup and Judah on another cup. Help toddlers put the tribe of Judah in its cup and the other tribes in the other cup. Briefly retell the Bible story.

SAY • King Solomon's sin split the kingdom. Only Judah and Benjamin stayed with King Rehoboam. **GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING.** Jesus was born into David and Solomon's family in Judah.

2 cups (per group)
12 Popsicle sticks (per group)

Review

Talk about how **God divided Israel into two kingdoms** because Solomon disobeyed God. Both Rehoboam and Jeroboam disobeyed God, too. No king led God's people perfectly. God's people needed a perfect king. God sent His own Son, Jesus, to be King. Jesus is better than Solomon. Jesus is a perfect King who brings God's people together.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Did King Solomon love God with his whole heart?

(No, he worshiped gods people made.)

2. Who is the perfect King? *(Jesus)*

3. ***What does God know? God knows everything.***

- Bible Story Picture
- Big Picture Question

Transition

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page or play a simple game to practice the key passage.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool coloring page for families.

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- Crayons
- Key Passage Poster