

# Lesson 12: The Divided Kingdoms – King Hezekiah

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Study parts of **2 Kings 18-20** and **2 Chron 29-33** – See an example of a good king reigning in Judah during the divided kingdoms and see the need to trust and pray
- 2) Review chart of the divided kingdoms
- 3) Understand the effects of pride by looking at Hezekiah's life

**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
- King Hezekiah Visual Aid – one for class to share
- The Divided Kingdom Chart – one per student
- Hezekiah Color Page and Questions – one per student
- Isaiah Stickers – one per student cut out before class, 10 on a page
- Scissors
- Glue sticks – to share

### Optional:

#### 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).

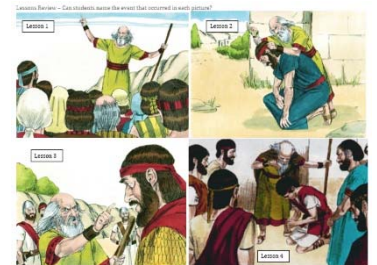
\*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

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.

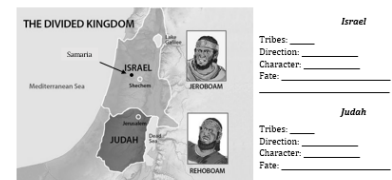
**Lesson 11:** Solomon turns from God and so does his descendants and because of sin, the kingdom was divided with Rehoboam in the south and Jeroboam in the north. We learned that sin divides!

## 2) The Divided Kingdom Overview Chart Fill In

10-15 minutes

- Hand out one chart to each student along with a pencil.
- Go through the first half of the chart as a class, having students take turns reading each section.
- Then help students fill in the missing areas. (Answers are in the chart). This is to review the divided kingdoms.

Divided Kingdoms		
	ISRAEL	JUDAH
Number of Tribes	10	2 (Judah and Benjamin)
Direction	Northern	Southern
First King	Jeroboam (Solomon's Servant)	Rehoboam (Solomon's Son)
Total Number of Kings	19	19 + one usurper
Character of Kings	All bad, some worse	Some bad, few good
Capitals	Samaria (earlier Shechem & Tirzah – 1 Kings 12:25, 14:17)	Jerusalem
Fate	Taken into Captivity by Assyrians in 721 BC	Taken into Captivity by Babylonians 586 BC



Have students listen while you discuss what they are going to do for the bottom half of the page.

Explain: **We are going to talk about one of the good kings of Judah**

**– that was the kingdom in the South ruled by one of David’s descendants - King Hezekiah. During the time King Hezekiah was ruling, Israel, the northern kingdom, was taken away into captivity for all the evil they had done. That means all the people in the northern 10 tribes were overtaken by the people called the Assyrians and the vast majority were exiled/removed from living in their land and were scattered.**

**Listen while we read from the Bible about God’s warning and explanation as to why the people of Israel were taken into captivity and removed.**

Read **2 Kings 17:9,13-16,18-23.**

**Ask:**

**Did God warn the people and offer them a chance to change?** Yes, He sent prophets to warn them

**Did they believe the prophets and God?** No

**What was the result of their unwillingness to change?** Led away as slaves and captives to another land, the land of the Assyrians.

**What does this teach us?** We need to listen and believe the warnings that the Bible and people in the church give us – including warnings given to the Israelites. We can push God too far and be unloving and unfaithful and be removed from His sight.

**\*Note: The Bible says – “as it is to this day”, meaning the day that the writer of 2 Kings wrote the book, not today that we are reading the book.**

Next, have students draw a picture of the northern kingdom (Israel) being captured and taken into captivity by the Assyrians. Say: **These same Assyrians would come up against King Hezekiah in the south later on and we will read about how Hezekiah dealt with this terrifying situation.**

### 3) King Hezekiah Color Page and Questions

20-30 minutes

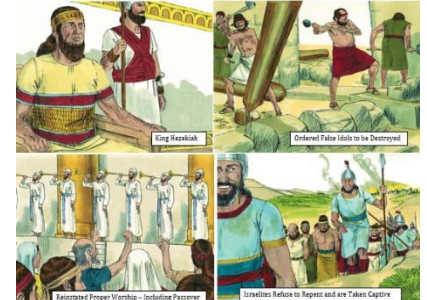
\*Show visual aid pictures while you read from the Bible.

Read **2 Kings 18:1-10**

**What did Hezekiah do that was right?** Removed false worship, trusted in God and obey Him.

**What happened to Israel in the north during this time?** They were taken captive in Hezekiah’s 6<sup>th</sup> year of reign.

Read **2 Chronicles 29:3, 27-29, 36 and 30:1-5,10-12**



Say: **after Assyria took the northern tribes they bragged and warned Hezekiah that they would conquer his territory as well (2 Kings 18). Listen to what Sennacherib King of Assyria said and Hezekiah’s response:**

Read **2 Kings 19:10-21, 32-37**

**What did King Hezekiah do with the threatening letter?** Showed God and prayed to Him for help. **Have you ever heard some bad news or got a letter, email, or note from someone saying something bad to you? Hopefully not, but if so, what should we do to deal with this type of situation?** Go to God in prayer and talk to Him!

**What happened to Sennacherib’s army and to him?** God destroyed 185,000 soldiers and Sennacherib himself was murdered by his own children!

**Did God take care of the situation for Hezekiah?** YES!

**Can God help us today as well?** YES!

**What else did Hezekiah do that was right?** Not only did he remove false worship and trusted and obeyed God, he prayed to God when facing trouble.

Hand out Hezekiah color sheet and discuss with students the first three answers to the question – what did Hezekiah do that was right. Let them color the picture of him showing the letter to God if desired. Stop there and save the rest of the sheet for the next section of the Bible reading. They can look at the pictures and/or visual aids while you read from the Bible.

See below for answers to the activity sheet

**After God rescued King Hezekiah and the people of Judah, Hezekiah became proud.**

Read **2 Kings 20:1-7, 12-19 and 2 Chronicles 32:22-31**

**What happened after God rescued Hezekiah from King Sennacherib?**

- Hezekiah became proud
- Became sick from a boil – a pussy growth on the skin. He was healed by God and granted 15 more years of life.
- During that 15 years he had a son who would become the most evil ruler of Judah
- Bragged to Babylon about his riches
- Was told through Isaiah that because of his pride and arrogance, Judah would be taken captive but not during his reign.
- Instead of praying like he used to do when told of bad situations, he said it was good and fine because it wouldn’t affect him! He was selfish

**In 2 Chronicles it says that God sent the Babylonian messengers so God would know all that was in Hezekiah's heart. What did Hezekiah's response to the Babylonian visitors show? That he was still prideful and boastful.**

**How did Hezekiah's pride cause sin?** He exposed Judah to Babylon by bragging about his wealth, he sinned in not turning to God as he used to, he had a son that didn't know and follow God like his father used to do because by the time he was born, his father had become arrogant and prideful.

**What was the result of his pride? Read 2 Kings 20:17** Judah would be carried away

**What was the result of his selfishness? Read 2 Kings 20:19** – Hezekiah's sinful response - Hezekiah did not pray for his sons and descendants as he did for his own life when he was ill.

**Let's finish the sheet by filling in the 2 main sins of Hezekiah.** Help students.

Finish the King Hezekiah sheet by filling in his sins and then color the picture at the bottom, cut out and glue a sticker of Isaiah on the picture and discuss any questions before moving on.

### Answers:

#### Did Right

- 1) Removed false worship areas
- 2) Trusted and obeyed God
- 3) Prayed to God when facing troubles (when sick and facing King of Assyria)



#### Did Wrong

- 1) Prideful
- 2) Selfish

While students color say: **Even though King Hezekiah did lots of reforms to turn the people back to God, he was boastful and proud in showing Babylon all that he had been blessed by God with. He was showing off. Hezekiah was selfish when he was told what would happen after he died and that Judah would fall and his children removed, he said it was good because it wouldn't affect him directly. He didn't pray for God to intercede as Hezekiah had done when facing King Sennacherib and when he found out he was sick and going to die earlier in his life.**

#### 4) Learning from Hezekiah's Life

5 minutes

Say: **What did we learn today?** Let students answer. That even though people may turn to God and bring other's to God, they may become prideful and selfish and cause problems for others because of their sin.

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

**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.

**What were Hezekiah's sins?** Pride and selfishness.

**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) lasted 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.**

**This week I encourage you to read 2 Kings 18-20 at home to review what we studied today.**

If time you can:

### **Review of the Main Points in Hezekiah's Life**

- 1) Reopened and cleansed the temple (2 Chronicles 29:3-36)
- 2) Great Passover feast (2 Chronicles 30:1-31) even invited northern kingdom to participate
- 3) Broke away from the Assyrians and trusted in the Lord (2 Kings 18:7)
- 4) Sennacherib's invasion – God rescued Judah
- 5) Hezekiah became prideful - in receiving gifts and praise for the positive result of God's rescue
- 6) Life extended 15 years
- 7) Visitors from Babylon – Hezekiah boasted of his riches
- 8) Was told that Judah would be carried away because of Hezekiah's sin and he didn't repent or care

### **5) 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.***

### **6) 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?

### **7) Optional – Songs**

**5 minutes**

Have children sing songs with you from song list.

### **8) 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, 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 awesome and loving towards us. Give us wisdom Lord so we can serve others and You. In Jesus' name, amen.**