



UNIT 12 | SESSION 3

SOLOMON'S SIN DIVIDED THE KINGDOM

1 KINGS 10-12

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is a perfect King who brings people together.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The Lord is a kind and loving God. Exodus 34:6

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- King Solomon made a wrong choice.
- God separated Israel into two kingdoms.
- Jesus is a perfect King who brings people together.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

King Solomon was the richest and wisest king on earth. He loved God, but Solomon still made wrong choices. He worshiped false gods. This made God angry. God said to Solomon, "Since you have done this, I will take away the kingdom from you. You will be king the rest of your life, but when your son becomes king, he will only be king over one group." When Solomon's son, Rehoboam (REE huh BOH uhm), became king, he was very mean to the people. So the people made Jeroboam (JER uh BOH uhm) king. Now the kingdom of Israel was divided. Jeroboam ruled over the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Rehoboam only ruled over the Southern Kingdom of Judah.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 1 Kings 10. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer In the Dell”:

“The Lord is a kind God.

The Lord is a kind God.

I’ll clap my hands and praise His name.

The Lord is a kind God.”

| **SAY** “King Solomon made a wrong choice, but the Lord is a kind and loving God.”

2 BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Cut plain ribbons to various lengths. Place ribbons in a basket or bin. Allow babies an opportunity to crawl to the bins or lay on their tummies on a horseshoe-shaped pillow close enough to grab the ribbons. Help babies take all the ribbons out of the bin and talk about how Solomon’s kingdom was divided. Then, place ribbons back in the bin and explain that Jesus brings people back together.

| **SAY** “Solomon’s sin, or wrong choices, divided the kingdom of Israel. Jesus is a perfect King who brings people together.”

3 UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS

Gather nonbreakable mirrors for babies to explore emotions. Demonstrate a happy face and a sad face in the mirror for babies to see. Make a happy face and say, “The Lord is a kind and loving God.” Then make a sad face and say, “We make wrong choices.” Lastly, say “God loves you” as you point to the babies in the mirror.

| **SAY** “The kingdom of Israel was divided. One king was nice. One king was mean. The people were divided. Jesus brings people together.”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 10. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Cut 1-inch strips (lengthwise) of construction paper (one per child). Print Jesus is a perfect King who brings people together on each strip. Distribute crayons and allow toddlers to decorate their strips. Place smiley face or people stickers on the ends of each strip. Fold each strip back and forth like an accordion. Unfolded, the people will be far apart, but when folded, the people will come together.

SAY “Solomon’s sin, or wrong choices, divided the kingdom of Israel. Jesus is a perfect King who brings people together.”

3 ACTING OUT EMOTIONS

Act out different emotions: jump, cheer, and smile; sit and pout; stand, clap, and smile; make an angry face and stomp your feet; and give yourself a big hug. Pause after each set of actions, allowing the children time to copy. Encourage toddlers to act out the emotions as you retell the Bible story, focusing on the emotions of Solomon.

SAY “King Solomon made a wrong choice and God was very sad. He divided the kingdom. One king was nice, and the people were happy. One king was mean, and the people were sad. But we can be happy today because Jesus brings people together!”

4 SORTING KINGDOMS

Collect sets of two different color items (counting bears, pom-poms, large interlocking plastic blocks, and so forth). Mix the objects together. Lay out two bins. Assign one color to each bin. Encourage the children to separate the items by color into the two bins. Combine the items again, replaying as time permits.

SAY “King Solomon made a wrong choice that divided the kingdom of Israel. The kingdom was divided into two parts. Jesus is a perfect King who brings people together.”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: BEANBAG FEELING PASS

Lead children to sit spread apart in a circle on the floor. Pass a beanbag around the circle. When you call, “Stop!” instruct the child holding the beanbag to show or tell how they are feeling today. Encourage children to make a face or say a word expressing an emotion before passing the beanbag to the friend next to them. Replay as time permits, being sensitive to children who may not be comfortable with sharing.

SAY “Jesus is happy when we are happy. He is sad when we are sad. Jesus likes to bring people together. That can make all of us happy! Are you happy to be with friends today?”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”:

“King Jesus brings people together (repeat 3 times)

For He is a loving God.”

3 MIXING COLORS

Provide white heavyweight paper, a few shirt gift boxes, and several small toy cars. Choose two primary colors of washable paint (red, blue, or yellow) that will mix to form another color. Distribute painting smocks or bibs and a box top or bottom for each child. Lay papers in the boxes and drizzle paint on the papers. Guide children to drive their cars through the paint on their papers, allowing the colors to mix. Keep baby wipes on hand for easy cleanup.

SAY “The kingdom of Israel was divided because of Solomon’s wrong choice. Jesus is a perfect King who brings people together!”

4 CHANTING IN RHYTHM

Lead the children in chanting two phrases: “Jesus is a perfect King” and “Jesus brings people together” while following a rhythm pattern. Alternate patting your knees and clapping your hands twice for every two syllables. Slowly continue this chant and rhythm pattern as time permits. Read the Christ connection aloud to the children (“Jesus is a perfect King who brings people together”). Review the Bible story.

SAY “Solomon loved God, but he made wrong choices. We make wrong choices too, but Jesus is a perfect King who brings people together.”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.