

Fellowship Kids

1st-3rd Grade Lesson Plan

Sunday, February 8

UNIT 13 | SESSION 1

THE KINGDOM DIVIDED

1 KINGS 11-13

MAIN POINT / CHRIST CONNECTION: Rehoboam made a wrong choice, and God's people split into two groups. But Jesus, our good King, brings together all who trust in Him and welcomes them into His kingdom forever.

CATECHISM QUESTION : Q) What is Sanctification? A) It is God making sinners holy in heart and conduct. (*John 17:17; Eph. 2:10; 4:22-24; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Th 5:23*)

MEMORY VERSE of the Month: 1 KINGS 8:60 - "...that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other." (ESV)

Preparation

Lesson Context

This Unit: Solomon's unfaithfulness to God led to a divided and troubled kingdom. Rather than seek the Lord wholeheartedly, the people of Israel and Judah turned to worship worthless idols. Yet, God did not forsake His people. Through the prophet Elijah, God demonstrated His presence, power, and preeminence as the one true God.

Volunteer Huddle | **8:45 a.m.**

Meet in the Threes classroom (first floor) for prayer and important info for this Sunday.

Prep Room | **8:50 a.m.**

- Put out activity pages (in Activity Box) and markers (in Teacher Box) on desks.

- If you'd like, put music on the Spotify app on the Roku TV.
- You can push tables back or to the sides to make space in the center or front of the room for activities.

Fellowship Time | 9:00 - 9:15 am

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Greet families at the door as they arrive. Allow children time to engage with one another and catch up. Use this time to get to know your students and hear about their week. What was a good part/hard part or “yay duck”/“yuck duck” of their week? If you'd like a prompting question for discussion, you can use the one below:

SAY: *Who do you know that would make a good king? Why?*

ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead children to choose a desk and give them **an Activity Page and markers** (in Activity Box). You can also give them blank paper to draw or some playdough (in Teacher Box) if you prefer.

SAY: *In today's story, we will learn how Solomon's unfaithfulness to God and Rehoboam's foolish sin divided the kingdom.*

REVIEW CLASSROOM RULES

Post the **Rules Poster** (in Activity Box) somewhere in the room.

1. **Be kind and respectful:** to your friends and teachers. Raise your hand and wait to be called; speak kindly to one another; use words and actions that build up and do not tear down; etc.
2. **Have a heart of obedience:** Listen to your teachers' instructions and obey fully, quickly, and joyfully!
3. **Have self control:** Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself; keep all chair legs on the ground; no running or rough housing. Do not touch one another; let's not poke each other, hit, kick, etc.

Group Activity | 9:10/9:15 am

DIVIDE IT UP

Form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each group with a bowl of pom-poms (in Activity Box) in a variety of colors. On your start, challenge kids to divide up the pom-poms according to their colors, placing each color in its own pile. The last group to finish is out. Repeat, until only one team remains.

SAY *Today, we will learn how the kingdom of God's people was divided into two kingdoms. We'll see how Rehoboam's foolish sin divided the kingdom. As we hear our story, we can be reminded that God is good to punish sin. But we'll also see how God is kind and gracious to sinners. Even though our own sin separates us from God, He is merciful to provide the way for us to be made right with Him through faith in Jesus.*

Lesson | 9:20 am

Ask students to return to their desks and pass out Bibles (in Teacher Box). Let them know of your expectations during the lesson: listening to the teacher, sitting quietly with hands and feet to themselves, etc.

1. Introduce the Lesson + Pray

SAY *Welcome, kids! I'm so glad you're here to study a story from the Bible. The Bible is full of true stories that help us know God and His plan to save people from sin. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]*

We've learned how Solomon, King David's son, was a wise king. But Solomon also sinned. He didn't obey God's commands, and his heart was turned to worship idols (1 Kings 11:1-4). Because of this, God said He would tear Solomon's kingdom away from him and give it to his servant (1 Kings 11:11-13). But God also said He would not do this while Solomon was alive. Today, we will see how God's words came true. After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. Through our story, we'll learn how Rehoboam's foolish sin divided the kingdom. Let's pray and prepare our hearts to hear God's Word.

2. Catechism Question

Use the **Catechism Question** posters to review previous questions and learn the new one for this week (in Activity Box).

SAY: *Let's learn a new catechism question today!*

Q) What is Sanctification?

A) It is God making sinners holy in heart and conduct.

After we place our trust in Jesus and are justified, God does a good work in us to make us able to obey and to desire to live like Jesus. This process is called sanctification.

Let's review all of the catechism questions together:

Q) What is sin?

A) Sin is going our own way instead of God's way.

Q) What is righteousness?

A) It is God's goodness.

Q) Did our Lord Jesus Christ ever sin?

A) No. He was holy, blameless, and undefiled.

Q) What kind of death did Christ die?

A) The painful and shameful death of the Cross in the place of sinners.

Q) What is Justification?

A) It is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned.

Q) What is Sanctification?

A) It is God making sinners holy in heart and conduct.

3. Using Bibles

SAY: *Today, we will be back in the book of 1 KINGS. This book tells us about the kings who ruled Israel and later Israel and Judah.*

1. *Is 1 KINGS in the Old or New Testament? (Old)*
2. *Turn to the Table of Contents at the front of your Bibles and look under the Old Testament category to find the book of 1 KINGS. Turn to that page number.*
3. *Once you've found 1 KINGS, I would like you to find chapter 11.*

4. Tell the Bible Story

Open your **Bible** to **1 KINGS 11** and ask children to turn in their Bibles.

THE KINGDOM DIVIDED

Solomon, the King of Israel, started out following God wholeheartedly, but later his heart was turned away from God. He was unfaithful to God by worshiping idols. The Lord was angry with him and said, “Since you have not kept my covenant and laws, I will tear your kingdom in two. One tribe will be given to your son, and the rest of Israel will follow another king.”

Later, a servant of King Solomon named Jeroboam was walking down the road when a prophet of the Lord met him. The prophet told Jeroboam that he would be the new king. Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but he fled to Egypt, where he remained until Solomon’s death.

After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam (ree huh BOH uhm) became the new king. Jeroboam (jer uh BOH uhm) and the people of Israel came to Rehoboam and said, “Your father Solomon was a very harsh king. We are willing to follow you as our king, if you will be less harsh with us.”

Rehoboam replied, “Come back in three days, and I will give you an answer to your request.” Then Rehoboam brought together the elders who had served his father Solomon. The elders gave Rehoboam very good advice: “Be a servant to the people, and speak kind words to them, and they will be your servants forever.”

Rehoboam did not like what the elders said and rejected their advice. He asked some young men he had grown up with what he should do. These young men said, “Show the people you are in charge! Tell them you are far more powerful than your father Solomon, and their lives will be much harder under your rule.”

When three days had passed, Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam to hear his reply. He told them, “My father made your work difficult, but I will make your work even more difficult. My father disciplined you; I will discipline you even further.”

When the people heard Rehoboam’s reply, they rebelled against him. All the tribes of Israel, except for the tribe of Judah, came together and made Jeroboam their king. Because of Rehoboam’s foolish and prideful sin, the people of God were now divided into two nations. King Rehoboam was king over Judah, and King Jeroboam was king over Israel.

4. Christ Connection

SAY: Rehoboam rejected good advice, and his foolish pride led to a divided kingdom. Jesus, the truly wise King, unites all who trust in Him and brings them into His kingdom forever.

Review & Video | 9:30 am

Bible Story Video

If you'd like, watch the **Bible lesson video** on the YouTube app on the TV (*YouTube account should be Fellowship Kids (switch accounts on the top of the left sidebar if not) > go to Library on the left side bar > Choose Playlists on the top > choose your classroom*).

Review the Bible Story

Invite children to **open their Bibles to 1 KINGS 12:6-16.**

SAY - Let's review a section of scripture from our Bible lesson today. Please turn to **1 KINGS 12:6-16. Have a volunteer read the passage.**

- 1. What did the old men tell Rehoboam to do?**
 - a. They told him to serve the people and to speak kindly and with good words to his people.*
- 2. What did the young men tell Rehoboam to do?**
 - a. They told him to be even harsher than his father. They told him to tell the people that he would add to their load and that while Solomon disciplined with whips, he would discipline with scorpions.*
- 3. Which advice did Rehoboam go with? What happened?**
 - a. Rehoboam went with the young men's advice and decided to be even harsher on the people. The result was that the country divided and broke apart from King Reheboam.*
- 4. Rehoboam did not choose to show mercy. Jesus is a good king who became a servant to his people and shows them mercy. What are some ways that He served and showed his people mercy?**

Pray

Ask students if they have any **prayer requests**. Pray about what you learned in the lesson and for any requests.

Memory Verse | 9:40 am

Show the **memory verse poster** (in Activity Box). Open your Bible to **1 KINGS 8:60** and lead the kids to read the verses together. You can also write the verse on the whiteboard so that children can see it more clearly.

“...that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other.”

- **1 KINGS 8:60**

MEMORY VERSE THEATER

Invite the class to say the memory verse in lots of fun ways. Some suggestions: loud, soft, Texan accent, high-pitched, low/deep, eyes closed, slow, fast, holding your nose, singing, holding your tongue, etc. Get creative and come up with your own fun ways to learn the memory verse.

SAY: *There is no one like our God! Only He is worthy of our worship.*

Extra Activity

COLOR THE MAP

Take out the **“A Kingdom Divided” coloring pages** (in Activity Box) and have kids use coloring pencils or markers to color the two different divisions: Israel and Judah. Talk about how the 12 tribes became divided up between the two kingdoms.

SAY Rehoboam chose to rule unwisely and unkindly and the result was that the kingdom divided into two. Ten tribes became Israel and were ruled by Jeroboam and 2 tribes became Judah and were ruled by Rehoboam.

Dismissal | 9:50 am

As parents arrive,

- Match the 4 digit code on the parent's tag to the child's tag
- Check out the child on the tablet by clicking the check box to the left of their name on the roster.
- **Give feedback!** Tell parents how the student did that morning.

Clean Up

- Wipe down tables if any messes were made with activities. [Magic eraser sponges can erase markings on desks.]
- Put teacher and activity items back in the Activity Box or Teacher Box.
- Place the TV remote in the white holder on the dry erase board.
- Return the small Activity Box, class tablet, and your lanyards to the check-in desk.