

August 24-25, 2019

## 4th-5th Lesson

Unit 12, Session 4

# The Kingdom Divided

1 Kings 11–12

**Story Point:** God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.



*Open your Bible and read aloud 1 Kings 11–12, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.*

**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 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 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.**

**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.*

# Opening Activities



## INTRODUCE the Story

### WELCOME TIME

### Intro Music

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?

**Optional Activity:** Piece it together

*Supplies: Bible story picture or other picture, scissors, tape (optional)*

Cut a copy of the Bible story picture into strips, at least one strip per kid. Challenge kids to work together to assemble the picture. Provide tape for kids to connect the strips. Hold up an uncut copy of the Bible story picture.

- What do you think is happening in this picture?
- Does the king look like a good king or a bad king?

[*Play the countdown video as you transition to Large Group*] [Video: Countdown](#)

## Large Group

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?



## Worship

We will find out what happens in a minute, but first stay standing for worship. We sing to praise God for who He is and all He has done.

[Song: God is on the Move](#)  
[Song: O Taste & See](#)

## TEACH the Story

Great singing everyone! Have any of you ever had your parents ask you to do something and you didn't do it? Were there consequences for disobeying? The Bible story we are about to hear is about King Solomon's consequences for disobeying God. The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

[*Show the giant timeline and point to today's story.*] [CG: Giant Timeline](#)

God made a promise to Solomon: If Solomon would obey His commands, then God would keep His promise to live among the Israelites and to not leave His people. But today's Bible story is called "The Kingdom Divided." Uh-oh. Let's watch this video and see what happens.

[*Watch today's story video.*] [Video: "The Kingdom Divided"](#)

- What does this story teach us about God? [CG: Question 1](#)

God did not give up on His people. **God knows everything** about the past, present, and future. Through Rehoboam, God graciously kept the promise He made to David, that his kingdom would last forever.

- What kind of leader did God's people need? [CG: Question 2](#)

God's people needed a leader who would lead them perfectly, a leader who would lead them to worship and follow God always. **They needed a leader to lead them back to 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.*



## TEACH the Story

### CG: Big Picture Question

What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future. You guys are going to talk more about that in your small group. Before we pray, I wanted to let everyone know that today we are having baptisms right after service. Is there anyone from this class getting baptized today? *[If so, celebrate that kid's decision to obey Jesus with applause. Encourage everyone to watch baptisms after service.]*

### PRAY

God, thank You for Your Word. We hear the story of Solomon's sin dividing the kingdom, and we confess that our hearts are often distracted from You. You are always faithful.. You keep Your promises and will never leave us. Thank You for sending Jesus to pay the price for our sin. We look forward to being in Your perfect Kingdom forever. Amen.

---

---

## THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



**GOD RULES.** Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



**WE SINNED.** Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



**GOD PROVIDED.** Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



**JESUS GIVES.** Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



**WE RESPOND.** Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.





### APPLY the Story

#### Big Picture Question

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

Earthly kings will fail us. God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be a perfect King over God's people forever. He deserves our worship.

- Does it matter how often you go to church?
- How can you show your love for God?

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 11. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 11:6. Point out that King Solomon failed to lead God's people perfectly. God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned. But Solomon's failures didn't ruin God's plan.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 11:6 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

#### 1. Why wasn't Solomon the right king for God's people?

*Lead kids to conclude that God's people needed a better king—a perfect king! Help them recognize that through David's family, God sent 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. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 11:31.)*

#### 2. What kinds of things distract you from God?

*Explain that Solomon disobeyed God's law by collecting horses and chariots, silver and gold, and many wives. Worldly wealth, health, wisdom, fame, and power can distract us from God because we are tempted to trust in these things instead of trusting in God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 20:7.)*

#### 3. What hope do we have even when our lives are turned upside down by sin?

*Guide kids to recognize that sin—our own or the sin of others—can have great consequences in our lives. In every situation, God is in control. Our hope is in God, who works everything for His glory and our good. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 16:4.)*



## APPLY the Story

### KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to James 1:5. Lead the kids to read the key passage 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. Reassign phrases and repeat the activity a few times.

Allow kids who have memorized the key passage to recite it from memory. Emphasize that when we need wisdom, we can ask God! God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

### PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, asking God to draw kids' hearts to Him. Pray that kids would trust Him over all earthly things.

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Pass the crown

*Supplies: plastic or paper crown, 1 per group*

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, "books of the Bible") 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 (*Genesis; Exodus; Matthew; Mark; Romans*).

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*.)

Categories: books of the Bible, words that begin with *K*, movies, animals, sports, and so forth.

Remind kids that 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 disobeyed God. 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.