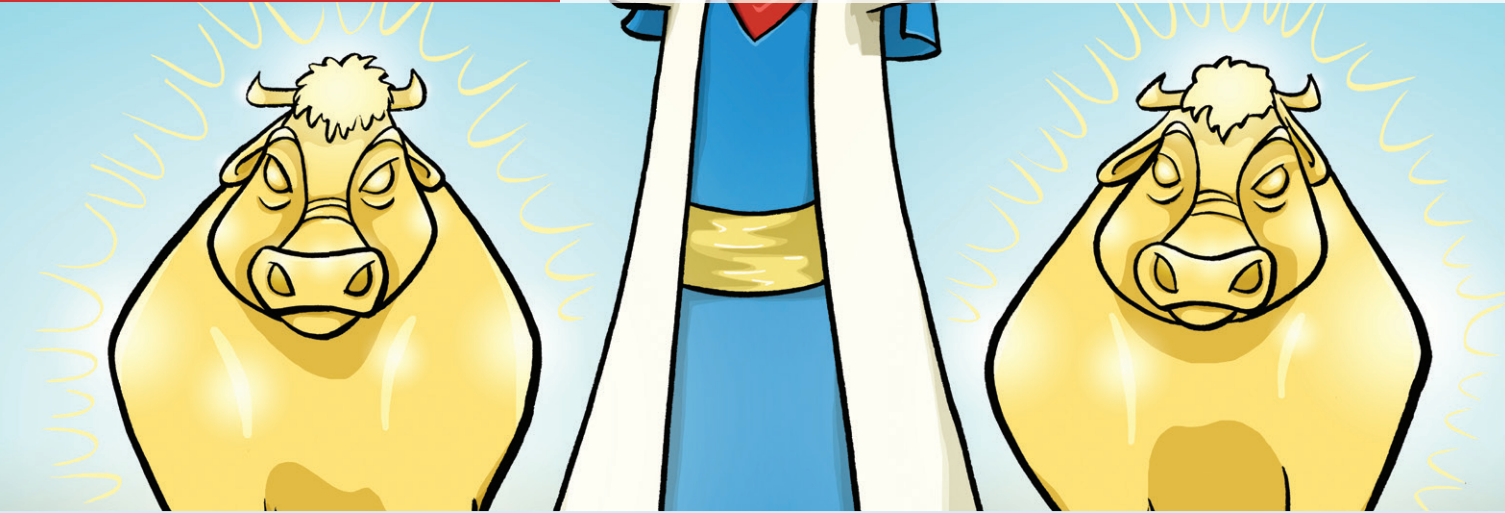


SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 27

God punishes Jeroboam

1 Kings 12:1–33; 14:1–18



DAY 1

God was faithful to Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1–24

READ

1 Kings 12:1–24

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Kings 12:1–24

It is discouraging to see people make foolish decisions, because their foolishness can hurt a lot of people. But we can find comfort knowing that God is in control even over people's folly. That's how it was with Rehoboam. He thought he was being clever when he chose to be Mr. Tough Guy (1 Kgs 12:6–14; cf. 4:7; 5:13), but his foolishness became clear pretty quickly when ten tribes rebelled, killed one of his officers and made Jeroboam their king (12:16–20). But even Rehoboam's foolishness was "a turn of affairs" from God (12:15). Everything happened just as God had promised. Ten tribes followed Jeroboam. One tribe, Judah, followed David's line (11:13). Benjamin's loyalty was split between north and south (12:21), and Levi, which was not counted among the twelve because it had no tribal land, remained faithful to David (2 Chr 11:14). Since God had ordained the north-south split, He stopped Rehoboam from beginning a civil war to try to take the ten tribes back by force (1 Kgs 12:24). Foolishness is never good, but not even this can frustrate God's plan.

ASK

1. What two promises did God make to Jeroboam?
God promised to make him king over 10 tribes of Israel, and He promised to make his descendants kings too if Jeroboam worshiped God (1 Kgs 11:26–39).
2. How did God keep His promise of giving 10 tribes to Jeroboam?
God used the foolishness of Rehoboam and his friends to tear Israel apart
3. How can this encourage you when things around you are going badly?
It reminds us that God is in control of the good and the bad

DISCUSS

1. Whose advice should you listen to? Do you choose to listen to those who are wise or to those who tell you what you like to hear?
2. Do you have any foolish rulers in authority over you? How do you react when you hear about their foolish decisions?

DAY 2

Jeroboam was unfaithful to God • 1 Kings 12:25–33

READ

1 Kings 12:25–33

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Kings 12:25–33

Jeroboam had just seen things come true exactly as God had predicted (1 Kings 11:31). So you would think that Jeroboam would have believed the last part of God's message: he would have a lasting dynasty only if he worshiped God (11:38). But like many people today, Jeroboam rejected God's word because he didn't think it was helpful in his specific situation (12:26–27). So he set up a counterfeit religion. He acted like a new Aaron (12:28), and made his new religion look official. But like false religions today, Jeroboam's religion was man-made. God alone is to be worshiped as the invisible God (Exod 20:3–6), but Jeroboam made images to represent God. God chose Jerusalem (2 Chr 6:6), but Jeroboam chose Bethel and Dan. God chose priests from the Levites (Num 3:10), but Jeroboam made a new priesthood from all tribes (1 Kgs 12:31). God ordained the Feast of Tabernacles on the 15th day of the 7th month (Num 29:12), but Jeroboam replaced it with a festival of his own on the 15th day of the 8th month (1 Kgs 12:32–33).

ASK

1. Did Jeroboam worship God?
No. He made two calf idols instead.
2. After Jeroboam became king over the 10 tribes of Israel, what did he make?
He made a false religion, including 2 golden calves, 2 places of worship, lots of other places of worship, a new priesthood, and a new religious festival.
3. Why did Jeroboam make a false religion?
Jeroboam was trying to protect his kingship.

DISCUSS

1. If Jeroboam truly wanted to protect his kingdom, what should he have done?
2. Have you come across any false religions today? Why are false religions so tricky?

DAY 3

God judged Jeroboam • 1 Kings 14:1–20

READ

1 Kings 14:1–20

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Kings 14:1–20

Jeroboam thought God was someone he could use, not someone he had to obey. So despite his counterfeit religion, he still hoped for a favorable word from God when his son was sick (1 Kgs 14:1–3). He saw God's prophet as a way to get what he wanted, not as a way to find out what God wanted. But God's prophet was not fooled. Though physically blind, Ahijah saw through the disguise of Jeroboam's wife (14:1–6).

Ahijah condemned Jeroboam for not following God as David had, even though God had proven His grace toward Him (14:5–9). Therefore, God would destroy the line of Jeroboam, cutting off every male descendant (14:10). Also, as Israel's king, Jeroboam's sin brought judgment on Israel as well. Israel would be exiled from the land (14:15–16). God's word came true. The sick son died immediately. And within a few years, the rest of Jeroboam's descendants were slaughtered (15:25–29). Then nearly 200 years later, Israel was driven into exile (2 Kgs 17:23). Because Jeroboam disobeyed God, he lost the blessing of a lasting dynasty and a secure kingdom.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Why did Jeroboam send his wife to God's prophet?
Not to do what God wanted, but to get what he wanted.
2. Was God's prophet fooled when Jeroboam's wife came to see him?
No. Though physically blind, God allowed him to see through her disguise.
3. Jeroboam sinned to try to secure his kingship, but what did he actually get?
The destruction of his family and the end of his dynasty.
4. How did Jeroboam's sin affect Israel?
Because Israel embraced Jeroboam's false worship, Israel would be exiled from the promised land.

DISCUSS 

1. When you do what is convenient instead of what is right, what happens?
2. Do you go to God often, or just in times of crisis? When you go to God, do you seek His will or try to get Him to do what you want?

DAY 4*The wise receive instruction • Proverbs 15:31–32***READ** 

Proverbs 15:31–33

EXPLAIN **The truth of Proverbs 15:31–33**

Solomon wrote the whole book of Proverbs about wisdom, but Rehoboam ignored his dad's instructions. Don't make the same mistake. Unlike Rehoboam, you should listen "to life-giving reproof" (Prov 15:31). This is how you get wisdom: by being willing to listen to and obey the godly counsel of others (15:32). This explains why so many people reject wisdom: wisdom requires humility. A proud heart refuses to listen to the warnings of others. Do you have a humble, teachable spirit? Rehoboam refused to be taught. He rejected the counsel of his father's experienced advisors in favor of his friends' foolish flattery. Instead of wisdom he chose insolence, resulting in "nothing but strife" (13:10). Rather than turn away the people's wrath with a soft answer, Rehoboam stirred up their anger by his harsh words (1 Kgs 12:13–14; Prov 15:1). So learn from his error, listen to God's advice, and be gentle even with our opponents (2 Tim 2:25). Imitate Jesus, a gentle leader whose burden is light (Matt 11:29–30). Be wise, and embrace humility and gentleness.

ASK 

1. Who wrote most of the book of Proverbs?
Solomon. Sadly, his son didn't pay attention to his father's wisdom.
2. How is wisdom gained?
A teachable spirit; being willing to hear and obey godly counsel.
3. Why do many people reject wisdom?
Pride.
3. Why did Rehoboam refuse to listen to good counsel?
Because his friends' counsel made him feel important and powerful.

DISCUSS 

1. Do you truly listen to others, or are you already preparing what you're going to say in response while they're talking to you?
2. Who would you go to right now if you had a problem and needed advice? Why would you go to this person?

DAY 5

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life • John 14:6

READ

John 14:1-15

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 14:6

Man-made religion is more appealing to sinful people than true religion. To them, Jeroboam's religion felt more "real" because of the visible images. It was more tolerant, welcoming contributions from various religious traditions. It was more inclusive, allowing anyone to become a priest. It was more accessible, opening up two central places of worship as well as shrines throughout the land (1 Kgs 13:32). But like all man-made religion, it was an abomination, for God hates unauthorized worship (Exod 20:3-6; Lev 10:1-3). You can only come to God His way, through Jesus Christ (John 14:6). There are not many paths to God. There is only one. Jesus is the only way. If Jesus is the only way, then worship Him, and worship Him alone! If you do not properly worship God, nothing else you accomplish in your life matters. Rather than worship your own security or make up a religion for your own convenience, turn to "the way, the truth, and the life," and keep His commands (14:6, 15). Unless you do, your end will be worse than that of Jeroboam and his family (Rev 21:8).

ASK

1. Why did Israel like Jeroboam's man-made religion?
Because it felt good to their sinful hearts.
2. Why was Jeroboam's man-made religion an abomination?
Because he created his own way to come to God.
3. How many paths are there to God?
One. We may only come to God through His Son, Jesus Christ (John 14:6).
4. What does false religion produce?
Eternal death and separation from God (Rev 21:8).

DISCUSS

1. Why do people create false religions?
2. How would you respond to someone who said: "We're all on different paths, but we're all heading toward the same God"?

NEXT WEEK

Elijah and the prophets of Baal

1 Kings 16:29-17:1; 18:1-2, 17-46





God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1-33; 14:1-18



God hates false worship.

LESSON 27

God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1-33; 14:1-18



God removes His blessing from those who do not worship Him.



God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1-33; 14:1-18



Jeroboam's Offering

See page 142 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 2



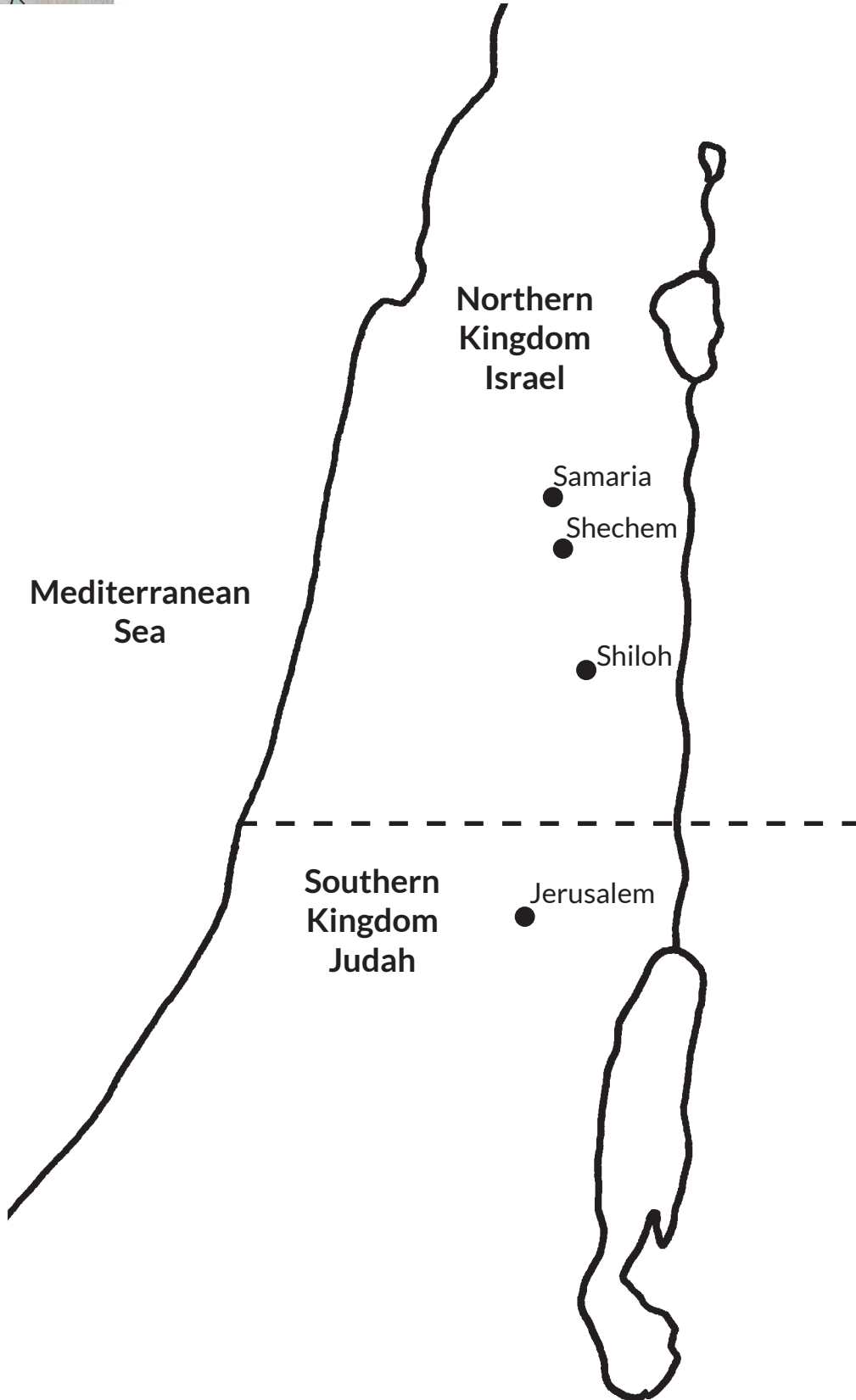
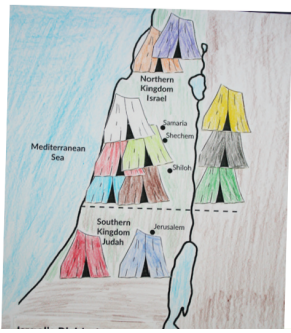
“So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, ‘You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt’” (1 Kings 12:28).



God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1-33; 14:1-18

Israel's Divided Kingdom

See page 143 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 2

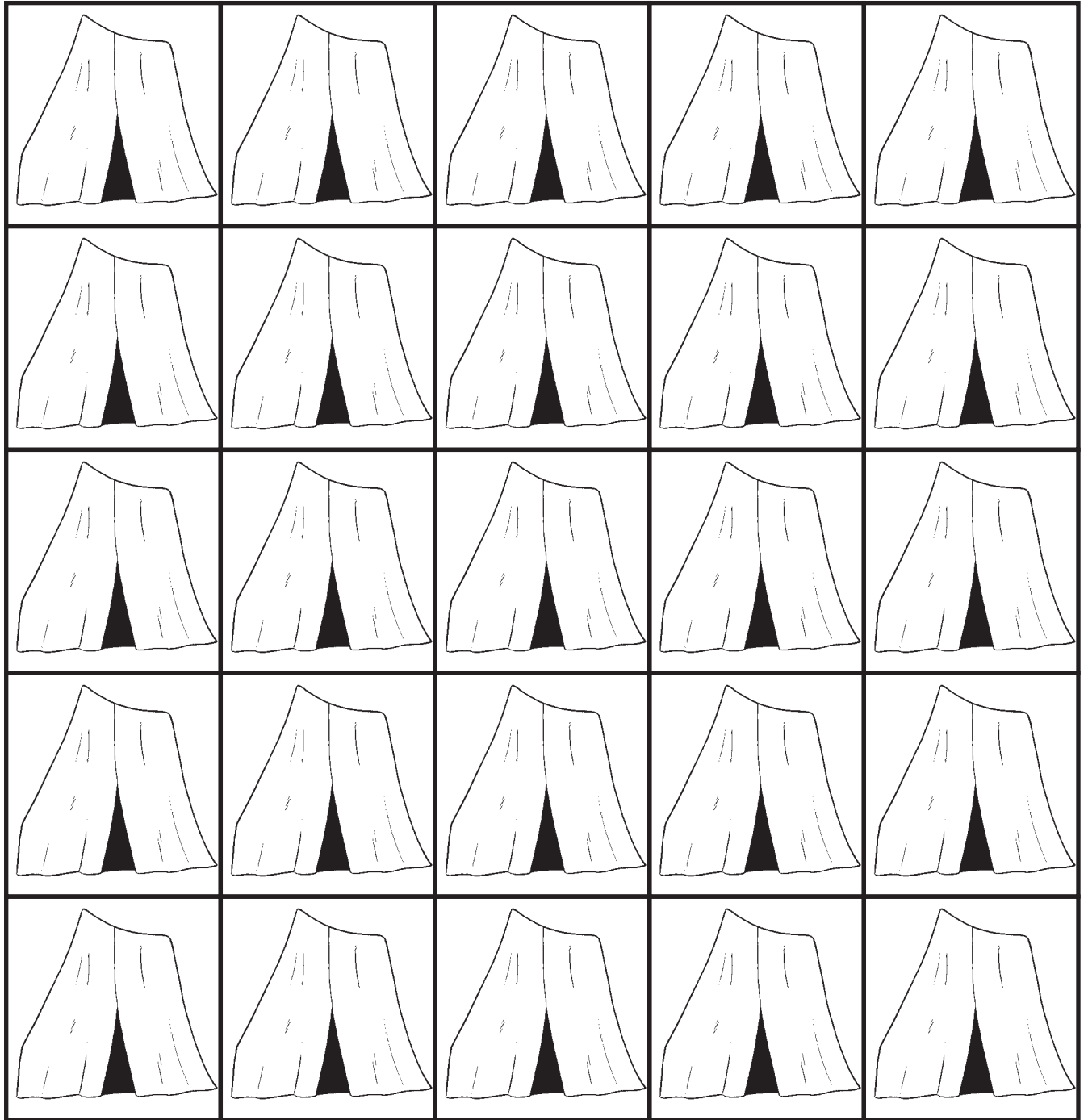




God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1-33; 14:1-18

Israel's Divided Kingdom

See page 143 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 2





LESSON 27

God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1-33; 14:1-18

Which Is Bigger?

Circle the picture that is bigger than the first one on the left.



Jeroboam created a counterfeit religion and led the ten northern tribes of Israel astray. As a result, God destroyed Jeroboam's dynasty and declared Israel's coming exile.



God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1-33; 14:1-18

Hidden Message

Find the words in the list below. The words may appear horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or backwards. Starting in the upper left, the one-sentence hidden message will be revealed in the letters that were not selected as you read left to right. Write the message in the blanks at the bottom of the page.

D I M F G W E J D G O L N O T
 P E R A O O E P R E R U L Y W
 O R S S O R L A H I P F G O D
 N O T T O B C D H I N H G E L
 S E W B R I O E E A C T C O M
 P L O I O U S H H N N I I N O
 U A R U L I C V E G E A S H M
 M I S R A E L T I R A F A T T
 P I H S R O W E I J U D G E D
 M E L A S U R E J O U A C E R
 L E V I T E S S U J N H A M F
 M H H V V E L I L E Q I L Y M
 I D R O T D Z Q M D W J V T G
 B V S Z L F F L N O Q A E G E
 Q N D Y I U E X I L E H S Q G

AHIJAH
CALVES
DESTRUCTION
EXILE

FAITHFUL
GOLDEN
GRACIOUS
ISRAEL

JEROBOAM
JERUSALEM
JUDAH
JUDGED

LEVITES
REHOBAM
SOVEREIGN
WORSHIP

Hidden Message:

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LESSON 27

God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1-33; 14:1-18

Arrange the Letter Tiles

Rearrange the tiles to reveal how kept His word
(8 of the tiles have already been set in place for you).

ST A	I V I D	S H E	- 3 7)	M ' S	E K I
H A D	O B O A	M I S E	P R O	E T H	I S H N
G O D	U S E D	.	R E H	F O O L	G S 1
K I N	1 : 3 5	T O D	E S S	M J U	D (1
N G D O					

		R E H			
I S H N		T O D		E T H	
	M J U		S H E		P R O
				1 : 3 5	

Rearrange the tiles to reveal why God preserved Rehoboam's line
(8 of the tiles have already been set in place for you).

S C E N	M .	O P P	O B O A	I N E	S T ,
' S L	E R V E	D A N T	S D E	O S I T	S U S
A K I	T H E	E O F	W O U	U I T E	E H I
N G Q	E J E	W A S	D B E	R E H	P R E S
C H R I	R E H O	B O A M	L D B	C A U S	

R E H O					P R E S
E R V E		C A U S		S D E	
	W O U				
	A K I			T H E	



God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1-33; 14:1-18

See What You Know!

NAME _____

God takes His blessing away from those who do not worship Him.

1. Who was Rehoboam's father?

David Asaph Solomon Saul

2. The people of Israel asked Rehoboam to make their yoke _____.

heavy medium over easy light

3. Did Rehoboam listen to the advice of the elders?

Yes No

4. Whom did Israel choose for their new king?

David Rehoboam Jeroboam Solomon

5. What kind of idols did Jeroboam make in 1 Kings 12:28?

Bronzes Fish Silver Bulls Golden Calves

6. First Kings 14:9 says Jeroboam had done more _____ than all who were before him.

charity malice good evil

7. How did God punish Jeroboam? _____ .

8. Define the word *worship*. _____

9. How should you worship God? What do you need to do before you can worship Him? _



LESSON 27

God punishes Jeroboam

1 KINGS 12:1-33; 14:1-18



God takes His blessing away from those who do not worship Him.



“But you...have cast me behind your back, therefore behold, I will bring harm upon the house of Jeroboam and will cut off from Jeroboam every male, both bond and free in Israel, and will burn up the house of Jeroboam, as a man burns up dung until it is all gone” (1 Kgs 14:9–10).

Supporting Truths

1. God punishes those who do not worship Him.
2. God keeps His promises to bless because He is sovereign.
3. God requires true worship.
4. God hates false worship.
5. God’s word is certain.

Objectives

1. State that God caused all of Jeroboam’s descendants to die.
2. Explain how God caused His promise to make Jeroboam king to come true.
3. State what God required of Jeroboam in order to bless him with a lasting dynasty.
4. List several characteristics of Jeroboam’s false religion.
5. Compare Jeroboam’s efforts to secure His kingdom to God’s promises.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1–33; 14:1–18



Lesson Summary

The book of Kings proves that God was right to judge Israel. But it also shows His mercy in preserving a remnant in order to restore Israel one day. First Kings 12–14 is a part of this picture. God left a remnant to Rehoboam despite his foolishness, but God also chose to bless Jeroboam. Tragically, instead of worshiping God, Jeroboam created a counterfeit religion and led the ten northern tribes of Israel astray. As a result, God destroyed Jeroboam's dynasty and declared Israel's coming exile.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Rehoboam and Jeroboam both point to the gospel. Rehoboam's line was preserved because his descendant would be Jesus Christ, a wise and gentle king quite the opposite of Rehoboam. Jeroboam's line was destroyed because he was not devoted to God in true worship, showing that those who come to God must come on His terms: by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. This faith produces obedience to God's commands.

LAST WEEK



God punishes Solomon
1 Kings 11:1–43

THIS WEEK



God punishes Jeroboam
1 Kings 12:1–33;
14:1–18

NEXT WEEK



Elijah and the prophets
of Baal
1 Kings 16:29–17:1;
18:1–2, 17–46

UNITED KINGDOM

DIVIDED KINGDOM

Lesson Commentary

God takes His blessing away from those who do not worship Him.

First Kings 11 records the tragedy of Solomon's divided heart. In response to Solomon's sin, God promised to divide his kingdom. God would honor His promise to preserve the line of David, but now He offered a lasting dynasty to Jeroboam as well (1 Kgs 11:38). In 1 Kings 12–14, God's word proved true. But Jeroboam proved false. Because Jeroboam refused to worship the LORD like David did, the LORD took away the blessing He had offered to Jeroboam.

The LORD was faithful to Jeroboam (12:1–24)

God brought about His plan through wise Solomon's foolish son, Rehoboam. Rehoboam did not like the gentle advice of his father's experienced advisers, so he turned to his friends who told him what he wanted to hear (12:6–10). Their foolish counsel was

thoughtless and harsh. But it flattered Rehoboam, and he liked it. So instead of lightening the load on the people, he would require even more labor and taxes than his father (12:14; 4:7; 5:13).

Rehoboam should have paid attention to his father's proverbs and listened "to life-giving reproof" (Prov 15:31). Instead, he chose insolence, resulting in "nothing but strife" (13:10). Rather than turn away the people's wrath with a soft answer, Rehoboam stirred up their anger by his harsh words (1 Kgs 12:13–14; Prov 15:1). We should learn from his error, listen to God's advice, and be gentle even with our opponents (2 Tim 2:25). We should imitate Jesus, a gentle leader whose burden is light (Matt 11:29–30).

Rehoboam thought he was being clever to get his way, but "it was a turn of affairs" from God (1 Kgs 12:15). God outsmarts those who try to outsmart Him (Ps 18:25–26). He is *in control*. He is *sovereign* over rulers (Dan 2:21), over nations (2:37–45), over human plans (Prov 16:9) and even over foolishness and sin

(Gen 50:20). He directs the hearts of kings wherever He pleases (Prov 21:1).

God used Rehoboam's foolishness to divide the kingdom just as He had promised (1 Kgs 11:35–37). Israel rejected David's descendant, using the same words as past rebels (1 Kgs 12:16; 2 Sam 20:1). When Rehoboam foolishly tried to enforce his harsh policies, the ten northern tribes executed Rehoboam's chief of taxation and forced labor (1 Kgs 12:18). Then these tribes—Reuben, Simeon (cf. 1 Chr 12:23–25; 2 Chr 15:9; 34:6), Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, and Ephraim—made Jeroboam their king (1 Kgs 12:20), just as God had promised. One tribe, Judah, remained faithful to David's line, just as God had promised (11:13). Benjamin's loyalty was split between north and south (12:21), and Levi, which was not counted among the twelve because it had no tribal land, remained faithful to David (2 Chr 11:14).

When Rehoboam gathered troops in order to take back the ten tribes by force, God stopped him and prevented civil war (1 Kgs 12:24). Since God had ordained the north-south split, any attempt to reunite the kingdom would be in direct opposition to God's will. In all this, God proved Himself *faithful* by *keeping His word*, but also *gracious* by *preventing further evil*. This time Rehoboam listened.

Jeroboam was unfaithful to the LORD (12:25–33)

After seeing God's faithfulness to His word, Jeroboam should have trusted God. God had promised Jeroboam a lasting dynasty if he did what was right (11:38). But Jeroboam, like many people today, rejected God's word because he didn't think it was helpful in his specific situation. From a human perspective, his plan to secure his kingship was smart (12:27; 11:28). But Jeroboam's plan was senseless, because he trusted in his own wisdom and scorned the promise of God.

To prevent Israel from going back to Judah, Jeroboam set up a counterfeit religion. This is Satan's specialty: creating false religions that seem like true religion (Gal



THINK ABOUT IT

We need not worry about evil doers, for God is in control (Ps 37:1–2).

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1–33; 14:1–18



1:8; Rev 13). Acting like a new Aaron, Jeroboam built two golden calves. He put one in Bethel, where Abraham and Jacob had worshiped the true God (Gen 12:8; 13:3–4; 28:10–22; 31:13; 35:1–16), and one in Dan, where Moses' grandson established idolatrous worship (Judg 18:30). He even used the same words as Aaron—"Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt"—to dedicate his idolatrous images (12:28). Jeroboam's religion looked official, but it was false.

Like false religions today, Jeroboam's religion was man-made. The LORD alone is to be worshiped as the invisible God (Exod 20:3–6), but Jeroboam made images to represent God. The



THINK ABOUT IT

We can only come to God His way, through Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

LORD chose Jerusalem (2 Chr 6:6), but Jeroboam chose Bethel and Dan. The LORD chose priests from the Levites (Num 3:10), but Jeroboam made a new priesthood from all tribes (1 Kgs 12:31). Yahweh ordained the Feast of Tabernacles on the 15th day of the 7th month (Num 29:12), but Jeroboam replaced it with a festival of his own on the 15th day of the 8th month (1 Kgs 12:32–33).

Jeroboam's man-made religion may have felt more "real" because of the visible images. It was more tolerant, welcoming contributions from various religious traditions. It was more inclusive, allowing anyone to become a priest. It was more accessible, opening up two central places of worship as well as shrines throughout the land (13:32). It was the kind of religion many people are in love with today. But it was an abomination, for God hates unauthorized worship (Exod 20:3–6; Lev 10:1–3).

The LORD judged Jeroboam (14:1–20)

Despite leading Israel into counterfeit worship, Jeroboam still hoped for a favorable word from God when his son was sick (1 Kgs 14:1–3). Like the crowds that would later follow Jesus, Jeroboam had a view of God that was selfish and manipulating (John 6:26). He saw God's prophet as a way to get what he wanted, not as a way to determine

what God wanted. He wanted God's help in his trouble but not God's rule over his life.

But God's prophet was not fooled. Though physically blind, God enabled Ahijah to see through the disguise of Jeroboam's wife (1 Kgs 14:1–6). Ahijah condemned Jeroboam for not following the LORD as David had, even though the LORD had proven His grace toward Him (14:5–9). Therefore, God would destroy the line of Jeroboam, cutting off every male descendant (14:10). The destruction would be so complete that Jeroboam's descendants would lack even a proper burial (14:11; cf. Deut 28:26). Finally, as Israel's king, Jeroboam's sin brought judgment on Israel as well. Israel would be exiled from the land (14:15–16).

God's word came true. The sick son died immediately.

This was evidence of God's mercy, since this son alone had a proper burial (14:12–13). But it was also proof of judgment to come (14:13,

17–18). Within a few years, the rest of Jeroboam's descendants were slaughtered (15:25–29). Then nearly 200 years later, Israel was driven into exile (2 Kgs 17:23). Because Jeroboam disobeyed God, he lost the blessing of a lasting dynasty and a secure kingdom.

The story ends by saying that the record of Jeroboam's wars and reign can be read elsewhere (1 Kgs 14:19). In other words, God is not impressed by a person's great earthly accomplishments. What matters to God is *worship, to honor God by obeying, serving, and adoring Him in the way He requires*. If we do not properly worship God, nothing else we accomplish in our lives matters. Rather than worship our own security or concoct a religion for our own convenience, we must turn to "the way, the truth, and the life," Jesus Christ (John 14:6), and keep His commands (14:15). Unless we do, our end will be worse than that of Jeroboam and his family (Rev 21:8).

THINK ABOUT IT
The disobedient will not enjoy God's blessings (Deut 28).



Lesson Outline

God takes His blessing away from those who do not worship Him.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. The LORD made Jeroboam king of Israel (12:1–24).
2. Jeroboam did not worship the LORD (12:25–33).
3. The LORD punished Jeroboam (14:1–18).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. The LORD was faithful to Jeroboam (12:1–24).
 - Rehoboam acted foolishly and Israel rejected him (12:1–19).
 - Jeroboam became king of Israel; Rehoboam was king of Judah (12:20).
 - This division was from the LORD (12:21–24).
2. Jeroboam was unfaithful to the LORD (12:25–33).
 - Jeroboam set up golden calves to replace worship at the temple (12:25–30).
 - Jeroboam set up priests to replace the Levites (12:31).
 - Jeroboam set up a festival to replace the festival in Jerusalem (12:32–33).
3. The LORD judged Jeroboam (14:1–20).
 - Jeroboam still tried to seek the LORD's help (14:1–3).
 - Ahijah condemned Jeroboam for not following the LORD as David had (14:4–9).
 - Ahijah prophesied destruction for Jeroboam and exile for Israel (14:10–16).
 - Jeroboam's son died and Jeroboam died (14:17–20).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Who did God promise to be king over 10 tribes of Israel?**
Jeroboam.
- 2. Did God keep His promise?**
Yes. Jeroboam became king over the 10 northern tribes of Israel.
- 3. Did Jeroboam worship God?**
No. He made two calf idols instead.
- 4. Did Jeroboam's descendants become kings after him?**
No. God caused them all to be killed because of Jeroboam's disobedience.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. What two promises did God make to Jeroboam?**
God promised to make him king over 10 tribes of Israel, and He promised to make his descendants kings too if Jeroboam worshiped God.
- 2. How did God keep His promise of giving 10 tribes to Jeroboam?**
God used the foolishness of Rehoboam and his friends to tear Israel apart.
- 3. How can this encourage you when things around you are going badly?**
It reminds us that God is in control of the good and the bad.
- 4. After Jeroboam became king over the 10 tribes of Israel, what did he make?**
He made a false religion, including 2 golden calves, 2 places of worship, lots of other places of worship, a new priesthood, and a new religious festival.
- 5. Why did Jeroboam make a false religion?**
Jeroboam was trying to protect his kingship.
- 6. What does Jeroboam's religion show us about false worship?**
False worship can look a lot like real worship, but it is from man, not from God. It may also be more convenient, tolerant, inclusive, and even more real looking. However, it is the enemy of true worship and leads to death.
- 7. Jeroboam sinned to try to secure his kingship, but what did he actually get?**
The destruction of his family and the end of his dynasty.
- 8. How did Jeroboam's sin affect Israel?**
Because Israel embraced Jeroboam's false worship, Israel would be exiled from the promised land about 200 years later.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



GET INSIDE JUDAH

Lay two hula hoops on the floor. Break the class into two teams. Name one Israel and the other Judah. Because Rehoboam listened to poor advice, God allowed Israel to be broken into two parts. One was called Israel and the other Judah. The object of the game is to get as many team members into the team's "country" (hoop) without touching anything outside the hoop. The children will only have each other to keep their balance. The country with the most children wins.

THE BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE

Some children have a hard time finishing their dinner. To encourage their children to eat all their food, some parents promise their children a small treat after dinner if they eat everything on their plate. However, if they don't finish their dinner, they don't get the treat. That's like our story today. God had a blessing all ready for Jeroboam, but Jeroboam could not have the blessing unless he worshiped God.



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Glue a map of ancient Israel to the outside of an egg carton. Fill the egg carton with 12 plastic eggs and write the names of the 12 tribes of Israel on the eggs, one tribe per egg. Place the "Judah" and "Benjamin" eggs next to each other on one end of the carton. During the lesson, cut off the last section of the carton containing "Judah" and "Benjamin". Explain that Israel had been one kingdom but was split in two after King Rehoboam's foolish answer.

BLESSING LOST

Bring a small toy or piece of candy. You should also bring a fairly large but empty container (one that is not see through). Give a child the piece of candy. Tell him that he can keep the candy, or he can trade the candy for what's inside the container. If the child doesn't want to trade, go to different children until one chooses to trade. When they realize they got nothing, explain that's what Jeroboam did: by disobeying God, he traded God's certain promises for his own ideas. As a result, he lost the blessing and got nothing.



JEROBOAM'S OFFERING

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2.

Materials: Craft sheet, cardstock, glue, and crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut all pieces from craft sheet. Have children color Jeroboam. Color the calves yellow to represent the golden calves. Glue onto a sheet of cardstock, as shown below.

Jeroboam's Offering
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2



"So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, 'You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.'" (1 Kings 12:28)

TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God punishes Jeroboam • 1 Kings 12:1–33; 14:1–18



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

THE BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE

Review the blessings and curses found in Deuteronomy 27–28. In these chapters God instituted a ritual where half of Israel's tribes stood on Mount Gerizim and proclaimed all the blessings of obedience to the covenant. The other six tribes stood on Mount Ebel and proclaimed all the curses of disobedience to the covenant. Since the one mountain was lush and green and the other dry and brown, this provided a very graphic dramatization of the decision that constantly lay before the nation of Israel. In today's lesson, Jeroboam faced a similar decision: he could obey God and enjoy God's blessing or disobey God and receive God's judgment. This same decision lies before us every day.

CAN YOU TASTE A DIFFERENCE?

Make two pitchers of Kool-Aid (or other sugary drink). Use real sugar in one and artificial sweetener in the other. Allow the children to taste the two drinks and ask them to identify the drink made with counterfeit sweetener. In today's lesson, Jeroboam tried to substitute the true worship of God with the worship of idols.



ILLUSTRATE

GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD

At the end of the book of Genesis, Joseph makes a profound statement concerning God's sovereignty over the affairs of men: "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today" (50:20). Rehoboam's foolishness was brought about by God in order to fulfill God's promise to Jeroboam (1 Kgs 12:15). God is sovereign over all things, even foolishness and sin.

UPROOTED PLANT

Bring to class a potted plant, and place it in front of the class during the lesson. As 1 Kings 14:15–16 is read, discuss God's uprooting of Israel from the good land. To illustrate this, pull the plant out of its pot by its roots. (Using a plant with an established root base works best.) Later, talk about what happens to a plant when it is uprooted.

Israel's Divided Kingdom
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2



APPLY

ISRAEL'S DIVIDED KINGDOM

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2.

Materials: Craft sheets, and crayons.

Directions: Have the students color and cut the tent pieces. Color each piece a different color as each one represents a different tribe of Israel. Glue 2 tents to the craft sheet in the Southern Kingdom and 10 tents in the Northern Kingdom. Color the water blue and the land brown and green.



AGES 9–11



KINGDOM FRACTURE

Bring an x-ray of broken bone to class and show it to the children. Talk about how it happened and how much it hurt. Then tell the class that today we're going to learn about Israel's during the reign of Solomon's son.

A HEAVIER YOKE

Instruct two child volunteers to hold out their arms, palms up, and place four heavy books in each child's arms. Read the suggestion Jeroboam and the assembly of Israel gave to Rehoboam in 1 Kings 12:1–7. Take two books away from the first child to illustrate how Rehoboam could have chosen to lighten the burden on Israel. Read verses 8–17, and place the two books you removed from the first child onto the stack carried by the second child. Ask this child how he feels carrying a much heavier load. Then add two more books (total of eight books) to increase the weight further. In addition, after reading verse 10, ask all the children to hold up their pinkies and compare it to the sizes of their waists. This will give them a visual image of how much Rehoboam desired to increase the burden on the people of Israel.



CAN YOU SPOT THE FAKE?

Bring in something genuine along with an imitation of it (examples: money, sunglasses, jewelry, sugar/artificial sweetener, antiques, collectables, etc.). Have children spot the differences. Tell them that in the lesson today, Jeroboam tried to make a fake religion to replace true worship of God. Ask the children if they can identify the parts of Jeroboam's religion that were man-made.

FOOLISH ADVICE

Ask for a volunteer from the class and prescribe some very foolish advice. Insist the child take your umbrella home on a perfectly sunny day. Or, instead of flipping your Bible right-side up, insist that it's much easier to simply stand on your head with your feet against the wall. Or try to teach a portion of the day's lesson with a mouthful of water, insisting that this will make you a better communicator because your mouth won't get dry when you speak. Rehoboam received foolish advice from his counselors and, sadly, he followed it.



QUESTIONS OF A KING

It can be confusing to remember all the happenings of Israel and Judah. Here are some questions to ask the children about Rehoboam and Jeroboam: (1) Who ruled over Judah? (Rehoboam); (2) Who ruled over Israel? (Jeroboam); (3) Who was prophesied to reign? (Jeroboam); (4) Who was Solomon's son? (Rehoboam); (5) Who reigned where the temple was? (Rehoboam); (6) Who hid in Egypt from Solomon? (Jeroboam); (7) Who taxed the people greatly? (Rehoboam); (8) Who led his people away from the Lord? (both).