

## Unit 12 • Session 4

# The Kingdom Divided

## 4-5'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

"Dividing Lines" Activity Page (1 per child)  
Crayons  
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

"Gospel" coloring page (1 per child)  
Gospel plan, crayons  
Bible story coloring page  
Bible story picture  
Story Point  
Big picture question & answer

## 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.**”

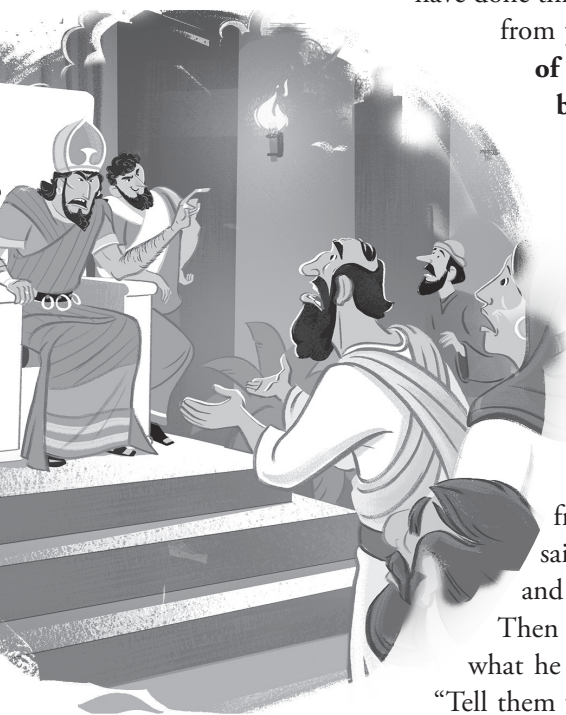
**When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam** (REE huh BOH uhm) **became the king. The people told Rehoboam,** “Your father, **Solomon, made us work too hard. We will be happy to serve you if you make our work easier.**”

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.

### Activity page

- “Dividing Lines” activity page, 1 per child
- Crayons

Help preschoolers identify each type of fruit on the activity page and then draw lines between the different groups to divide them.

**SAY** • Good job dividing the fruits! In today’s Bible story, we will learn about something God divided into separate groups—something way more important than fruit—groups of people! Listen to today’s Bible story to find out why God divided the people.

## LOW PREP

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

### Divide into two kingdoms

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.

[Countdown  
video](#)

## Sing

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

["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.

## LOW PREP

### Play “King, May I?”

Choose one child to be *king* and two children to be the king’s *advisors*. Line up the rest of the Small Group. The *advisors* will face the children, and the *king* will face a wall. Guide children to take turns asking “King, may I take [number and type of] steps forward?” Each *advisor* should tell the *king* how she thinks he should answer, either “Yes, you may” or “No, but you may take [number and type of] steps backward.” The first child to reach the *king* may take his place in the next round. Choose new *advisors* and continue play as time allows.

**SAY** • When Solomon’s son Rehoboam became king, the people asked him to make their work easier. Rehoboam asked his father’s friends and his own friends what he should do. Rehoboam chose to make the people work harder! They did not want to serve a king like Rehoboam.

**God divided Israel into two kingdoms.** God’s people needed a perfect king. God would send His own Son, Jesus, to be King. Jesus is a perfect King who brings God’s people together.

• "Gospel  
Coloring  
Page," 1 per  
child  
• Gospel  
Plan Poster  
• Crayons

points to as you walk. Explain how each letter represents a direction: north, south, east, and west. Consider providing extra shatter-proof compasses for preschoolers to experiment on their own. Show preschooler the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah on the "Old Testament Kingdoms Map" if available.

**SAY** • Solomon sinned, and **God divided Israel into two kingdoms:** the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. 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 from all over the world: the north, south, east, and west.



## Practice sharing the gospel

Give each preschooler a "Gospel Coloring Page." Direct children to color the first symbol on the page. Explain the meaning of the symbol using the gospel plan poster. Explain that the "gospel" means to tell the good news about Jesus! When children finish coloring the first symbol, instruct them to take turns telling their a friend next to them what the symbol means. Continue coloring and sharing for each symbol. Encourage preschoolers to take home their coloring page and practice sharing the Jesus with their family.

**SAY** • We practiced sharing the gospel with one another! When Jesus is our friend we should tell others about Him. We can be ready to share Jesus with the people in our family.

## 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. Was Rehoboam kind to the workers? (*no*)
3. What did Jeroboam make for the people of Israel to worship? (*two golden calves*)
4. Who is the perfect King? (*Jesus*)
5. ***What does God know? God knows everything.***

- Bible Story Picture
- Big Picture Question

## Transition

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

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 activity page for families.

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- Crayons
- Key Passage Poster