



*October 30, 2016*

Dear Teacher,

This week we see a tragedy unfold. What had been Israel's most glorious period, up till this point, is undone by not keeping God's commandments. Disobedience leads to downfall. Solomon's wives had influenced him to break God's commands and worship false gods. This resulted in a split kingdom that would come later in the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon's son. Interestingly enough, Rehoboam is faithful to God despite his failed policies. It's the northern kingdom of Israel and King Jeroboam that breaks covenant faithfulness with God. The following weeks and months we will weave in and out of kings and kingdoms, but we should always pause to remember it won't be like this forever. God will send a King to bring His people back together so that they can once again worship Him alone.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Kings: Bad Times Begin*

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 11, 12; 2 Chronicles 10, 13 (selected portions)

**Story:** Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 78 (Pages 169-172); The Gospel Story Bible, Pages, 122-123.

### Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps his promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God had given His people a king in the shepherd, David, and now David's son, Solomon would be king.
- Solomon is given wisdom and a heart of understanding; God was pleased to give this to Solomon and He gave him many other blessings.
- Solomon was also given the promise to build God's temple so Israel can worship Him.
- Solomon eventually turned his heart away from God because of the influence his wives had upon him.
- Solomon's wives worshipped false gods. Solomon built altars for these false gods.
- Because of Solomon's disobedience, God was going to tear the kingdom apart. This would be done during the reign of Solomon's son. His name was Rehoboam.
- Rehoboam would rule the southern kingdom of Judah; a man named Jeroboam ruled the northern kingdom of Israel.

## 9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

### Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 166, 165, 164)

*Craft:* Opposing Kings

*Supplies:* Cardstock Jeroboam and Rehoboam, popsicle sticks, tape, crayons/markers

*Instructions:* Color both kings, tape popsicle stick to the back of each king.



### Snack

## 11am Sunday Schedule

*Craft:* Divided Kingdom

*Supplies:* Cardstock coat, tissue paper, glue stick

*Instructions:* Glue tissue paper on top of each tribe name



**Story:** *Kings: Bad Times Begin*

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, last week we learned about King Solomon, do you remember? King Solomon was the wisest man in the world and was in charge of building God's temple. During King Solomon's rule things were peaceful and God's people were very happy. But King Solomon, despite being very wise, did some very foolish things. And this foolishness brought about the downfall of Israel's kingdom. Let's find out what King Solomon did that was so foolish.
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

### Questions for Review

**Scripture Memory (Psalm 51:1)**

**Catechism Questions (1-11)**

**Sing Songs (optional)**

**Free Play**

### Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What did Solomon do that God told Him not to do?
- How many wives did Solomon have?
- What was King Solomon known for?
- What was the name of Solomon's servant?
- Jeroboam's coat ended up in how many pieces?
- What was the name of Solomon's son?
- Who did Rehoboam listen to: the younger men or the older men?
- What did the older men tell Rehoboam to do?

Questions for Older Children:

- How many tribes made up the kingdom of Israel? Where was it located?
- How many tribes made up the kingdom of Judah? Where was it located?
- How does God keep His promise in this story?

### Scripture Memory for October:

“God, be merciful to me because you are loving. Because you are always ready to be merciful, wipe out all my wrongs.” Psalm 51:1

### Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 - Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*

### Story

#### **Review**

Boys and girls, last week we learned about King Solomon, do you remember? King Solomon was the wisest man in the world and was in charge of building God’s temple. During King Solomon’s rule things were peaceful and God’s people were very happy. But King Solomon, despite being very wise, did some very foolish things. And this foolishness brought about the downfall of Israel’s kingdom. Let’s find out what King Solomon did that was so foolish.

#### **The Downfall**

Solomon was known throughout the world during his lifetime. Many kings, queens and royalty would travel just to see and talk to King Solomon. Solomon was very popular. Solomon also had many wives. The Bible tells us Solomon had 700 wives and many of them did not worship God. Solomon’s first wife was a princess from Egypt, and when it came time to worship God she did not. She would go and worship the false gods of Egypt instead of the One, True God of Israel. God had told the Israelites many times not to marry people who did not worship Him. Solomon was disobeying God’s command and this disobedience would have bad consequences.

When Solomon became very old, his wives convinced him to no longer worship God. Solomon built places for his wives and others to worship false gods, or idols. These idols were figures that were made out of stone, wood or sometimes metal. Idols were created to look like animals or strange looking creatures. People would bow down and worship idols instead of the One, True God. God was very angry with Solomon for doing this. The Lord had spoken to Solomon twice telling him to turn away from worshipping these false gods, but Solomon did not listen to God. Then the Lord told Solomon, “You have not kept My covenant and you have not obeyed My commands. So I promise I will tear your kingdom away from you. I will give it to one of your servants. But I will not take it away while you are alive. This is because of my love for your father David. I will tear it away from your son when he becomes king. But I will not tear away all the kingdom from him. I will leave him one tribe to rule. I will do this because of David, my servant. And I will do it because of Jerusalem, the city I have chosen” (1 Kings 11:11-13).

### **A Future King**

Jeroboam [**pronunciation:** jerr-ro-bo-um] was one of Solomon's most trusted servants. One day Jeroboam was working in a field and God sent a prophet to him. The prophet came up to Jeroboam, took the new coat he was wearing off of himself and tore it into 12 pieces. Jeroboam was quite surprised by this! Then the prophet said to Jeroboam, 'Take 10 pieces of this coat for yourself. The Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I will tear the kingdom away from Solomon. Then I will give you 10 tribes.'"

It did not take long for Solomon to hear about this incident in the field, and so Jeroboam left Israel and escaped to Egypt to save his life. Jeroboam lived in Egypt until Solomon had passed away, and when he did Jeroboam traveled back to Jerusalem. When Solomon passed away, his son, Rehoboam [**pronunciation:** re-ho-bo-um] became king.

### **New King, New Taxes, New Kingdom**

Once Jeroboam came back from Egypt, the people of Israel wanted him and other leaders to speak to King Rehoboam. So Jeroboam and other men went to Rehoboam's palace. They said to King Rehoboam, "Your father, Solomon, forced us to work very hard. Now, make it easier for us. Don't make us work as hard as your father did. Then we will serve you" (1 Kings 12:4). Rehoboam needed some time to think so he said to them, "Come back in three days and I will give you my answer" and so the people left. (1 Kings 12:5) King Rehoboam needed advice to help make a decision. King Rehoboam asked his advisors what he should do. He said, "How do you think I should answer these people?" The older men, who had helped Solomon make decisions during his lifetime, answered, "You should be like a servant to them today. Serve them, and give them a kind answer. If you do, they will serve you always" (1 Kings 12:7).

But Rehoboam did not listen to this advice. He asked the young men who had grown up with him. They advised him in making decisions even though they did not have experience in ruling a kingdom. Rehoboam said, "The people said, 'Don't make us work as hard as your father did.' How do you think I should answer them? What is your advice?" The young men answered, "Those people came to you and said, 'Your father forced us to work very hard. Now make our work easier.' So you should tell them, 'My father forced you to work hard. But I will make you work even harder! My father beat you with whips. But I will beat you with whips that have sharp points'" (1 Kings 12:8-11).

Jeroboam and the people returned to hear King Rehoboam's answer. Rehoboam answered them harshly, "My father made your burdens heavy; I will make them heavier!" When the people heard this answer they were angry. They shouted back to Rehoboam, "'We have no share in David! We have no part in the son of Jesse! People of Israel, let's go to our own homes! Let David's son rule his own people!" And with this the people of Israel left the king's palace.

### **One Kingdom, Now Two Kingdoms**

Because of Rehoboam's harsh ruling to his servants something terrible happened. Many Israelites were angry by the King's ruling and so they called a meeting. The people invited Jeroboam to the meeting too. Those people came from ten tribes, what we will now call Israel, and decided to make Jeroboam king over all them. But you may remember there were twelve tribes total. And two of the tribes, Judah and Benjamin, continued to follow the family of David and stayed faithful to King Rehoboam. Judah was a very large tribe, but Benjamin was so small it was counted with Judah as one. King Rehoboam now ruled the Kingdom of Judah in the south. King Jeroboam ruled the Kingdom of Israel in the north [may help to repeat this a few times].

### **King Jeroboam Worships False Gods**

Jeroboam was not a very good king. Jeroboam was very afraid when he ruled because he thought people would leave his kingdom and go south to the kingdom of Judah. You see God's Temple was in Jerusalem, which was in the southern kingdom of Judah. Before the kingdom's split, God's people would travel from all over to worship there. But now that there were two kingdoms and God's Temple was in the southern kingdom, Jeroboam was afraid that

people would leave his kingdom and move to the southern kingdom of Judah. This would mean that King Jeroboam and Israel would be weaker than the southern kingdom of Judah. So Jeroboam decided to build two places of worship; one of the places was called Bethel and the other one Dan. These places of worship were not to worship God, but to worship false gods and idols. Jeroboam had golden calves made so the people could pray to them and worship them instead of the One, True God.

But there were many faithful followers of God in Israel and they did not like what Jeroboam was doing. These faithful followers decided to leave Israel and move to Judah, where the true God was worshipped. As the faithful followers of God moved to Judah, there were people who worshipped false gods in Judah. Those that worshipped false gods moved north to Israel. This ended up being one big swap of people! This made Israel very weak and bad. Israel was full of people who worshipped false gods and were disobedient to God's commands.

The kingdom of Israel and Judah now existed. God's people and their land were torn apart. God warned His people long ago when they wanted a king that this would happen. God told them that a king would fail them and lead them down paths that were bad. And yet one day God would send a King that would bring all of His people back to Him. This King was promised from long ago, and we know that God always keeps His Promises.