



# The Kingdom Is Divided

# 9

## Key Theme

- God demands obedience and trust.

## Key Passages

- Deuteronomy 17:16–17; 1 Kings 11:3–4, 11:9–11, 12:14, 12:20

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe why God became angry with Solomon.
- Explain how the kingdom was divided.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. Then they will recite the verse to each other and/or the entire class.



### Activity 1: The Kingdom Is Divided Class Notes

Students will complete the Kingdom Is Divided Class Notes as you study the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

Solomon disobeyed God when he amassed riches, gold, and silver—wealth he used for his own pleasure. He also married many women from foreign countries, and they turned Solomon away from God to worship their false gods. God judged Solomon's sin by tearing Israel from him. During the reign of Solomon's son, Rehoboam, Israel was split. From this point on, the Israelites would be divided into two different nations and be ruled over by different kings.



### Activity 2: Divided Kingdom Trivia Toss

Students will play a game in teams to review the lesson material.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- ☐ Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student
- ☐ Pencils



### THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED CLASS NOTES

- ☐ Print one The Kingdom Is Divided Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- ☐ The Kingdom Is Divided Class Notes
- ☐ The Kingdom Is Divided Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets



### DIVIDED KINGDOM TRIVIA TOSS

- ☐ Print one set of the 12 Divided Kingdom Trivia Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM on card-stock.
- ☐ Print one Divided Kingdom Trivia Answer Key and Instructions from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- ☐ Tape a line on the floor and lay the Divided Kingdom Trivia Cards in a grid pattern.

- ☐ 12 Divided Kingdom Trivia Cards
- ☐ Divided Kingdom Trivia Answer Key and Instructions
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Beanbag



## Memory Verse

**1 Chronicles 29:11** Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all.

➤ **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

God warned them it would happen. Before the Israelites even came into the Promised Land, God commanded that the future king should not gather wives and horses for himself or amass great wealth (Deuteronomy 17:14–17). When the people cried out for a king, God warned them through Samuel that a king would abuse them, making their sons and daughters his servants and taking their land and its produce (1 Samuel 8:9–18). God had been their king, but now they would be ruled by a descendant of Adam—a man with a sinful heart.

Although Solomon's reign started off well, he eventually fell into sin. He disobeyed God and did all the things God had warned that the king should not do. Solomon had many horses imported from Egypt and Keveh (or Kue) to fortify his armies (1 Kings 10:28). He gathered massive amounts of gold into his treasury, counting silver as a common metal (1 Kings 10:16–23). He married many women from all of the lands surrounding his kingdom as a way to secure alliances. He loved many women from foreign nations with whom God had prohibited the Israelites to intermarry. In fact, he had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:1–3). Solomon's sinful heart led him to violate God's clear commands, and the result was just as God had said—Solomon turned to worshipping the gods of his wives (1 Kings 11:4). Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord. Sadly, this phrase would become a common refrain regarding the kings of Israel.

As a result of his polygamous relationships and idolatrous sin, God appeared to Solomon to deliver a message of judgment. Because of Solomon's sins against God, the kingdom would be torn away from him (1 Kings 11:9–11). And yet, even in this punishment, God demonstrated His mercy and His faithfulness. For the sake of God's promise to David, God would wait until after Solomon's death. Solomon's son would be the one from whom the kingdom would be taken, yet one tribe would remain under his rule for David's sake (1 Kings 11:12–13).

After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam took his place on the throne (1 Kings 11:41–43). What happened next sounds like the storyline of a suspense-filled drama. Jeroboam, a servant of Solomon who had fled to Egypt to escape Solomon, returned. Ahijah, a prophet from Shiloh, had told Jeroboam that the kingdom

would be divided and that 10 tribes would be given to him (Jeroboam) and only one tribe would remain with Rehoboam (Solomon's son) (1 Kings 11:34–36). Jeroboam returned to Israel to serve as the advocate and spokesperson for the people before Rehoboam. The people requested that Rehoboam lighten the burdensome service his father, Solomon, had put on them (1 Kings 12:1–5).

King Rehoboam sought counsel. He received differing opinions, and his answer revealed just how dark his heart was. He announced that he would not lighten the load but would add to their burdens and oppress them even more wickedly than Solomon had (1 Kings 12:5–11).

The people would have served a just leader, but they rebelled against Rehoboam because of the severity of his answer. We see a vivid picture of God's sovereignty in the affairs of men as we read that “the king did not listen to the people for the turn of events was from the Lord, that He might fulfill His word, which the Lord had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat” (1 Kings 12:15).

This was God's plan. God was the one who orchestrated all of these events. God used Rehoboam's foolish actions to cause the people to rebel against his kingdom. God used the sinful heart of man to bring about His purpose in the world. And how reassuring to us in a world that is tossed to and fro by many different political leaders that our God controls the hearts of the kings. He holds those hearts in His hands—and He turns them wherever He wishes (Proverbs 21:1). What a relief to know that God is in the heavens, and He is doing whatever He pleases (Psalm 115:3), and whatever He pleases is right (Genesis 18:25).

From this point forward, the Israelites would be divided and ruled over by different kings. Only the tribe of Judah remained under the authority of the line of David, and its capital was Jerusalem (1 Kings 12:20). The Southern Kingdom—consisting of one tribe—is usually referred to as Judah throughout the rest of the Old Testament. The Northern Kingdom—consisting of the remaining 10 tribes—became known as Israel. The tribe of Benjamin had divided land (and loyalties). And since the Levites did not acquire tribal land but resided in the Levitical cities, both kingdoms contained descendants from the tribe of Levi as well. The only hope to heal this division would be to bring about true healing and forgiveness through the Lion of Judah—the King of kings who came to sit on the throne of David as the perfect ruler.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Polygamy was not uncommon at the time of Solomon. Indeed, it was a sign of wealth and status. Solomon would have taken many of his wives as symbols of treaties with other nations or tribes, but this was against God's commands to him. Solomon had written in the book of Proverbs about avoiding the sexual temptations of women, but he fell into a sinful pattern and was led to worship the gods that his wives served. He built places of worship for Ashtoreth, the fertility goddess of the Canaanites; Molech, the Ammonite god who received child sacrifice; and Chemosh, the Moabite god who also received child sacrifice. It is clear that Solomon engaged not only in marital polygamy but also in spiritual polygamy.

On top of those sins, Solomon had taken much of his wealth from the people. His son Rehoboam compounded that sin by seeking to oppress the people even more. From that point forward, there was constant strife between the North and the South. As we move forward through these lessons, we will get a brief overview of some of the troubles in each of the kingdoms. Most of the third quarter lessons will look at the kings and prophets of Judah and Israel, demonstrating

the good, the bad, and the really ugly things that happened. Through all of these events, though, we can trust that God is in control and that He was working all of these events together in a way that would ultimately lead to the coming of the perfect king—King Jesus.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



### BEFORE THE THRONE

Precious Father, teach me. Solomon started so well when he asked you for wisdom. Yet, he sinned. Maybe it started with a small compromise and then snowballed. Guard me from doing the same thing. Help me to regularly evaluate the state of my heart. Reveal quickly even the smallest wicked way in me, that I would put a stop to it before I have compromised everything. Bless my students this week. Prepare them even now for the truths they will receive in this lesson. Help us all to be honest before you as we contemplate every area of our lives that we might hold as an idol before you. Give us a renewed sense of love and awe for you as we remember your sovereignty and justice.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet.
- They will recite the memory verse to another student or the teacher.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



# The Kingdom Is Divided Class Notes

## MATERIALS

- ☐ The Kingdom Is Divided Class Notes for each student
- ☐ The Kingdom Is Divided Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.*

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible today. You can look at

the word bank at the bottom of the page to help you spell the words. Try not to work ahead. I'll let you know when to fill something in.

*After filling out each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it. This will aid in the retention of the account.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we study today, we will see why God got angry with Solomon and what God did.

➤ Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

➤ Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.



# Studying God's Word

## READ THE WORD

Solomon, King David's son, was now the king. Remember that God wanted to be the people's king—but they wanted a man to be king. God finally agreed after warning them that they wouldn't like it. God knew that any man who was king would be a sinner and have a sinful heart. God warned the people and the kings to obey Him! He wanted the kings to worship only Him.

I am going to read two verses from the book of Deuteronomy. That is near the front of the Bible. I am going to read Deuteronomy 17:16–17. In these verses God tells the kings not to do three things. Listen carefully, and then we'll fill in #1 on you class notes. *Help the students to turn to the book of Deuteronomy. Read the passage aloud emphasizing horses, wives, and silver, gold.*

Deuteronomy 17:16–17

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

➤ Re-read the verses if necessary so students can answer from the text.

? What was the first thing God told Solomon not to have. *Re-read the verses if necessary. Horses.* Put that in the first blank on #1.

Yes. God said He didn't want the kings to have many horses. Horses were a sign of power and strength. God didn't want the kings to depend on their armies and their strength—He wanted them to depend on Him alone!

? What was the second thing? Look at the words at the bottom of the page. Which word goes in there? *Re-read Deuteronomy 17:17a emphasizing wives. Wives.* Put that in the second blank on #1.

God does not want anyone to have many wives. And God was warning the kings not to do that! Having a lot of wives would NOT be pleasing to God! God wants every man to have only one wife for life!

? Look at your class notes. Who knows what word should go in the third blank on #1? *Re-read Deuteronomy 17:17 emphasizing silver and gold. Gold.* That will finish #1. Put that in the third blank.

God did not want the kings to be really rich, because their riches might make them forget about God. And God wanted the kings to depend on Him alone! God did not want the kings to love their riches more than Him. Solomon was getting very rich and the riches were drawing him away from God..



## Discover the Truth

- ? God gave these instructions for every king to obey. The kings were to honor and worship the real King—God. Look at your class notes and tell me what God told the kings. Someone read all of #1 on your class notes for us. *Assign a reader. Do not have many horses, do not have many wives, and do not gather lots of silver or gold.*

That's right. God wanted the kings to depend on Him alone—not on their own power and strength. God made them kings and He wanted them to listen and obey Him!



## READ THE WORD

So, let's get back to King Solomon. God made Solomon king. Then God told him to build the Temple. And finally we learned that God gave him great wisdom! But Solomon was a man. And all men are sinners. Today we will see that his sin got him into trouble when he disobeyed God! I am going to read from 1 Kings 11:3–4. *Allow students to turn in their Bibles. Read the passage aloud.*

1 Kings 11:3–4

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? Well, based on what we read earlier from the book of Deuteronomy, does it sound like King Solomon obeyed God? *No.*

- ? What did King Solomon have? *1 Kings 11:3. 700 wives!*

He had 700 wives! Wow. Remember that God told him he should NOT do that! Solomon disobeyed God.

To make things worse, Solomon's many wives did not believe in the one true God. And because of these wives, Solomon disobeyed God, turned away from Him, and began to worship false gods.

- ? Look at #2 on your class notes. Who disobeyed God? *Solomon.* Fill in the blank on. #2.

- ? What is it called when we disobey God? *Allow discussion. Sin.*

- ? What does God think of sin or disobedience? *Allow discussion.*

God does not like disobedience. God wants His people to obey all the time! God hates sin. God is just; He must punish sin. *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster.*

I wonder how the Lord felt about Solomon's disobedience. The Bible tells us. Listen carefully as I read 1 Kings 11:9–11.

- ? How did the Lord feel toward Solomon? *1 Kings 11:9. The Lord became angry.*

JUST

*(Refer to Attributes Poster)*

1 Kings 11:9–11

? Why did the Lord become so angry? *1 Kings 11:9. Solomon's heart had turned away from the Lord God of Israel.*

The Lord was angry with Solomon. The Lord knew that Solomon had disobeyed Him. God knew about Solomon's wives. God knew that Solomon had turned away from Him and turned to other gods! This was NOT good.

? When God knows about sin, what does He have to do? *He has to punish sin.*

? That's right. And the Lord was going to punish Solomon because of his disobedience. Listen as I read and tell me what God was going to tear away from Solomon. *Re-read 1 Kings 11:11. God was going to tear the kingdom away from Solomon and give it to his servant.*

God was angry with King Solomon. He had disobeyed God. And God was going to take the kingdom away from him!

? Look at #3 on your class notes. Can someone read that? What word would you put in there? What was God going to take away from King Solomon? *His kingdom.*

### Discover the Truth

Solomon disobeyed God. He did the very things God had told the kings NOT to do! He got more horses, and wives, and riches, AND he forgot about God. He turned away from the true God and worshipped the false gods of his wives. He turned away from God, and God had to punish him. God punished him by taking the kingdom from Solomon. God announced that the kingdom would go to Solomon's servant!



### READ THE WORD

As we finish our lesson today, we are going to talk about how God arranged things to give Solomon's servant the kingdom. After King Solomon died, Solomon's son Rehoboam took over the kingdom. Let's say that name together. *Repeat "Rehoboam" with the class a few times.*

Look at your class notes. There is a column labeled Rehoboam and a column labeled Jeroboam. Jeroboam was Solomon's servant. Let's say that name together. *Repeat "Jeroboam" with the class a few times.* We are going to learn a few things about both of these men as we see how God worked to take the kingdom from King Solomon.

? Look at #4 under Rehoboam on your class notes. Who was Rehoboam? *Solomon's son.* What word will you put in the blank on #4? *Son.*



Solomon had been mean to the people at the end of his reign before he died. He had made them work hard with no rest. When Solomon's son Rehoboam took the throne, the people hoped that he would treat them better than Solomon had treated them. The people wanted someone to go and talk to Rehoboam and ask him to be kinder as a king. They needed someone to speak for them to the new king. So they sent Solomon's servant.

? Who was Solomon's servant? Look at your class notes for a hint. *Jeroboam*. How will you fill in #5 under Jeroboam on your class notes? *Servant*.

? And look at #7 on your class notes under Jeroboam. How would you complete that sentence? What did Jeroboam do for the people? *Spoke*.

Yes, Jeroboam, the servant, went to the new king, Rehoboam. Rehoboam was Solomon's son. Jeroboam spoke for the people and asked the new king if he would be kinder to the people than his father Solomon had been. Well, we're going to see what King Rehoboam said to Jeroboam. Listen as I read in 1 Kings 12:14. *Read 1 Kings 12:13–14 aloud.*

1 Kings 12:14

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

? Wow! Does it sound like Rehoboam was willing to change? *Allow answers.*

No! In fact, he was going to make their work load heavier and beat them with scourges—even more than his father Solomon had.

? Look at #6 under Rehoboam. How would you answer that? Look at the word bank. Which word goes there? *Mean*.

That's right! King Rehoboam was mean and refused to do what the people asked. The people got upset. Jeroboam came back and the people called for him. Listen to this. *Read 1 Kings 12:20 emphasizing they made him king over Israel.*

1 Kings 12:20

? What did the people do when the servant Jeroboam came back? *They made him king over Israel.*

Yes. The people didn't want Rehoboam as their king. So they made Jeroboam king over Israel. Look at #9 under Jeroboam. What will you put there? *King*.

*Refer to the map on the Lesson Theme Poster.* When Jeroboam became king over Israel in Rehoboam's place, the kingdom was split into two parts: Israel and Judah. Jerusalem was in the smaller kingdom of Judah to the south. Rehoboam was the king over Judah. Jeroboam was now the king over Israel, to the north. The nation was torn in two!

- ? Look at your class notes. There is one more line to fill in. How will you complete #8 under Rehoboam? What country did Rehoboam become the king over? *Judah.*

## Discover the Truth

What God had told Solomon before he died happened. Solomon's son was not the king over all of Israel. God had taken the kingdom away from him and he gave it to Solomon's servant, Jeroboam. Now, Rehoboam, Solomon's son, still had a small kingdom. But most of the kingdom went to Jeroboam—just like God had said.

*Refer again to the map on the Lesson Theme Poster.*



## Divided Kingdom Trivia Toss

### MATERIALS

- ☐ Divided Kingdom Trivia Cards (printed on cardstock or glued on construction paper)
- ☐ Divided Kingdom Answer Key and Instructions
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Beanbag

### PREPARATION

- ☐ Print the 12 Trivia Cards on cardstock.
- ☐ Put the cards facedown in a grid pattern on the floor.
- ☐ Tape a tossing line on the floor to show students where to stand.
- ☐ See the Divided Kingdom Answer Key and Instructions from the Resource DVD-ROM for more details.

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Divide the class into teams of 2–4 students.*

*One student from each team will toss the beanbag on top of a trivia card. If the student hits a card, the teacher will turn the card over and read the question to the team who threw the beanbag. The team should answer the question. If the answer is correct, remove the card and award the points on the card. If incorrect, put the card back down. Continue alternating teams until all of the questions have been answered correctly. Allow students to use the Lesson Theme Poster and their class notes to find the answers.*

Is everyone ready for a fun review of today's lesson? *Yes!*

We are going to play a form of beanbag toss! Were you paying attention? We'll see. You can use your class notes and the Lesson Theme Poster to help you answer the questions. It's better if you work together. One person from one team will toss the beanbag onto a card, if you answer the question correctly, your team will earn the number of points on the card. If not, the card goes back on the floor! *Play the game.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

King Solomon disobeyed God and fell into serious sin. Because God is just, He had to punish Solomon's sin. That punishment came when the kingdom was divided and Solomon's son was left with only a small part of the kingdom. You did a great job reviewing this lesson. God loves it when we obey Him and study His Word!





# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster.* King Solomon started off his reign as king well when he asked God for wisdom. But he sinned, just like all men do. He disobeyed God's commands for kings. He gathered many horses, many wives, and lots of wealth. Solomon did not stay true to the God of Israel. Sadly, he worshipped the gods of his wives—he turned to idolatry.

This is why God became angry with Solomon. He had to punish Solomon's sin and disobedience. So he took the kingdom from him. The kingdom was divided between King Rehoboam (Solomon's son) in the south and King Jeroboam (Solomon's servant) in the north. *Refer to the History of Israel Poster. Point out the place on the poster where the single line splits into two.* This is the point in Israel's history that we've been talking about today.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

God demands our obedience. And He will not tolerate His people worshipping anything other than Him. He is the Lord our God, and we should have no idols before Him. He calls us to love Him with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind.

We should read the Word of God and learn from it. Although we don't worship statues or idols, and you will never have 700 wives or husbands, we turn away from God in other ways. What do we watch on TV? What do we do when no one is looking? How do we treat our parents? Our brothers and sisters? Our teachers? Our friends? Are we living our lives so that others can see that we love God above everything else—and we want to obey Him and honor Him with every part of our lives? It is worth thinking about. God demands our obedience and will punish all disobedience.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**1 Chronicles 29:11** Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for His great love.
- Thank God for examples of people in His Word who we can learn from.
- Ask God to help us to love Him more than anything else.

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.