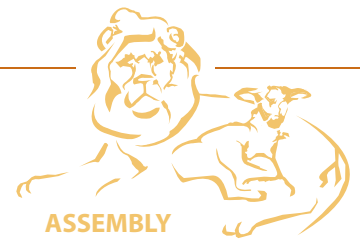


THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: I KINGS 11-12



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

TORN IN TWELVE

Supplies:

a large shirt to wear over your clothing (make ½" 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 a prophet to Jeroboam a man who served Solomon in charge of his workers. Ahijah met Jeroboam on the road wearing a new garment. Ahijah took off the garment and tore the garment in 12 pieces and gave 10 to Jeroboam telling him that God was going to tear the Kingdom of Israel apart and give 10 of the twelve tribes to Jeroboam and only one to Solomon's son. (Benjamin was considered part of Judah never having survived the slaughter of Judges 20 where they were all but wiped out.)

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.

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SOLOMON'S JUDGMENT

Supplies:

Felt board with 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 felt up on the felt board.

Read 1 Kings 9:1-5 and restate God's promise to Solomon, 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? (1Kings 11:7 tells us he built high places to the gods Chemosh and Molech.)

Place the idols next to the temple and ask:

- What is wrong with the felt board? (There are idols next to the temple.)
- Will God share us with false idols? (No, God is a jealous God.)

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Supplies:

a costume of a queen

Review 1 Kings 10. When the class comes in tell them the story of Solomon and all of his splendor but then tell the class you heard some very sad news. Tell them of Solomon's downfall, that he took many wives and they turned his heart away to serve their gods (1 Kings 11:1-13). Warn the children that not obeying God's Word will result in turning away to other gods.



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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.

Even though Solomon's sin of setting up idols was great, God remembered David, a man after His own heart. In the midst of the Lord's rebuke of Solomon, He says this: "I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen", see 1 Kings 11:13. In Revelation 21:2-10 we learn Jerusalem remains the name of God's heavenly city.

Even in the judgment of Solomon, God remembered there would be another king in Jerusalem and one day, a new Jerusalem.

