

# Lesson 11: The Kingdom Divides – Jeroboam & Rehoboam

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Study **1 Kings 11-14** – See that Solomon turns from God and so does his descendants
- 2) Understand that God sticks to His promises – if He says disobedience will be punished, He means it.
- 3) Recognize that because of sin the kingdom of Israel was divided.

**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

## Supplies:

### Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Lesson Review Visual Aids – one for teacher from lesson 4
- Map of Tribes of Israel Visual Aid – to share
- Overview of Old Testament up to the Time of Kings – one for teacher to share with class
- The Divided Kingdom Map Activity – one per student
- Solomon's Sins Divide Activity – one per student

### Optional:

- Story book or visual aids to show students if available

### Snack:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| - 12 Small Pieces of Fruit (to represent divided kingdom) | 12 for each student |
| - Napkins   | one per student     |
| - Water/Cup   | one per student     |

## Lesson:

### 1) Introduction to Lesson

**5 minutes**

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.  
Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

\*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

Say to students: **Can I get you to start turning to 1 Kings now while we continue our introduction?**  
**1 Kings begins with the life of King Solomon.**

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

**Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at each picture name what happened and what we learned from that lesson.**

**Lesson 1:** Israelites wanted a king and rejected God – we learned we should be content

**Lesson 2:** Saul is anointed – we learned that we need to watch how people try to influence us and to be a positive influence on others.



**Lesson 3:** Saul is rejected by God for being disobedient. – we studied that Saul disobeyed God’s commands and was punished for his actions. We learned that we need to obey God to please Him.

**Lesson 4:** David is anointed and chosen by God. – we learned that it is not what you look like that matters but it is what your heart is like that does. David was a man after God’s own heart.

**Lesson 5:** God, through David, conquers Goliath. David stood up for God and we learned so should we. We don’t fight physically but we use the sword of the Spirit – the Word of God. We learned we can stand up for God when we trust in Him and study His Word so we can use it effectively to cut down the arguments of others.

**Lesson 6:** Saul seeks David’s life. God rescues David from Saul numerous times and we learned that we can and should trust in God to take care of us even in troubled times.

**Lesson 7:** Saul died for his disobedience and David becomes king. We learned that God will punish the guilty and exalt the humble. We need to be humble and obedient like David.

**Lesson 8:** David was kind to Mephibosheth – Jonathan’s son. We learned we need to be kind by doing loving acts for others, regardless if they are our enemies.

**Lesson 9:** David plans and Solomon builds the temple for the Lord. We learned that we need to dedicate our time and effort to God and that today, Christians are the temple of the Lord.

**Lesson 10:** God blessed Solomon with wisdom. We learned that we need to pray for and gain Godly wisdom through studying God’s Word.

## 2) Old Testament Overview

10 minutes

Ask students: **Which books of the Old Testament have we have studied so far?** (Genesis up until 1 Kings). Have students take turns reading from the sheet about each book of the Old Testament they have studied so far. Remind them that 1 Samuel to 2 Chronicles is the time in the books of History about the kings. That is the part we are studying now – the time of the kings.

Say: **You have studied so much of the Bible already! Look how many books we have been learning from. God is pleased when we study His Word. Today we will continue to study in 1 Kings about what happened to Solomon and his family after him.**

**From what we have seen so far in the life of Solomon, and with him having all wisdom, do you think he remained faithful to God?** Let students answer.

**Let’s find out! Turn to 1 Kings 10 now.**

Overview of the Old Testament up to the Time of Kings

The Law: The first five books of the Bible tell the beginning of the Jewish (Christian) nation and the beginning of Creation of all mankind.

Genesis	This book describes Creation, the first rebellion against God, and God’s blessing of Abraham and his family as God’s people – the Israelites.
Exodus	God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and led them to the wilderness of Sinai. There, He gave Moses the laws to govern the new nation.
Leviticus	God set up laws for the Israelites. Many of the laws were about being holy and worshipping God.
Numbers	Because of their rebellion and disobedience, the Israelites had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the promised land.
Deuteronomy	Just before his death, Moses made three emotional farewell speeches, recapping the journey of the Israelites and warning them about disobedience.
Books of History: The next twelve books continue the history of the Israelites. They record the life of David and established a kingdom that lasted almost 400 years.	
Joshua	After Moses’ death, Joshua commanded the armies that conquered much of the territory in the promised land of Canaan.
Judges	The new nation had a series of failures. God established leaders called “judges” to help guide the people and bring them back to God.
Ruth	This story of love and loyalty between two widows shines out brightly in an otherwise dark period of the time of judges.
1 Samuel	Israel became a kingdom under the rule of the judges and the time of the kings. We appointed Israel’s first king – Saul, after his own failure. Saul tried to please God’s will by King David, thus ending the time.
2 Samuel	David, a man after God’s own heart, brought the nation together. Not only conquering military and politics, he suffered family and personal failures.
1 Kings	Jeroboam became the next king. At his death, a civil war tore apart the nation. Later kings were mostly evil. The prophet Elijah had dramatic

## 3) Solomon’s Sins and End of Reign Activity Sheet

15-20 minutes

**Optional:** Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

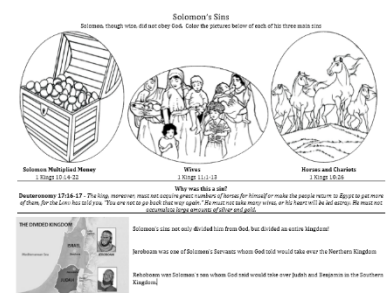
\*Show visual aid pictures while you read from the Bible.

Have students turn to and read **1 Kings 10:14-22, and 26.**

**What was Solomon doing with what God had blessed him with?** Collecting and building things for himself. Gathering a bunch of “stuff” including wealth, horses and chariots.

Hand out one Solomon’s Sins sheet to each student. Read the verse in Deuteronomy that is on the sheet.

**Deuteronomy 17:16-17** - *The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, “You are not to go back that way again.” He*



*must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.*

**According to this verse – what was a king NOT to do?** Gather great numbers of horses, take many wives, or gather large amounts of wealth (silver/gold).

**Was Solomon obeying God?** No, so far we see that he was collecting horses and wealth.

**So, looking at the pictures, which ones show the sins a king was not to do?** Gather wealth, horses, or wives.

Say: **We are going to study what God thought was absolutely terrible, something that should never be done. That term is an abomination.**

**Abomination means: a thing that causes disgust or loathing (hatred).**

Have students turn to **1 Kings 11:1-4 and 6-13** and ask a student, or yourself, to read.

**What did Solomon do?** Have a lot of wives! 700 wives and 300 concubines (women who were not wives but belonged to the king)

**What does verse 6 say Solomon did?** Evil!

**What did God say about marrying someone from a different religion/belief?** He said don't do it, for they will turn your heart after their false gods.

**Was God right?** Yes, Solomon did not remain faithful to God because of his choice to choose these women over God and to cling to these women.

**What did God tell Solomon would happen because of Solomon's sin?** The kingdom would be removed from his family and go to one of his servants. Yet, because of God's promise to David, David's family line would rule over Judah (and Benjamin). The remaining tribes would be taken away.

Hand out crayons and allow students to color the three pictures as you discuss questions and read through the Solomon's sins sheet. Talk about:

**How would each of the things God mentioned as a sin be a problem for a king (or for anyone):**

**Wealth** – trusting in money rather than God; instead of helping the people the king would be preoccupied with getting stuff for himself, etc.

**Wives** – would turn a king's heart away from trusting and serving and being faithful to God, would cause problems in the family with different religions being practiced, affect the children, etc.

**Horses/Chariots** – the king would trust in his army, rather than God.

**Before we finish the rest of this activity sheet. Let's learn what happened to Solomon and his family because of his sins...**

#### **4) Consequences of Sin – Rehoboam and Jeroboam – the Kingdom Divides**

**15 minutes**

\*Have visual aids of story and map ready to show students

Read **1 Kings 11:26-31 and 37-43** to learn of the servant that God foretold would take over 10 tribes of Israel from Solomon's family.

Show students the tribe of Ephraim where Jeroboam was from using the Map of the Tribes of Israel sheet. Remind the students there were 12 tribes.

Ask:

**How many tribes did Ahijah the prophet say Jeroboam was to receive from God?** 10

**What was God's promise to Jeroboam if Jeroboam remained faithful to God?** He would have a kingdom that would last, God would be with him, and Jeroboam would receive the 10 tribes of Israel.

**Who took over the kingdom after Solomon died?** His son Rehoboam.



## Read 1 Kings 12:1-16, 20-21, and 26-31

**Whose advice did Rehoboam listen to?** Listened to his friends.

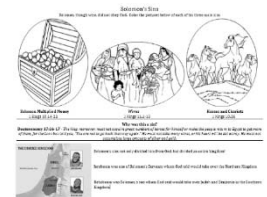
**Was that a good idea? Why?** No, because they made everyone angry and caused the kingdom to be separated because Rehoboam was being unnecessarily mean and cruel.

**What did Israel do when they heard Rehoboam's answer?** They removed themselves from his rule and left. Rehoboam kept Judah and Benjamin (see verse 21) and Jeroboam became king of the other 10 tribes as God had foretold.

**Remember that God said if Jeroboam would remain faithful to God that God would bless him?**

**What did Jeroboam do?** He disobeyed God, turned the people away by setting up two golden calves to worship instead of God!

Read through and have students finish the activity sheet on Solomon's sins – looking at Rehoboam and Jeroboam.



## Read 1 Kings 14:20-24

**We know that Jeroboam did evil during his reign of the Northern Kingdom Israel. What does the Bible say about Rehoboam's reign over Judah?** They did evil as well in worshipping false gods.

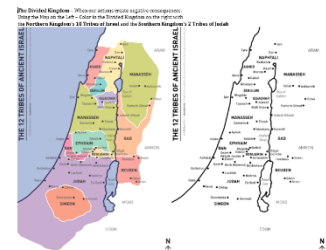
### 5) Divided Kingdom Map Activity

10 minutes

Hand out activity sheet, read the directions aloud and help students color the two different areas – the Northern and Southern Kingdoms.

While they are coloring, read the verses that show that Simeon joined the Northern Kingdom during this time so that only Judah and Benjamin remained under the control of Rehoboam.

Show also the two locations where Jeroboam set up the false golden calves.



Bible verses that mention Simeon being scattered and joining with the Northern tribe.

**Genesis 49:5-7** – Prophesied that Simeon would be scattered and dispersed because of Simeon's sin.

**2 Chronicles 15:8-9** – Later on during the time of the kings, when king Asa makes reforms, Simeon is mentioned as “large numbers had resettled back” to the area of Judah and under the Southern Kingdoms rule once they saw Asa turning back to God. So that implies that they had moved out of the area that was located within Judah to the Northern Kingdom and then resettled back later to the South in their land once the Judean king Asa turned to God.

### 6) Learning from Solomon's Sins

5 minutes

Say: **What did we learn today?** Let students answer. Discuss importance of obedience, asking advice from the right people, and why it is so important to remove sin as it not only affects you, but many people around you.

**Who are the kings we have studied so far?** Saul, David, Solomon and now today – Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

**What was Solomon's sins?** Accumulated wealth, horses/chariots, and wives.

**What was Rehoboam (Solomon's son's sins)?** Not heeding wise advice and being mean to his people instead of being willing to serve them. Allowing the people to worship false gods.

**What was Jeroboam's sin?** Turned the people away and disobeyed God by being unfaithful and building false idols - the golden calves to keep the people from wanting to worship God at the temple.

**The United Kingdom had lasted 120 years: Saul 40 years, David 40 years, and Solomon 40 years. After the death of Solomon, the kingdom divided with the Northern Kingdom (Israel) lasting a little over 200 years before being destroyed by the Assyrians in 721 BC. The Southern Kingdom (Judah) last a little over 300 years before being destroyed by Babylon about 586 BC. Both because they disobeyed God and the nation did not remain faithful to Him. In Judah there were a few good kings occasionally but overall, both the North and South turned from God which led them to punishment for their sins.**

**If you are able, read 1 Kings 10-14 at home this week for more details on what we studied today.**

### **7) Optional: Memory Verse**

**2-5 minutes**

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **Psalm 47:7** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: "For God is the King of all the earth" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point up when you say "GOD", pretend to put a crown on your head as you say "KING", make a circle shape with hands as you all say "EARTH", etc. and then go through verse as a class with gestures.

**Psalm 47:7** says:

***For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.***

### **8) Optional – Snack: 12 Small Pieces of Fruit (to represent divided kingdom) 5 minutes**

Hand out a few pieces to each student, ensuring you check for allergies first. Say, **this snack is to remind us that because Solomon and his descendants did not follow God, the kingdom was divided. How was the kingdom divided? Raise your hand if you remember?** 10 tribes became the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and 2 tribes (Judah and Benjamin) became the Southern Kingdom (Judah). **Count out and separate your fruit into the different tribes before snacking to remind you of how the kingdom was divided because of sin and how that reminds us of how sin divides people from God, their family, and others today.**

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands if needed. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking. What did they like best about today's Bible reading? What questions do they have about today's lesson?

### **9) Optional – Songs**

**5 minutes**

Have children sing songs with you from song list.

### **10) Close in prayer**

\*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

**Thank You Lord for all You provide us. God, help us to trust You as You rule over us. Help us to totally obey You and walk in Your ways. Forgive us when we sin and help us to remain faithful to you so we do not divide our families, others and our relationship with you because of our sins. Help us to take the time to devote and dedicate our lives to You for You are worthy, good, awesome and loving towards us. Give us wisdom Lord so we can serve others and You. In Jesus' name, amen.**