

Solomon's Sin Divides the Temple

1 Kings 10-12

God is:
our Eternal King

Summer Sunday Verse:

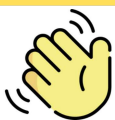
The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.
-1 Samuel 16:7

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Take time to prepare your heart and mind by spending time in the Word reading 1 Kings 10-12. Note your observations about God's character and how you see God working so you can share them with the kids.

God had abundantly blessed Solomon. with wisdom, riches, and fame. He was known by all as the wisest man to have ever lived. God's helped him lead Israel with wisdom, but this wouldn't last forever. Solomon began turning away from God, slipping into disobedience and outright idolatry, causing the downfall of his family.

We want our kids to see that a divided heart - a heart that worships God AND something else (even if it's a good thing!) - leads to sin and trouble. God wants us to walk in wisdom and faithfulness, which means we need to rely on Him for strength and direction, which is found by listening and obeying His Word.



When the children arrive, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class, and invite them to play with the other children. When most kids have arrived for first service, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.



LESSON OVERVIEW

None

Ask the class: Have you ever been given a gift or a reward and not been happy with what you were given? It's pretty normal for people to want more than what they have or have been given. Today, we're going to read more about Solomon, who had all the riches but still wanted more.

Summarize 1 Kings 10-12 and then discuss the following questions in table groups or together as a class:

What can happen when God's leaders don't set a good example in worship?

Explain how unfaithful leaders can sometimes lead others astray. When Solomon was unfaithful to God, the people began to turn away as well. Solomon was the leader of God's people, and he set up idols. The people followed after him.

How can the friends we have affect our walk with God? Guide kids to recall that Solomon, who was once so obedient to God, was heavily influenced by the women he married. Their worship of idols divided his heart, away from full devotion to God. People we spend time with can help us grow closer to God, or they can lead us to worship things other than God.

How is Jesus better than an earthly king? Discuss with kids that while David and Solomon were mostly good kings, we realize they were far from perfect. Their sin separated them from God. There is only one true eternal king—King Jesus. There is no one like Him. Jesus rules with perfect love, justice, and goodness.



ACTIVITY:

Divided Kingdoms Craft

Crown cut-out,
Divided Kingdoms map,
scissors,
brads,
hole punch,
markers,
gems,
stickers

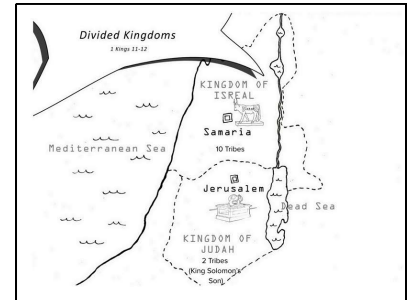
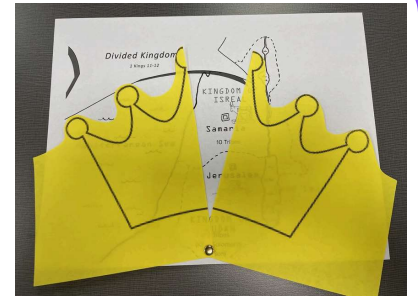
Pass out a crown cut-out to each child and have them decorate it with markers, gems or stickers.

Then, have them take a scissors and cut their crown right down the middle to represent the kingdom being split in two.

Next, pass out a Divided Kingdoms map to each child. Have them color the two kingdoms two different colors.

Then, use the hole punch to punch a hole through the two crown sheets and map (shown in the picture above). Have the children stick a brad through the hole and secure so that they can open the crown to see the map behind.

Discuss how the split divided the 12 Tribes of Israel. Ten of the tribes made up the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Two of the tribes (Benjamin and Judah (the line of King David that led to Jesus) made up the Southern Kingdom of Judah.



MEMORY VERSE GAME:

Divided Verse

Key Passage
Poster,
Verse on paper,
tape

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 Samuel 16:7 together.

Form the class into small teams or 2 or 3. Then give each team a piece of paper that has 1 Samuel 16:7 written on it.

Next, invite the teams to rip their paper into 12 pieces. (To represent the splitting of the 12 tribes of Israel into two different kingdoms.)

Instruct teams to trade their 12 pieces of paper with another team. Option - give each team some clear tape to connect their pieces back together.

Time the teams to see how quickly they can put the paper together to display the key passage.