

Unit 12 • Session 4
**The Kingdom
Divided**
2nd-3rd Lesson

BIBLE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 11–12

STORY POINT: God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.

KEY PASSAGE:

James 1:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.



INTRODUCE THE STORY
Opening Activities
(20 MINUTES)



Opening Activities Supplies

"Past, Present, Future" activity page, 1 per kid, crayons, markers

TEACH THE STORY
Large Group
(20 MINUTES)



Large Group Supplies

Bible marked at James 1:5
White lab coat with feathers
Stage decor

APPLY THE STORY
Small Group
(20 MINUTES)



Small Group Supplies

Key passage poster, 1 per group
Paper, crayons, markers
Paper or plastic crown, 1 per group
"Whooo Knows" activity page, 1 per kid

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. Solomon had hundreds of wives, and many of them were from other nations. Solomon's wives turned him away from God, and **he began to worship the false gods that his wives worshiped.**

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

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

Rehoboam thought about it and asked his father's friends for advice.

“Be kind to the workers and they will work for you forever,” they said. But

Rehoboam ignored that advice. He asked his own friends what he should do. **Rehoboam** listened to his friends and **told the workers, “My father did not make you work hard enough! I'll make you work even harder!”**

The people 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. Only one tribe remained under Rehoboam's rule, and that was the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Rehoboam did not like being king of only one tribe. He planned to attack the northern kingdom of 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, but he wasn't a good king. When the people of Israel traveled to Jerusalem to worship God at the temple, Jeroboam worried that they would start thinking of Rehoboam as their leader. So Jeroboam made two golden calves and told the people, "Going to Jerusalem is too difficult for you. Here are your gods who brought you up from the land of Egypt. You can worship them!"

What Jeroboam did was a sin! Those calves did not lead God's people out of Egypt; God led His people out of Egypt. **Jeroboam led all the people to worship the false gods instead of the one true God.**

Christ Connection: King Solomon failed to lead God's people perfectly. God's people needed a better king, a perfect king! Through David's family, God would send His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be a perfect King over God's people forever. Jesus is greater than Solomon. Jesus brings His people together and leads them back to God.

INTRODUCE the Story



Opening Activities

SESSION TITLE: The Kingdom Divided

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 11–12

STORY POINT: God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Intro music

Welcome time

[*Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives.*]

Help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about what they do when they don't get along with someone else. How does conflict make them feel?

Activity page

Invite kids to complete “Past, Present, Future” on the activity page. Guide kids to draw pictures of themselves in the past, present, and future. Then guide them to answer the questions about what they wish they had known in the past, what they wish they knew now, and what they hope to know in the future.

SAY • What do you think you will look like in the future? Where do you think you will live? God's people, the Israelites, might have had some ideas about what their future would look like, but only God knew for certain what was ahead of them. Today we will find out what happened when Solomon turned away from God—the only One who knows the past, present, and future.

• “Past, Present, Future” activity page, 1 per kid
• Pencils or markers

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Kingdom Divided

Large Group

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 11–12

STORY POINT: God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Video:
Countdown

Countdown

[*Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story.*]

Large Group Game

Would you rather?

Read a series of questions, each starting with *Would you rather ...* Ask the kids to move to one side of the room or the other based on their preferences in each statement. After kids form the two groups, choose a volunteer from each group to explain why he chose the side he chose.

"Would you rather" statements:

- be Captain America or Iron Man?
- eat Reese's Peanut Butter Cups or Skittles?
- be an owl or parrot?
- be a great artist or an amazing singer?
- create a new holiday or a new sport?
- eat a hamburger or hot dog?
- fly or breath under water?
- live in a tree house or a castle?
- ride a huge water slide or a huge zip line?
- go camping or stay in a hotel?

SAY • Interesting answers, everyone! That was a fun game to see how different we all are. In our Bible story today, the people of Israel asked their new king to give them less work, and he said he was going to do the opposite. How do you think they felt about that?

Sing

LEADER • It's so good to know that King Jesus isn't like any other king and that He will never fail us. Let's sing songs to worship Him now.

Song: God is on the Move
Song: O Taste and See

Introduce the session

[*Leader enters wearing a white lab coat with feathers stuck to it.*]

LEADER • My friends! Welcome back to my lab. You may remember, I am Professor Peregrine, and I study birds. Meaning, I'm kind of a bird nerd. Can anyone remember the big word that describes what I do?

• White lab coat with feathers

[*Allow responses.*] Great memory! *Ornithology* is the study of birds. Are you ready for your fun bird fact?

Many kinds of birds choose a partner to stay with for the rest of their lives! At the ages of 4-6, pairs of Atlantic Puffins often become mates for life, finding each other at their colony year after year. A bonded pair of birds won't split up until one of them dies. It's amazing how God created so many different creatures that behave in such amazing ways.

CG: Atlantic Puffin

You know, it kind of makes me think of our story this week. However, our story isn't about something joining together forever, it's about something that got split in two! I'll tell you more soon.

Big picture question

LEADER • But first, let's review our big picture question. Can any of you say it from memory? [*Allow responses.*] Great work! ***What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.*** That means we can totally trust God. He won't forget things, won't overlook things, and won't be surprised by things. Every detail is covered in His perfect plans. That's why we know wisdom from God is true wisdom!

[CG: Big picture question](#)

Giant timeline

[*Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.*]

LEADER • Solomon became king after his father, David. Solomon had the chance to ask God for anything, and asked for wisdom. **God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.** God also gave Solomon wealth and power. Solomon wrote many things to teach God's people that **wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.** Then, God used Solomon to fulfill His promise to David. **God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them.** However, as wise as Solomon was, he was not a perfect king. Let's watch this video to hear what happened next.

[CG: Giant Timeline](#)

[CG: Story point](#)

Watch the Bible story

[*Show the Bible story video "The Kingdom Divided."*]

LEADER • Solomon's story is a sad one, but it helps us see that even a wise person can make foolish, wrong choices. When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. He did not show wisdom, and he drove the people away. But though it may have seemed that Rehoboam was to blame, it was really Solomon whose sin caused the mess. **God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.**

[Video: The Kingdom Divided](#)

We learned that David was a great king, but not the perfect King that God's people needed. Solomon was a wise and powerful king, but he was not the perfect King the people needed either. Solomon's sin divided the kingdom, but Jesus' righteousness brings all believers back to God.

Christ connection

LEADER • King Solomon failed to lead God's people perfectly. God's people needed a better king, a perfect king! Through David's family, God would send His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be a perfect King over God's people forever. Jesus is greater than Solomon. Jesus brings His people together and leads them back to God.

Key passage

**CG: Key
Passage**

[Show the key passage slide. Lead the kids to read James 1:5 together.]

LEADER • Our key passage reminds us that God does not withhold wisdom. When we ask God for wisdom, He gives it generously. God is good. He enjoys giving us good things and always does what is best.

Before we pray, I wanted to let everyone know that today we are having baptisms right after service. Baptism shows that you have decided to trust in Jesus as your friend and savior. Is there anyone in here being baptized today? *[If so, celebrate with applause. Encourage everyone to watch baptisms.]*

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 follow You each day, now and in the future. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

Wise King Solomon

APPLY the Story



Small Group

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BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 11–12

STORY POINT: God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Key passage activity

Key
Passage
Poster

Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading James 1:5 aloud together.

Form four groups and assign each group a phrase of the key passage. Point to each group to say its part of the key passage in order.

Pass the crown

Plastic or
paper
crown

Instruct kids to sit in a circle. Give one player the crown.

This player is *It*. Explain that you will announce a category (for example, “types of birds”) and then say “Pass the crown.” The player holding the crown should pass it to the next kid in the circle and begin **naming five things** that fit the category (*eagle, owl, parrot, pigeon, raven, chicken*).

The other players pass the crown quickly around the circle. The player holding the crown when the first player finishes answering is now *It*.

If the crown makes it around the circle before the first player finishes, he must answer another category. (Option: You may choose to allow the first player to choose another player to be *It*.) Example categories: books of the Bible, people of the Bible, words that begin with K, types of birds, planets, foods, and so forth.

Kids Leader Guide
Unit 12 • Session 4

SAY • Saul was not the perfect king for God's people.
David was not the perfect king for God's people.
Solomon was not the perfect king for God's people.
God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned. To keep the promise He made to David, God graciously left one tribe (the tribe of Judah) for Solomon's son Rehoboam. Through the tribe of Judah, David's kingdom would last forever.

Journal and prayer

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, asking God to draw kids' hearts to Him. Pray that kids would trust Him over all earthly things.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Whooo Knows?" on the activity page. Kids should use the coordinates to find the words in the answer to the big picture question.

• Pencils
and
crayons
• Paper
• "Whooo
Knows"
Activity
Page, 1 per
kid

Wise King Solomon