

Grades 1-3 Lesson Template

Where	Who and What	What you Need
Classroom	Teacher takes attendance Give students a sticker	Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard
	Invite kids to think about what it means to be someone who serves others. Encourage kids to think about examples in the Bible or people they know who serve others in love. Then challenge kids to act out serving scenarios. Consider starting with the examples below. Then create more of your own. • Setting the table • Writing a note of encouragement • Making someone a meal • Bringing in the trash can • Giving away toys Invite volunteers to act out a scenario, while the other kids try to guess the action. Repeat, as time allows. SAY In our Bible story, we will see how a king named Rehoboam was given advice to be a servant leader to the people. However, Rehoboam didn't want to serve others; he wanted people to serve him. We'll learn how Jesus is the perfect servant King who gave His life to save us from sin.	
Large Group	Large Group Time: Leader is Lorene She will get you when she is ready.	
Classroom:	Ask questions from page 14	Bible Ask Questions
	Color the crown and the arguing kings. Cut out the crown. Use a brad and put the crown together with the other paper.	Brads Coloring materials Scissors
	Summer Scripture Bingo - Hand out to students to bring home for the summer if a student hasn't gotten it already.	Bingo Worksheet

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WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “Who do you know that would make a good king? Why?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Divided” activity page.

| **SAY** “Through today’s Bible story, we will learn how Solomon’s unfaithfulness to God and Rehoboam’s foolish sin led to the kingdom being divided.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: STOP THE DIVIDE

Before the session, create a line of cups across one end of the room. Form the kids into two groups. Assign one group to be the “dividers.” Assign the other group the role of “defenders.” Start the game with the “dividers” at one end of the room, and the “defenders” in front of the cups. At your start the “dividers” will take turns rolling balls, trying to knock down the cups, while the “defenders” try to stop the balls from knocking over the cups. Play as time allows. Then switch groups.

| **SAY** “When a cup was knocked over, the line of cups became divided. Today, we will learn how the kingdom of God’s people became divided. We’ll see how **REHOBAM’S FOOLISH SIN DIVIDED THE KINGDOM.**”

☐ OPTION 2: BE A SERVANT



Invite kids to think about what it means to be someone who serves others. Encourage kids to think about examples in the Bible or people they know who serve others in love. Then challenge kids to act out serving scenarios. Consider starting with the examples below. Then create more of your own.

- Setting the table
- Writing a note of encouragement
- Making someone a meal
- Bringing in the trash can
- Giving away toys

Invite volunteers to act out a scenario, while the other kids try to guess the action. Repeat, as time allows.

| **SAY** “In our Bible story, we will see how a king named Rehoboam was given advice to be a servant leader to the people. However, Rehoboam didn’t want to serve others; he wanted people to serve him. We’ll learn how Jesus is the perfect servant King who gave His life to save us from sin.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 12. Explain that the books of 1 and 2 Kings record the reigns of the kings of Israel following King Saul and King David.

Consider pointing out the Northern (E5) and Southern (I4) Kingdoms on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 12:8 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY 🗨️ Rehoboam had received good advice from the elders, but he did not listen to them. Rehoboam wanted to make himself great rather than be a king who took care of his people. Thankfully, Jesus is a good and wise King who always takes care of His people. He came to earth to serve others, most importantly by dying on the cross for people's sin. 🗨️

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🗨️ Who are wise people we can listen to? Why is the Bible a source of wisdom for us? 🗨️

Discuss how God places wise adults in our lives to help us follow God and His ways. Tell kids that pastors share the truth of God's Word. Parents, teachers, and coaches can give us good advice on how to make wise decisions. Remind kids that the Bible is the Word of God and helps us follow Jesus, the truly wise King.

SAY 🗨️ What can we do if we make a foolish mistake like Rehoboam? 🗨️

Tell kids that foolish choices often come with consequences. However, God is always willing to forgive our foolish sin when we repent and ask Him for forgiveness. Discuss how God wants to help us make wise choices for His glory and our good. When we go to God and confess our sin and ask Him for wisdom, God will give us the wisdom we need.

SAY 🗨️ Why is Jesus the truly wise King? 🗨️

Share how Jesus always did what was right and followed God's commands perfectly. God has all wisdom, and when Jesus lived on earth, He always obeyed God. Jesus also taught people God's words and what it looks like to live for Him. As King, Jesus rules with goodness, love, and justice. Jesus showed us that wisdom means laying aside your own interests for the good of others. Instead of being a King who asked people to serve Him, Jesus was willing to lay down His life to serve others. He showed us what it means to trust God in every area and turn away from the temptations of this world.



Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: DIVIDED KINGDOM



Print copies of the “Divided Kingdom” printable for each kid. Invite kids to color the crown halves and the two kings. Then guide kids to cut out the crown halves. Using a metal brad, secure the two crown halves through the circle at the bottom of the page with the kings. Encourage kids to take home their “divided kingdom” and use it to retell the Bible story to their families or friends.

SAY “ **REHOBOAM’S FOOLISH SIN DIVIDED THE KINGDOM.** Because of this, God’s people would be separated into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Sin divides people. And sin separates us from God. But God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus, to bring us back to God. When we trust in Jesus, we are united to God forever. ”

☐ OPTION 2: A DIVIDED HEART



Provide each kid with a piece of red cardstock. Direct each child to draw a large heart on his or her paper. Then lead kids to write the story point, **REHOBOAM’S FOOLISH SIN DIVIDED THE KINGDOM**, on their hearts. Tell kids to cut their papers into 10 puzzle pieces. Then invite kids to swap puzzles with someone and put the hearts back together. Repeat as time allows. Provide kids with plastic baggies to take their puzzles home.

SAY “ We learned that God first said He would divide the kingdom because Solomon’s heart did not fully follow God. Solomon had a divided heart and began to follow the idols of his wives. When we follow other things before God, our hearts are divided too. Sin separates us from God. But God made the way for our hearts to be forgiven and have the desire to follow Him with all of our hearts. When we trust in Jesus, we are brought back to God and the Holy Spirit gives us the power to love Him above everything else. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.

DIVIDED KINGDOM

1 KINGS 11-12





