

THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 KINGS 11-12



The STORY

Read 1 Kings 11:9-13 from the ESV Bible.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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

- Who is God talking to? (God is talking to Solomon, King David's son.)
- Why is God speaking to Solomon? (Solomon has disobeyed God by worshipping false gods.)
- What does God tell Solomon He is going to do? (God is going to take most of Israel away from him.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: the prophet Ahijah holds a torn garment in two pieces, one very small and one much larger. The dotted lines divide the garments symbolizing the Kingdom of Israel torn in two. Read 1 Kings 11:28-33. Engage the children by asking:

- Who is the man in the picture and what is he? (The man is Ahijah and he is a prophet of God.)
- What is the man in the picture doing? (Tearing his shirt.)
- 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 the king over the ten tribes He takes away. Only Jerusalem and the tribe of Judah will be left for Solomon's son.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

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

- What do you think made Solomon turn away from God? (Accept their answers and then read to them I Kings 11:1-2. Explain that Solomon married women who worshipped false gods and they led him away from the Lord.)
- Did God warn Solomon not to sin by marrying women who worshipped false gods? (Yes, He did but Solomon did not listen to God.)
- How does God warn us about the sins that will lead us away from God? (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 not do.)

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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

