

Bible Story 20: THE KINGDOM DIVIDED INTO JUDAH AND ISRAEL

SCRIPTURE: 1 KINGS 11:43; 12:1-17,19-20; 14:21-23; 15:1-3,9-12,14-15

MEMORY VERSE: "EACH OF YOU SHOULD LOOK NOT ONLY TO YOUR OWN INTERESTS, BUT ALSO TO THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS." PHILIPPIANS 2:4 NIV

BIBLE STORY:

Solomon constructed the Temple in seven years and his palace in thirteen years. In order to do this he charged high taxes and demanded very difficult work from the Israelites. Solomon died and his son Rehoboam became the next king.

The Israelites asked Jereboam to make a request to King Rehoboam. The people wanted the new king not to be hard like his father, but reduce their workload. If he did this, the Israelites promised to serve the king.

When Rehoboam heard the request, he asked for advice. The elders advised him to be kind, while his young friends advised him to be harsher. Rehoboam did not accept good advice from his elders. He told Jeroboam that he would be even harsher to the people than his father. The Israelites did not like his response.

Until this time, all of Israel was one kingdom, divided into twelve tribes. All worked together, helping one another. In consequence to the harshness of the new king, there was a division among the people. The kingdom was divided into two parts: **Judah and Israel.**

Judah was the smaller kingdom in the south with only two tribes and Rehoboam continued to be their king.

D I V I S I O N

	JUDAH	ISRAEL
Location:	South	North
King:	Rehoboam	Jeroboam
Tribes:	2 Tribes (JUDAH AND BENJAMIM)	10 Tribes
Capital:	Jerusalem	Samaria
Worship:	Worship God in Jerusalem	Against God's will made two golden calves to worship in Bethel and Dan.

Israel was the larger kingdom in the north with ten tribes and Jereboam became their new king.

Because of the division, the people had many problems with their enemies and among themselves. As time passed, both kingdoms had several different kings.

In Israel the people worshiped false gods, idols. God was angry with the people when they did not worship only him.

In Judah King Rehoboam and his son worshiped God but also worshiped false gods, idols. God was angry, but was pleased when Asa became king. King Asa removed and destroyed the idols. Once again the people in Judah worshiped only God.

LIFE-LESSONS:

1. King Rehoboam did not accept good advice and his kingdom was divided. Avoid problems by accepting good advice.
2. King Rehoboam was harsh against the Israelites. Be kind and help others.
3. The Israelites disagreed and divided the kingdom. Listen to others when they disagree with you and seek to avoid angry disagreements.
4. The division brought many difficulties to the Israelites. If possible, be united with family members, co-workers, teammates, etc. Unity makes the family and team stronger.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did King Solomon demand his people to do in order to build the Temple and his palaces? Were the people happy about their treatment?
2. What did the people ask the new king, Rehoboam, to do?
3. Rehoboam asked for advice. What did the elders advise? What did his young friends advise?
4. Who are some people who can give you good advice? Are there some people who will advise you to do something wrong? Who? How can you tell when you are getting good or bad advice?
5. Which advice did Rehoboam take? Do you think he made a good decision? Why?
6. Do you think that Rehoboam listened to what the people wanted and needed, or do you think he did what was best for just himself? Why?
7. Why should you listen to someone who disagrees with you?
8. Is it right to be harsh to other people? How should we treat one another? Why?
9. How did the people of Israel react to Rehoboam’s decision? What happened?
10. Is it alright to disagree with someone? If someone disagrees with you, how should you react? How can you avoid fighting? Are there times that you should ever fight?
11. If you have offended someone by the manner in which you disagreed, what should you do?
12. If you have become angry with God, what should you do?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

– Bring two equal size ropes to class. Tie one end of a rope to an object, such as a table or chair. Then tie the end of another rope to the opposite side of the object. Let one person pull on one rope while another pulls on the opposite rope. After a short time, let both pull together on one rope and see what happens to the object. Then ask, *“Which was easier: pulling the object with different ropes in different directions, or pulling together on the same rope? Why?”* (You do not get far pulling against one another; there is more force pulling together.) Continue by saying that today’s story is about people that are pulling away from each other, going in different directions. Tell the story and apply Life-Lessons.

– Option: Use this as the presentation, instead of the ropes, before telling the Bible story.

GAME: “ROPE BATTLE”

– Outside, divide into two groups. One group holds one end of a long, strong rope, while the other group holds the opposite end. Mark with tape or chalk a center line on the floor/ground, dividing the group. Blow a whistle. Each side pulls, trying to get the other group on their side of the center line. Be careful so no one gets hurt.

GAME: “PING PONG BATTLE”

– Stand or kneel all around a table. Place a ping pong ball in the center. Each one blows, trying to get the ball to fall off on someone else’s side of the table. If you wish, whenever that happens, the side who blew it off gets a point.

PREPARE A FRUIT SALAD TOGETHER:

– Bring the ingredients for a fruit salad. Distribute tasks; peel, cut and prepare a fruit salad together. Afterwards enjoy eating it!
 – After eating, say, *“We had different kinds of fruit in our salad. Each one helped peel, cut and prepare it. Was the salad delicious? Each one present is different, special and beautiful. Together we are strong and beautiful, because we are united in God’s love.”*

GAME: “PUZZLE”

– As a group, join efforts and put a puzzle together. You may keep it on a table to work on during the week.
 – Buy or make puzzles. Give these puzzles to children in a hospital or orphanage, or give to elderly and sick people homebound, in a retirement village or hospital.

DAILY BIBLE READING - 1 Kings 11:43; 12:1-17,19-20; 14:21-23; 15:1-3,9-12,14-15

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
1 Kings 11:43; 12:1-5	1 Kings 12:6-11	1 Kings 12:12-17	1 Kings 12:19-20	1 Kings 14:21-23	1 Kings 15:1-3	1 Kings 15:9-12,14-15