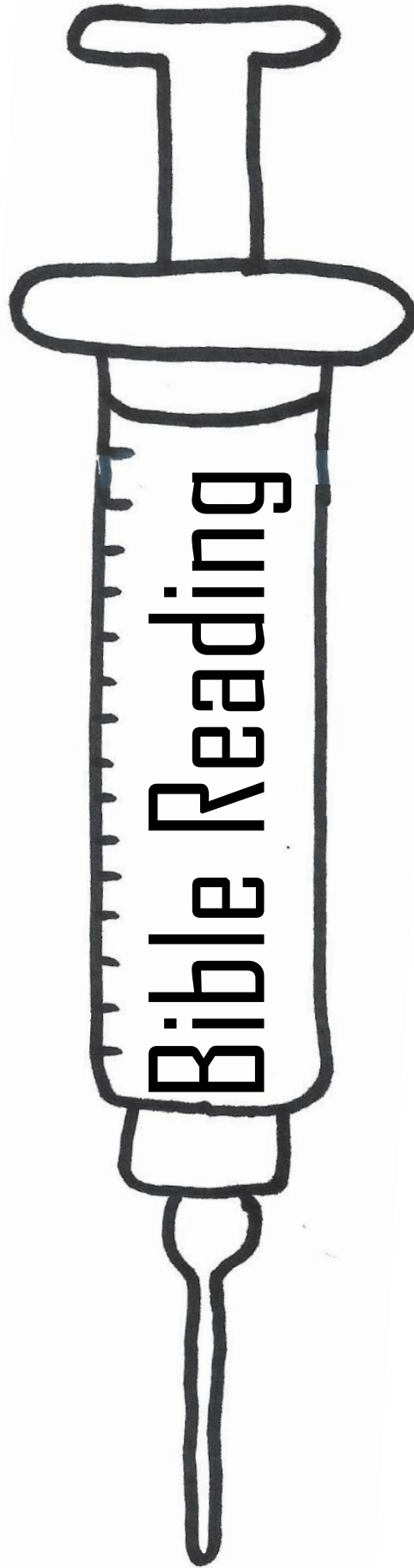
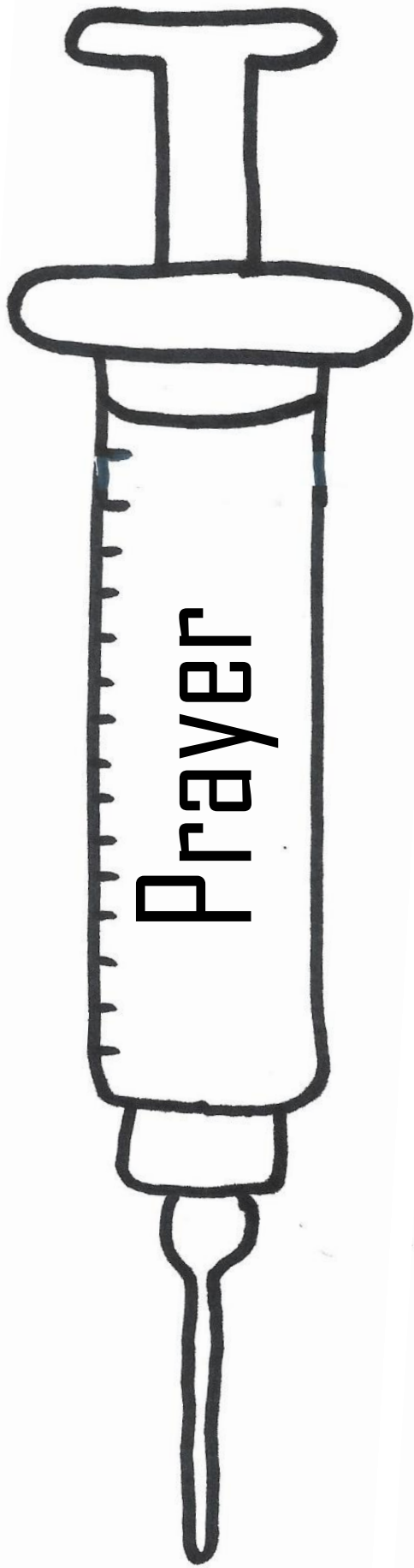


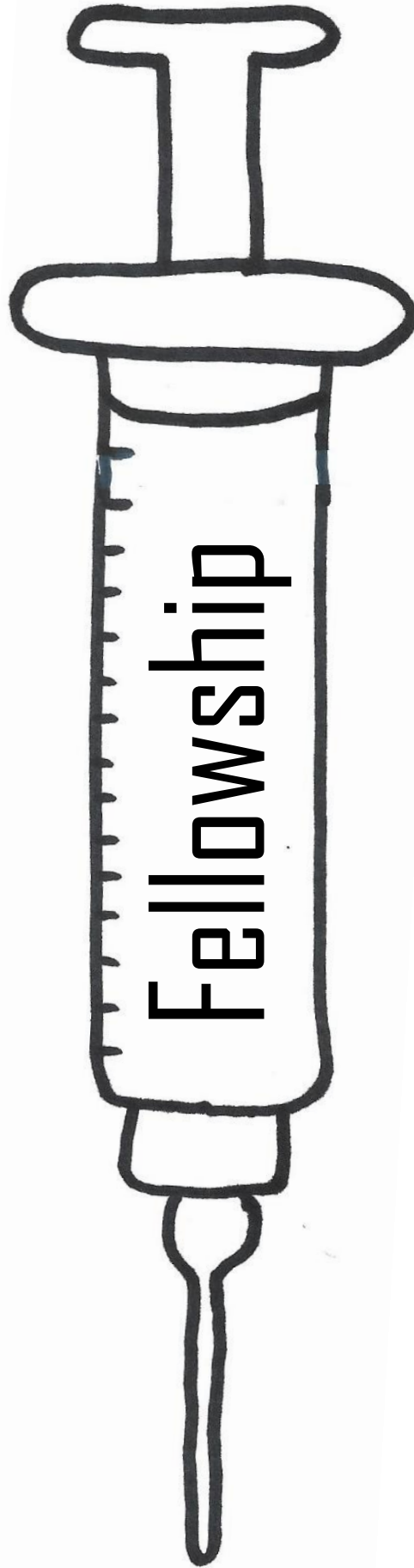
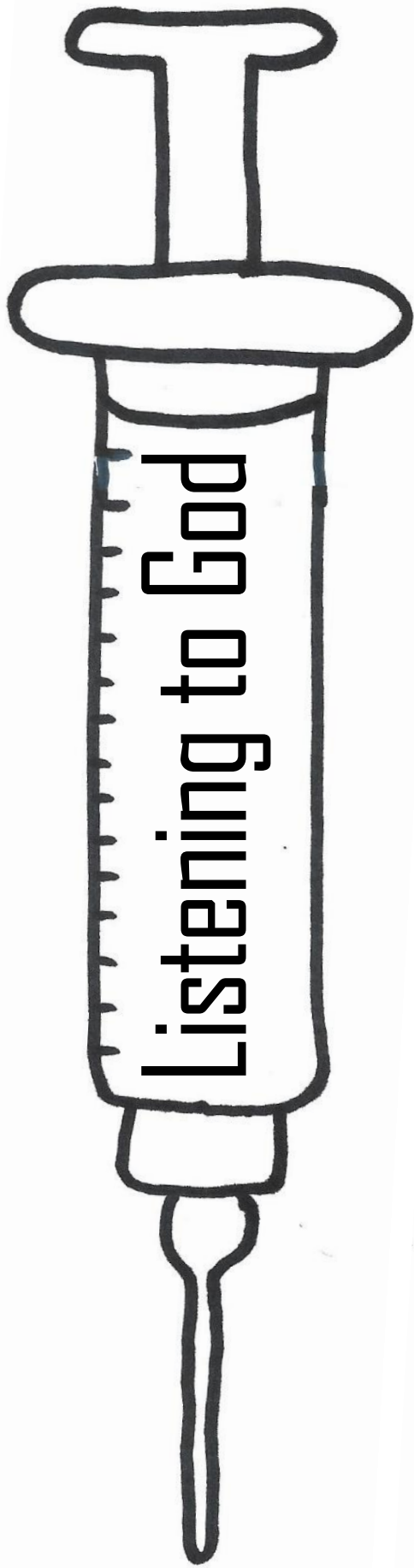
Lower Elementary

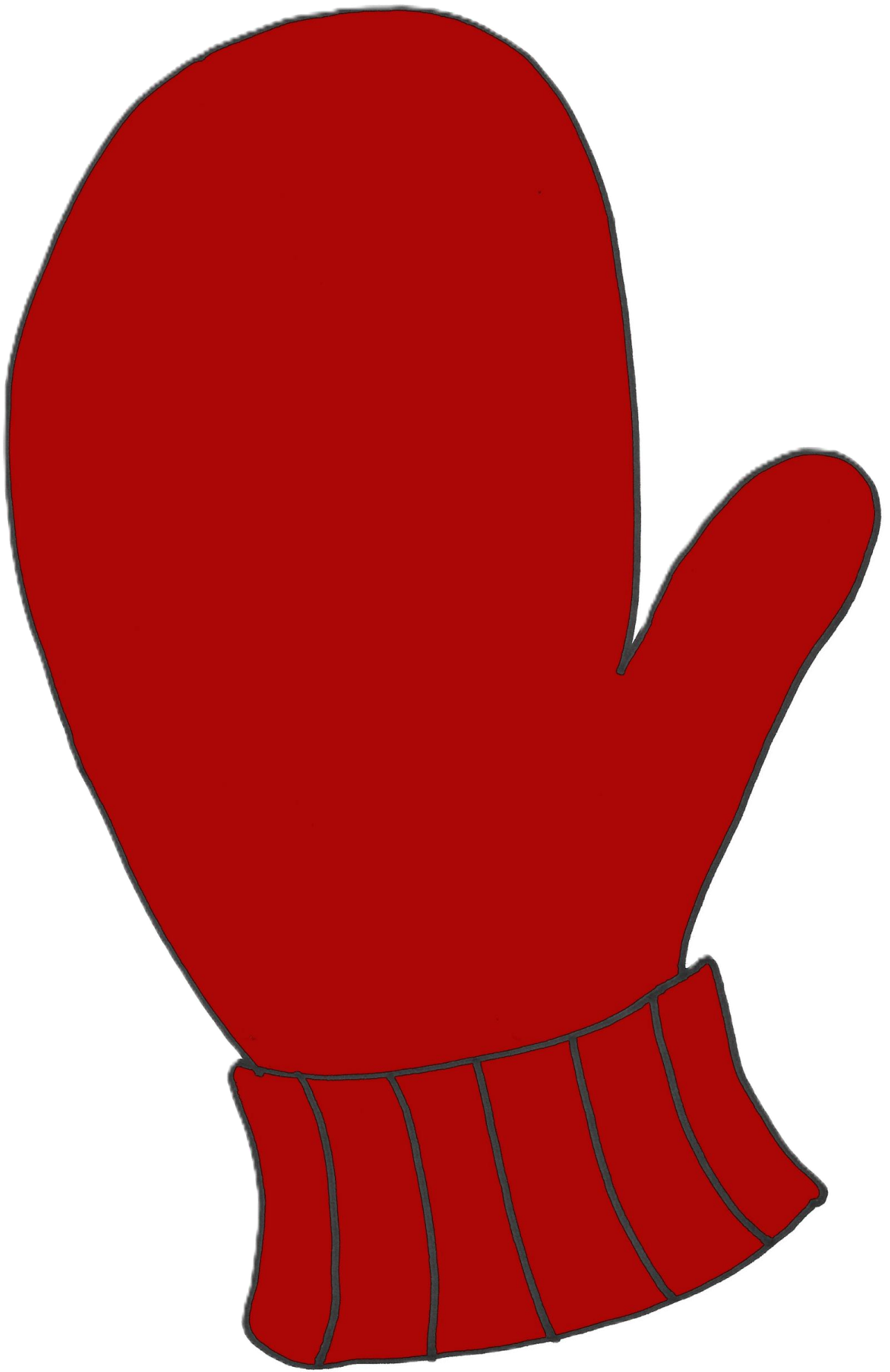
The Divided Kingdom

Checklist

- “Booster shots” printed onto cardstock and cut out
- 2 Oven mitts







Show children a pair of oven mitts.

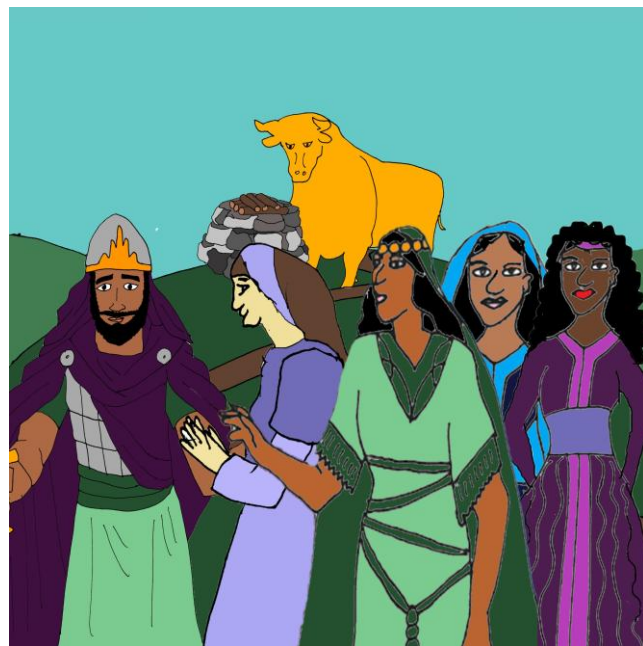
Has anyone ever had a pair of oven mitts taped onto them? Probably not, because most kids today don't ever get chicken pox. But some of your parents, and most of your grandparents probably did get chicken pox when they were kids because there wasn't a way to prevent it yet. They would get covered in awful itchy spots and many times parents would tape oven mitts to kids' hands to keep them from scratching the spots and making them worse. There was only one good thing about getting chicken pox, and that was that once you had it, you were immune for life.

Has anyone ever had the flu? After it was over, did you sigh in relief knowing that you'll never get the flu again for the rest of your life? Of course not, because unlike chicken pox, the flu is one of the many types of viruses that change every single year, so you can easily catch it several times in your life.

Sometimes when people become Christians, they think they are immune to ever messing up in a really, really huge way. Because they know their salvation is permanent, they can start to think they are now only capable of tiny, little sins that won't be a big deal to God.

It's important that we never let our guard down when it comes to sin. Salvation doesn't mean we have a lifetime immunity from making mistakes. We need to protect our hearts from temptation by giving ourselves regular "booster shots" of prayer, Bible reading, listening to God, and being around other Christians who can help remind us to do what is right (fellowship).

God gave King Solomon wisdom to be a good ruler, as well as wealth, power and a long life. When He spoke to Solomon, He told him, “As long as you continue to obey Me, these things will be yours.” But Solomon did not continue to obey God. While he was a wise ruler, he made choices in his own life that were not wise. God had commanded the Israelites not to marry people who did not worship Him. But Solomon was so rich and powerful he could marry any princess from any country he wanted. And he did. Thinking he was only being polite, he bowed down and prayed to their statues. Before too long, his heart began to wander away from God.



Solomon even built places to worship some of these statues on a hill. God appeared to Solomon twice, reminding him that what he was doing was wrong. But Solomon's heart did not completely belong to God the way David's had. God told Solomon, "Because you have chosen to follow your own will instead of Mine, the kingdom will not stay in your family after you die. Out of remembrance for David I will let your son have one tribe, to rule from Jerusalem. But the other tribes will be given to one of your servants."



One day when Solomon's servant, Jeroboam was walking from Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah met him and took off his coat. He ripped it into twelve pieces, and gave Jeroboam ten of the pieces. "After Solomon dies," he told him, "you will become king of ten of the tribes. But Solomon's family will still get to rule in Jerusalem." But God gave Jeroboam the same warning He had given Solomon: the kingdom will only be yours as long as you continue to obey Me and worship only Me.

When Solomon heard of this, he chased after Jeroboam, but Jeroboam went to Egypt to hide.



When Solomon died, everyone in Shechem gathered to crown his son Rehoboam as the next king of Israel. The people from the ten northern tribes asked Rehoboam if he would make them work as hard as Solomon did.



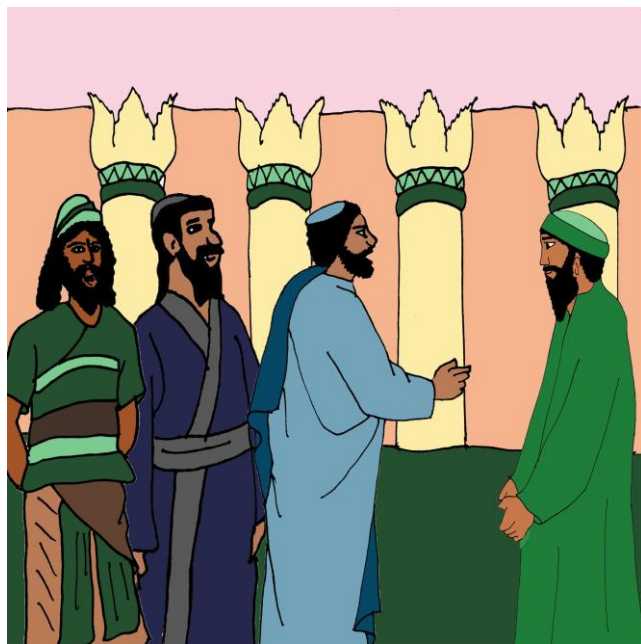
Rehoboam asked his father's officials for their advice. They told him he should promise to be a kind and gentle ruler.



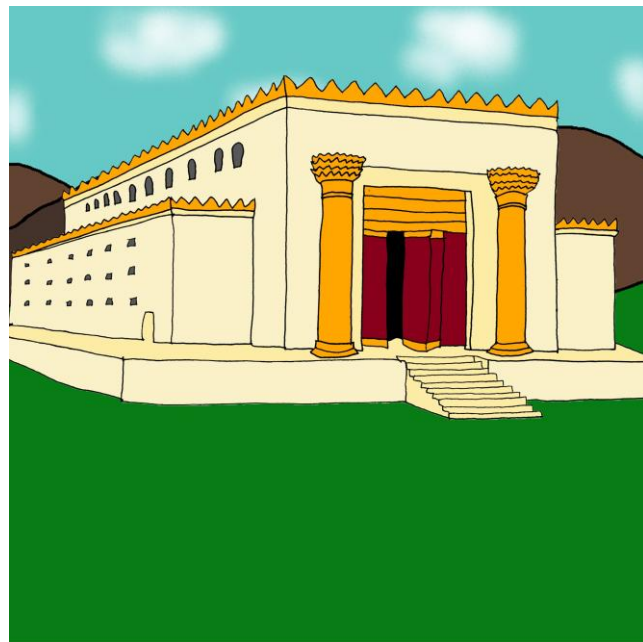
Then he asked his friends who were young like him for their advice. They told him he should rule the people by making them fear him.

So, Rehoboam told the people, “My father was weak compared to me. If you thought your work under him was hard, just wait till you see how hard I will make you work.”

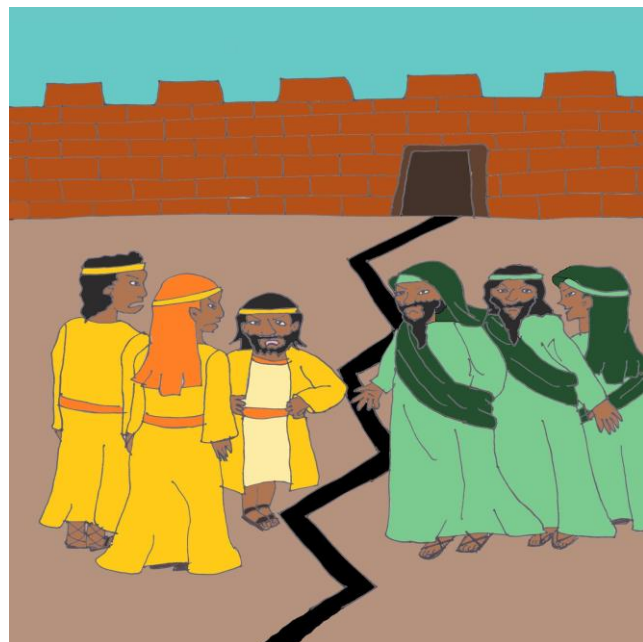
So, the people from the ten northern tribes sent for Jeroboam to come back from Egypt and chose him to rule over them instead of Solomon’s son.



So now there were two Israels: the Northern Kingdom, and the Kingdom of Judah to the south. The Northern Kingdom was larger, but Judah had the city of Jerusalem, with Solomon's temple. God had told Jeroboam that Jerusalem, where Rehoboam ruled, would still be the city where all Israelites would come to worship Him at the temple Solomon built. The tribe of Levi were the priests, and they lived in Judah.



The two kingdoms sometimes lived together peacefully and sometimes fought. Sometimes one of their kings led his people to worship God, while the other built shrines for statues. Sometimes the kings of both countries disobeyed God. God would send many prophets to both kings for hundreds of years, but unfortunately, the number of kings who obeyed God was much smaller than the number of kings who disobeyed Him.



Closing Discussion:



What wrong thing did Solomon do toward the end of his life?
(marry women who didn't follow God and worship their statues)
Is it wrong to have friends who are not Christians? (NO! But God wants us to marry someone who believes the same things we do so you can help each other grow closer to God)

Was having wisdom in how he ran the country and having wisdom in his personal life the same thing? (No)

Did Jeroboam look for wisdom in the right place? (No)

What did he do? (Took the advice of his young friends instead of the advice of the old men who had helped his father be a good king)

Does God want Christians to be divided? (No)

Sometimes people in church disagree on how to do things. It's important to remember we are all on the same "team." We want to stay focused on God, and not on what each person wants.

Craft:

12 Tribes of Israel puzzle

Closing Activity:

Who Ya Gonna Call?

Who Ya Gonna Call?



Teach Grow Sow

Ask children who they would go to for advice in each situation. If they choose the first one, have them hop forward. If they choose the second one, have them hop backward.

Your car is broken.	A mechanic	A bike repair shop
You have a chipped tooth.	A dentist	Someone who sells toothbrushes
Your dog is sick.	A veterinarian.	A pet groomer
You need to buy a new bed.	A salesperson.	A baby who naps a lot
You have termites in your house.	An exterminator	Your dog
You want to adopt a cat.	A person at the animal shelter	A person who photographs cats
You have a bad cold.	Your doctor	A medical student
You are lost.	A police officer	An actor who plays a police officer on TV

Rehoboam got advice from his friends instead of his father's advisors. Most of the time, parents and teachers will give you the best advice for life decisions. They have lived longer than your friends and have already had a chance to learn from their mistakes.

The Divided Kingdom



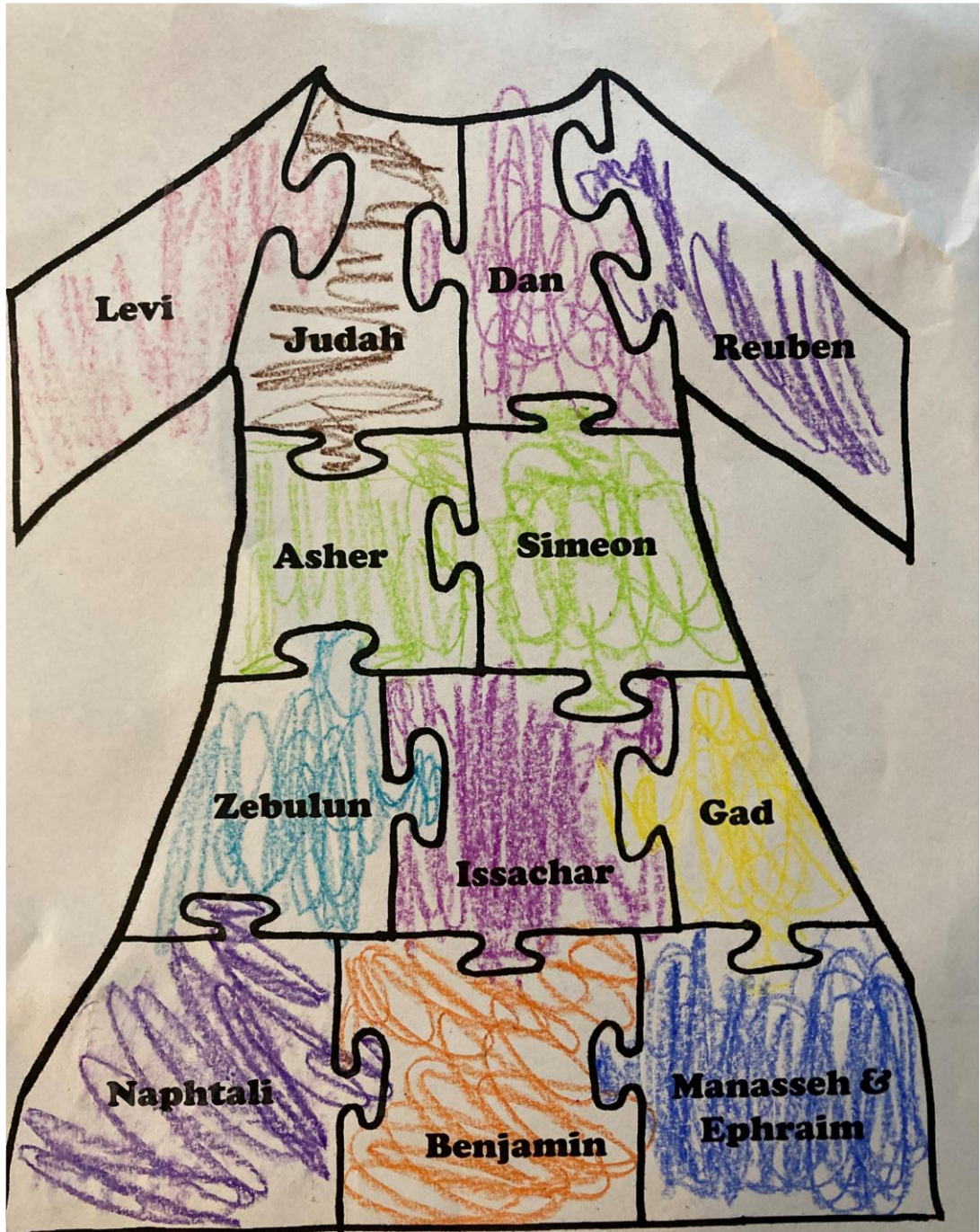
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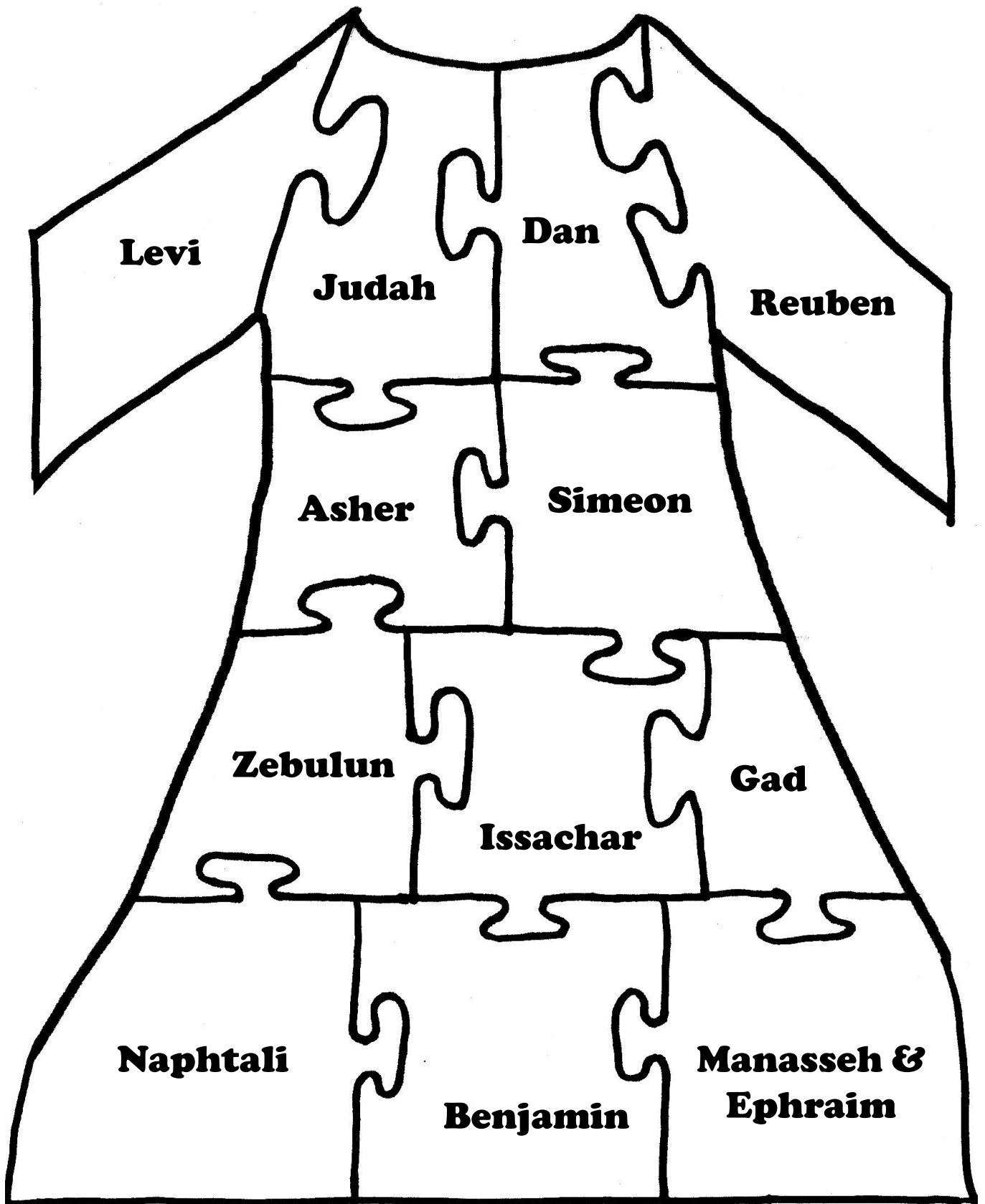


My dear friends, as a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ, I beg you to get along with each other. Don't take sides. Always try to agree in what you think.

~1 Corinthians 1:10

- ❖ Children color each puzzle piece a different color and cut out, then put back together.
- ❖ Act out the prophet showing Jeroboam what would happen to Israel.





Levi

Judah

Dan

Reuben

Asher

Simeon

Zebulun

Gad

Issachar

Naphtali

Benjamin

**Manasseh &
Ephraim**