



November 6, 2016

Dear Teacher,

This week we look at the split kingdoms. We have Judah in the south, and Israel in the north. Israel has a very bad history with kings; many of them were wicked kings who did not love the Lord. This week we see a bad one, King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. But the kingdom of Judah had a better history with kings and this week we learn about one of them, King Asa. We should not forget that the Lord warned His people about the perils of having any king over them but Him (1 Samuel 8:10-18). Even the good moments for kings and kingdoms, like Asa and Judah, do not last. This was a promise God would keep; God wanted His people to see that He was their True and Rightful King. And as we know God always keeps His promises.

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: *Split*: The Divided Kingdom

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 13-16; 2 Chronicles 14, 15 (select portions)

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 79 (Pages 172-175)

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.
- 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.
- Jeroboam was a disobedient king and because of his disobedience, his family would no longer rule the kingdom of Israel.
- In the southern kingdom of Judah, King Asa was a good king who obeyed God. God blessed the southern kingdom of Judah with peace.
- The northern kingdom would have lots of bad kings, but the worst was King Ahab and his wife, Queen Jezebel.
- Ahab and Jezebel hated God and wanted people to worship false gods.
- Ahab and Jezebel's servant, Obadiah, however was faithful to God and hid the priests of God from Ahab and Jezebel

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: Happy/Sad Kingdoms

Supplies: 2 cardstock circles, crown, popsicle stick, tape, glue sticks, crayons/markers

Instructions: Glue crown to one circle and draw happy face, tape popsicle stick to the back of happy face circle, draw sad face on second circle, glue backs of circles together.



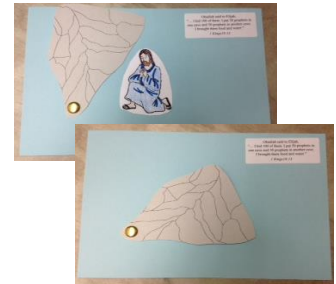
Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Priests in Hiding

Supplies: Blue background, kneeling priest, rock, brad, verse sticker, glue stick, crayons/markers

Instructions: Glue priest to center of blue background, secure rock to background with brad covering priest, place sticker on background, color as desired.



Story: *Split:* The Divided Kingdom

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, this week we continue to learn about how the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah continued to stay split. Remember, the kingdom of Israel was in the north and the kingdom of Judah in the south. This week we learn about a happy land and kingdom, and a sad land and kingdom. Let's find out which kingdom is sad and which one is happy.
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 (1 Kings 17:24)

Catechism Questions (1-12)

Hymn of the Month: Doxology

Free Play

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What kingdom did Jeroboam rule? Israel or Judah?
- Was Jeroboam a good king or a bad king?
- Why was he a bad king?
- Why did Jeroboam want his wife to go see the prophet of the Lord?
- Who was the king in the southern kingdom?
- Was Asa a good king or bad king?
- Why was Asa a good king?
- What were the names of the king and queen who were evil in Israel?
- What did Ahab and Jezebel worship?
- Who was the servant that hid God's priests?

Questions for Older Children:

- Where do we see God keep his promises in our story?
- What does that mean for the kings that are to rule?

Scripture Memory for November:

And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.” 1 Kings 17:24

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.*
- Question 12 – Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, this week we continue to learn about how the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah continued to stay split. Remember, the kingdom of Israel was in the north and the kingdom of Judah in the south. This week we learn about a happy land and kingdom, and a sad land and kingdom. Let’s find out which kingdom is sad and which one is happy.

King Jeroboam Worships False God’s

King Jeroboam [**pronunciation:** jerr-ro-bo-um] was not a very good king. King Jeroboam led the nation of Israel into worshipping false gods, called idols. These idols looked like cows but were solid gold. King Jeroboam was king of Israel for a very long time! One day as he stood beside the golden cow, a prophet of the Lord from the southern kingdom of Judah came to him. The prophet told Jeroboam that one day all of the golden cows he had made would be gone. A future king, who loved the Lord, would come and get rid of them.

The Prince Is Sick

God was displeased with King Jeroboam’s disobedience. Remember, Jeroboam had all the Israelites, God’s people, worshipping the golden cows instead of the One, True God. One day King Jeroboam’s son, the prince, became very ill. Jeroboam was very worried about his little boy. Jeroboam knew that the golden cows could not save his son or make him better; only God could do that. Jeroboam wanted to know if his little boy would live, so Jeroboam sent his wife to talk to a prophet of the Lord. Jeroboam thought that this prophet of the Lord would know if his little boy would get well. So Jeroboam sent his wife to the prophet of the Lord, but Jeroboam had her disguise herself so she would not be recognized! As Jeroboam’s wife made her way to the prophet’s home, the Lord came to the prophet and said, “Behold, the wife of Jeroboam is coming to ask you about her sick son; this is what you must say to her, for she will pretend to be another person.”

When the prophet heard the sound of the door and then Jeroboam's wife enter, he said to her, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam! Why are you pretending to be someone else? I have some bad news for you. Go tell Jeroboam, "The Lord God of Israel says, "I made you king over My people. I took the kingdom away from David's family and gave it to you! But all you have done is wickedness. I will no longer let your family rule over Israel. Your sons will not be kings of Israel." The prophet then told Jeroboam's wife, "Go home now, and when you enter into the city, your little boy will pass away." The prophet told Jeroboam's wife more, "Your little boy was the only one who loved the Lord God out of the whole family. He will be with God and will not suffer because of Jeroboam's wickedness." Jeroboam's wife made her way back home, and just as the prophet had said, once she stepped inside the city her little boy passed away.

All of Israel cried for the little boy. Not too soon after, sinful Jeroboam passed away too.

A Happy Land – Kingdom of Judah

While King Jeroboam was ruling in the northern kingdom of Israel, another king was ruling in the southern kingdom of Judah. The king of Judah's name was Asa [**pronunciation:** a-sa]. Asa was a good king. Asa destroyed all the idols that he could find, and commanded the people of Judah to worship the Lord.

For ten years there was no war in Judah. The kingdom was peaceful to live in. King Asa built high stonewalls around many of his cities to make them strong against any enemy. He trained a big army of soldiers for defense. It was not too long though that King Asa and his kingdom came under attack. An army from the land of Ethiopia, which is a country in Africa south of Egypt, attacked King Asa and his kingdom. And King Asa prayed to the Lord for help. King Asa said, "Lord, only you can help weak people against the strong. Help us, Lord our God. We depend on you. We fight against this large army in your name. Lord, you are our God. Don't let anyone win against you." The Lord heard Asa's prayer and helped King Asa. God gave King Asa and his men a great victory over the Ethiopians. The Bible tells us that the Ethiopians were defeated so badly, they did not even bother to pack up their things, they just left! King Asa and his men collected many nice things, cattle and sheep, and camels. King Asa and his men became richer after the war than they had been before. And again King Asa and the kingdom of Judah had peace because their enemies had learned to leave God's people alone. God sent a prophet to King Asa with this message: "Listen to me, Asa and all you people of Judah. The Lord is with you when you are with Him. If you obey the Lord, you will find Him. But if you leave Him, He will leave you."

King Asa called all the people of his kingdom together for a meeting. Many people came to Asa from Israel. They came because they saw that the Lord, Asa's God, was with him. At this meeting the people worshipped God with sacrifices and then they promised to serve God with all their heart, all their mind and all their strength. The people in Judah determined to get rid of all the false gods, or idols, in the kingdom of Judah. They only wanted to serve God. After the people of Judah made this commitment to God, they shouted their pledge to God. Trumpets and other musical instruments rang out at the same time. The people all clapped their hands because they were as happy as they could be. They were serving the True God, and nothing makes people so happy as to know that they are doing what God wants them to do. God gave the people of Judah peace, and no nation attacked them!

A Sad Land – Kingdom of Israel

While Judah was worshipping God and at peace, there were very bad things happening in the northern kingdom of Israel. Jeroboam's family was no longer around, and another king was ruling Israel. For many years and with many kings many bad things happened in Israel. None of the kings ruled too long and all of them were very wicked. One king that was especially bad was named Ahab [**pronunciation:** a-hab]. King Ahab was one of the worst kings Israel had. And his wife, Jezebel, was just as bad as he. Jezebel worshipped the idol Baal [**pronunciation:** ba-all]. Ahab wanted to please Jezebel and make her happy, so he built a temple for Baal in the city of Samaria. Queen Jezebel and King Ahab had almost one thousand priests to serve their false gods.

But there were still a few priests of God in Israel who tried to keep the people from worshipping these false gods. Jezebel tried to have these priests thrown in jail, and even worse, killed. Jezebel hated the Lord, and did everything she could to stop people from worshipping Him. Queen Jezebel wanted Israel to be a land of only idol worshippers.

Queen Jezebel had a very remarkable servant in her house. His name was Obadiah [**pronunciation:** oh-be-die-a]. Obadiah was a very important official in King Ahab and Queen Jezebel's kingdom. Obadiah trusted the true God. He tried to serve Him and to keep the Israelites from worshipping idols. When Jezebel tried to kill the priests of the Lord, Obadiah hid one hundred priests in caves, and fed them at his own expense. With wicked Ahab and Jezebel, the kingdom of Israel was almost all but lost to worshipping these false gods.