

UNIT 13 | SESSION 1

THE KINGDOM DIVIDED

1 KINGS 11–13



CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is our King who taught us to be kind and love others.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Know that the LORD is God. There is no other! 1 Kings 8:60

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Solomon was king over Israel, but he stopped listening to God.
- Because Solomon made a bad choice, God's people were split into two groups.
- Solomon's son, Rehoboam, was the king of Judah, and Jeroboam was the king of Israel. But Jesus is our perfect King.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Solomon was king over God's people in Israel, but Solomon stopped listening to God. God told Solomon, "Since you did not listen to Me, your kingdom will be split." After Solomon died, his son, Rehoboam, became the new king. The people of Israel did not trust him; they liked a man named Jeroboam. Rehoboam talked to wise men who said, "If you are kind, the people will follow you." But Rehoboam's friends said, "Be even tougher than your dad!" Rehoboam listened to his friends, and not the wise men. The people made Jeroboam their king instead. Now Rehoboam was the king of Judah, and Jeroboam was the king of Israel.



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 11. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster 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.” As you sing, add arm gestures. (Point to your forehead when you sing “Know,” and point upward when you sing, “LORD is God.” When you sing “There is no other,” shake your pointer finger back and forth making a “no” sign.)

“Know the LORD is God.
Know the LORD is God.
There is no other.
Know the LORD is God.”

SAY “Our key passage phrase says, ‘Know the LORD is God. There is no other!’ God chose Jesus to be the perfect King because He is in charge of everything. Who is the perfect king? Jesus!”

2 TRY ON CROWNS

Gather toy crowns. Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Invite the leaders to put the crown on and off for the babies to see. Say, “Jesus is our King who taught us to be kind and love others” as babies put on and take off the crowns.

SAY “Solomon was king, but he stopped listening to God. Solomon made a bad choice, and the kingdom was divided. Who is our King? Yes! Jesus is our perfect King!”

3 MAKE A GOOD CHOICE

Draw smiley faces and frowning faces on a few sticky notes. Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster. Read the gospel gems, and place the sticky note to match each gospel gem as it is read. Say, “Solomon was king over Israel, but he stopped listening to God.” (Stick the frowning face on the picture.) Say, “Because Solomon made a bad choice, God’s people were split into two groups.” (Stick the frowning face on the picture.) Say, “Jesus is our perfect King.” (Stick the smiley face on the picture.) Encourage the babes to put the sticky notes on the Bible Story Picture and take them off as you review the baby gospel gems.

SAY “Solomon was king over Israel, but he stopped listening to God. Was that a good choice? No! The kingdom was divided, and Rehoboam and Jeroboam became kings. Did they make good choices? No! Jesus is our perfect King, and He taught us to love others and be kind. Is that a good choice? Yes! Jesus is our King who taught us to be kind and love others.”

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.



LEARNING Activities

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

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 11. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 PAIR UP

Cut the Bible Story Picture Poster in two parts. Hang the pictures in plain sight at toddler eye level in different areas of the room. Offer magnifying glasses for toddlers to find both parts of the picture. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers search for and pair up the picture.

SAY “ King Solomon stopped listening to God. Was that a good choice? No! Because Solomon made a bad choice, the kingdom was divided into two groups. Later, God sent Jesus to be our perfect King and to teach us to be kind and love others. ”

3 PAINT A DIVIDED PAGE

Draw a jagged line to divide a sheet of paper. On each page, write King Solomon made a bad choice, and the kingdom split into two groups. Encourage the toddlers to choose two different colors of dot markers to paint the two sides of the paper. Explain that the dots represent God's people who were split into two groups. Invite toddlers to paint as you review the story.

SAY “ Was God's kingdom divided? Yes. God's kingdom was divided into two groups. Rehoboam was the king of Judah, and Jeroboam was the king of Israel. ”

4 FIND A CROWN

Fill a plastic container with shredded paper. Gather two toy crowns, and place one in the bin. Provide scoops for children to use to search for the crown. Celebrate when the toddlers find the crown. Place the second crown in the bin, and allow toddlers to find the crowns. Explain that Solomon's kingdom was split into two parts. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers search.

SAY “ Solomon was king over God's people in Israel, but Solomon stopped listening to God. God split the kingdom into how many parts? Yes, two! Rehoboam became one king, and Jeroboam became the other king. Who is our perfect King? Jesus is our perfect King. ”

5 TEAR IN TWO

Draw a crown on a piece of paper. Encourage the toddlers to tear the crown in two pieces. Insert a brass fastener in the top of the two pieces of paper that will allow the crown to be put back together. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster, and review the story.

SAY “ Because King Solomon made a bad choice, the people were split into how many groups? Yes, two! Jesus is our perfect King, and He taught us to make good choices like loving others and being kind. ”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: HELP A FRIEND

Encourage the children to help a friend. Use toys in the room to allow toddlers to help each other. Provide options such as building blocks, toy cooking items, or paper and crayons. Read the Bible story, and remind toddlers that Jesus taught us to be kind and love others.

| **SAY** “ Jesus is our King who taught us to be kind and love others. ”

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

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

“Know the LORD is God.
Know the LORD is God.
There is no other.
Know the LORD is God.”

| **SAY** “ Who is the Lord? Yes, the Lord is God! Our key passage phrase says, ‘Know the LORD is God. There is no other!’ ”

3 BE A KING OR QUEEN

Encourage the toddlers to wear capes and crowns, and act out being a king or queen. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster. Invite the toddlers to act out the Bible story as you read.

| **SAY** “ Solomon was a king. Did he make good choices? No. He stopped listening to God. What happened? The kingdom was divided. Solomon’s sons became kings too. Did they make good choices? No. God sent Jesus to be our King. Did Jesus make good choices? Yes! ”

4 CROWN THE KING

Print and cut apart the “Crown” printable. Tape the crowns around the room for toddlers to find. Once the crowns are found, pretend to place one on your head as you retell the Bible story. Invite the toddlers to give a thumbs-up sign for the king who made a good choice or a thumbs-down sign for the king who made a bad choice.

| **SAY** “ Solomon was king over all of Israel. Did he stop listening to God? Yes, he did. He made a bad choice, and the kingdom was divided into two groups. Rehoboam and Jeroboam were kings too. Did they make good choices? No. God sent Jesus to be our perfect King. ”

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.