

LESSON 61

The Kingdom Is Divided

1 KINGS 11–12



BIBLE TRUTH

A DIVIDED HEART LEADS TO A DIVIDED LIFE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Optional: whiteboard, dry erase marker

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 61)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 61

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Torn in Twelve

SUPPLIES: a large shirt to wear over your clothing (make ½-in. cuts along the bottom hem so that you can rip it into twelve pieces)

Solomon’s Judgment

SUPPLIES: felt board and flannelgraph set of Solomon’s temple and idols

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION

5 MIN

In today's lesson we will see that the kingdom of Israel was divided because Solomon did not obey God.

Ask the class:

- **What is a kingdom?**
(A kingdom is the land a king rules over.)
- **What does it mean to divide a kingdom?**
(to break it into parts)

Demonstrate dividing a kingdom to the children by putting them all in a group and telling them that their group represents a kingdom. Choose two people to play the part of two kings. (You could use students or helpers.) Split the class evenly between the two kings, and ask the class if that looks like a fair division.

Then ask what might happen if one of the kings allowed his people to disobey God? How might God divide the kingdom then? (give less to the disobedient king)

Redivide the class giving one king (the disobedient king) only two children. Give the rest to the other king. Why would most of the people be taken away from the king who allowed his people to disobey? (The people would be taken away from him as a way to discipline him.)

Then tell the children we are going to read a Bible story today that tells how God divided the kingdom of Israel this very same way.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY

10 MIN

Read story 61, "The Kingdom is Divided," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION

5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- Who does God talk to in our story?
(God talks to Solomon, King David's son.)
- Why does God speak to Solomon?
(Solomon has disobeyed God by worshiping false gods.)
- What does God tell Solomon he is going to do?
(God is going to take most of Israel away from him.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- What do you think made Solomon turn away from God?
(Accept their answers, and then read 1 Kings 11:1–2. Explain that Solomon married women who worshiped false gods and they led him away from the Lord.)
- Did God warn Solomon not to sin by marrying women who worshiped false gods?
(Yes, but Solomon did not listen to God.)
- How does God warn us about the sins that will lead us away from him?
(God has given us the Bible to tell us all about Jesus and God's plan for our lives. God has given children parents to teach them God's Word. God's Word tells us what to do and what not to do.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 1 Kings 11:13

Even though God judged Solomon for worshipping false gods, there was hope in God's punishment. God gave Solomon good news mixed with the bad news. The bad news was that God was taking the kingdom away from Solomon, but the good news was that he promised not to do it until Solomon's son was king. And even then God promised not to take all of Israel away, but to allow Solomon's son to be king over one tribe.

God did this for the sake of David and for the sake of Jerusalem. You see, God had promised David that he would have a son on the throne forever. So even though Solomon disobeyed God, he remained on the throne so God could keep his promise to David.

Jesus, one of Solomon's far-off grandchildren, is the ultimate way God kept that promise. By saving the tribe of Judah (the tribe Jesus came from) and allowing Solomon to remain on the throne, God kept his promise to David and opened the way for the good news of the gospel to come to us all.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 61—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Who is the man in the picture?
(The man is Ahijah, a prophet of God.)

- What is the man in the picture doing?
(tearing his outer garment)

- Why is he tearing his shirt?
(He is telling Jeroboam that God is correcting Solomon and bringing judgment to Israel by ripping it in pieces. God is going to make Jeroboam king over ten tribes. Only Jerusalem and the tribe of Judah will be left for Solomon's son to rule.)

Torn in Twelve

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ old shirt to wear over your clothing (make ½-in. cuts along the bottom hem so that you can rip it into twelve pieces)

Tell the children about the disobedience of Solomon. You can read it to them from 1 Kings 11:9–12.

Tell the children that God sent the prophet Ahijah to Jeroboam, a man in charge of Solomon's workers. Meeting Jeroboam on the road, Ahijah took off the new garment he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces. Giving ten pieces to Jeroboam, Ahijah told him that God was going to tear the Kingdom of Israel apart and give ten of the twelve tribes to Jeroboam. Only one would remain for Solomon's son to rule. (The tribe of Benjamin was considered to be part of Judah.)

While you are telling them this take off the shirt and tear it into twelve pieces.

Tell the class that after Solomon died, his son Rehoboam was so mean that ten tribes left and made Jeroboam their king.

Solomon's Judgment

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ felt board and flannelgraph set of Solomon's temple and idols

Ask the class if they know what Solomon built. They may be able to remember that he built the temple. Put the temple piece up on the felt board.

Read 1 Kings 9:1–5 and restate God's promise to Solomon, and then ask the children the following questions:

- Did Solomon obey God?

(Some may say yes others no.)

- What else did Solomon build when he was old?

(In 1 Kings 11:7, we read that he built high places to the gods Chemosh and Molech.)

Place the idols next to the temple and ask:

- What is wrong with this picture?

(There are idols next to the temple.)

- Will God share us with false idols?

(No, God is a jealous God.)

PRAY

5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 61 - THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED

