



# THE KINGDOM DIVIDED



## 1 KINGS 11-12

### **Instructions**

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

### **Tell the Bible Story**

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.*



## Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 11. Explain that today's Bible story comes from 1 Kings 11–12.

Ask the following questions. Lead your kids to discuss:

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

*Lead your 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.*

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.*

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

*Guide your 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.*



## SAY:

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

## Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find 1 Kings 11–12. Briefly review some of the differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Ask the kids to identify which Bible division 1 Kings is in (Old Testament History) and see if anyone can name the other books that share that division (Joshua–Esther). Remind the kids that we use divisions to help us organize the Bible.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. How did Solomon sin?

*Solomon married many women, and Solomon worshiped their false gods; 1 Kings 11:2-4*



2. What did Rehoboam say that angered the people?

*He promised to make their lives harder, not easier; 1 Kings 12:13-14*

3. How did Jeroboam lead the Northern Kingdom into sin?

*He made idols to prevent people from worshiping at the temple; 1 Kings 12:27-30*

4. If Solomon had so much wisdom, why did he worship false gods?

*Guide your kids to remember that wisdom cannot save us. Help them see that wisdom is valuable, but it cannot fix the brokenness in our hearts. We need salvation through Jesus to have our hearts fixed to love and obey God.*

5. Why did God allow Rehoboam to stay king over Judah?

*Guide your kids to see that God's covenant to David was not broken by Solomon's sin. God keeps His promises even though we sin. He promised to send the Messiah through David's family and that a member of David's family would be on the throne forever.*

6. If God was going to let Rehoboam stay king, why divide the kingdom at all?

*Guide your kids to understand that sin always has consequences. God loves us even when we sin, but He does not always protect us from the consequences of our sin. Thankfully, through Jesus, we can have salvation and freedom from sin.*

**SAY:**

*God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned. Solomon was wise, but not perfect. Jesus is our wise and perfect King.*