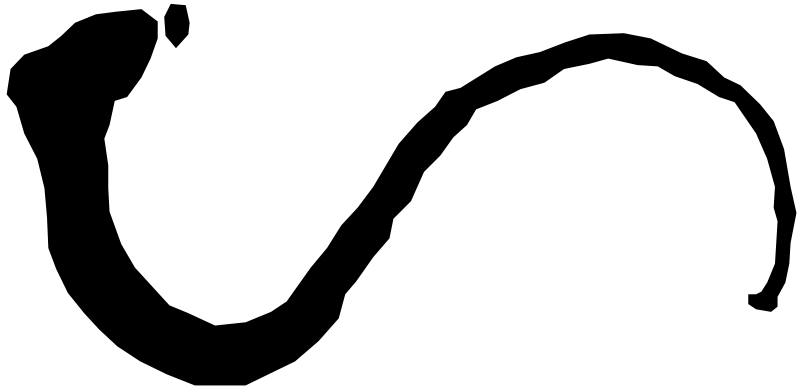
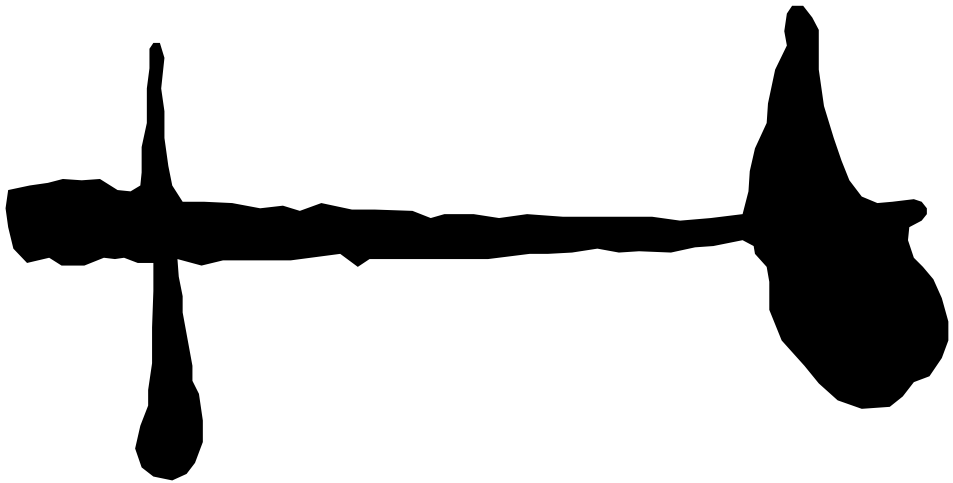
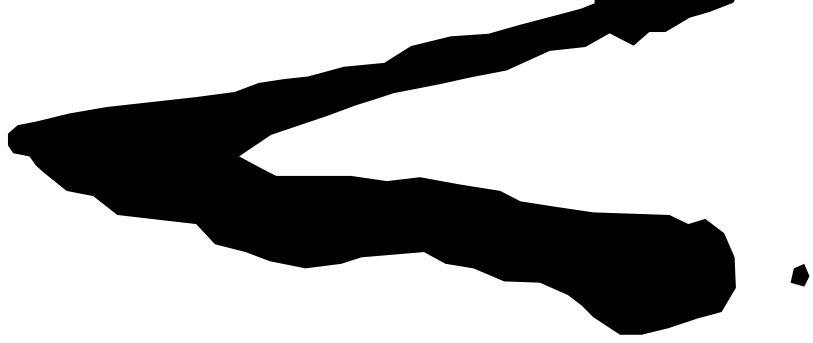


Upper Elementary

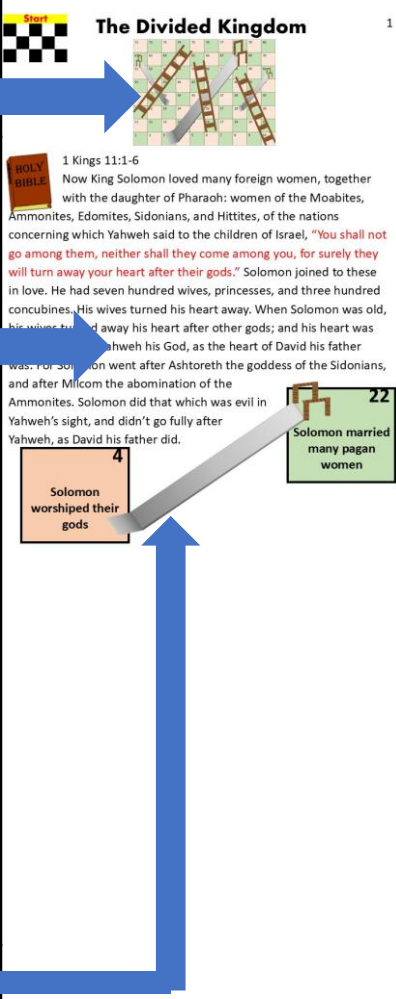
The Divided Kingdom

Checklist

- 10 white paper cups
- Snakes/Slides/Chutes & Ladders
(or print the one on the slideshow
onto cardstock)
- dice
- Masking tape
- “sin” page
- chair



Topic:	The Divided Kingdom
Prep:	Put a long piece of masking tape across the floor. Place a chair one foot away from it, with "SIN" sign taped to it. Prepare cups with closing activity words written on them.
Intro:	Bring in a game of Snakes/Slides/Chutes & Ladders (or print the one on the slideshow onto cardstock). Play a couple rounds. <i>In the game, when people make bad choices, they go down a slide. When they make good choices, they go up a ladder. While life can be a lot more complicated than this game, the choices we make in life can have big impacts on us. Today we will learn how Solomon and his son made choices that affected them and the whole country of Israel.</i>
1 Kings 11:1-6	<p>Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites, of the nations concerning which Yahweh said to the children of Israel, "You shall not go among them, neither shall they come among you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods."</p> <p>Solomon joined to these in love. He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines. His wives turned his heart away. When Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with Yahweh his God, as the heart of David his father was. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did that which was evil in Yahweh's sight, and didn't go fully after Yahweh, as David his father did.</p>
	<i>Why didn't God want the Israelites to marry people who did not worship Him? (they would turn the hearts of the Israelites away from God) Is that what happened to Solomon? (yes)</i>



Start

The Divided Kingdom

1 Kings 11:1-6

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites, of the nations concerning which Yahweh said to the children of Israel, "You shall not go among them, neither shall they come among you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon joined to these in love. He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines. His wives turned his heart away. When Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with Yahweh his God, as the heart of David his father was. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did that which was evil in Yahweh's sight, and didn't go fully after Yahweh, as David his father did.

4
Solomon worshiped their gods

22
Solomon married many pagan women

1 Kings 11:7-13

Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the mountain that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the children of Ammon. So, he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. Yahweh was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned away from Yahweh, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he didn't keep that which Yahweh commanded. Therefore, Yahweh said to Solomon, **"Because this is done by you, and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. Nevertheless, I will not do it in your days, for David your father's sake; but I will tear it out of your son's hand. However, I will not tear away all the kingdom; but I will give one tribe to your son, for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen."**


Have each child stand at the line and reach to touch the sign on the chair. For each new child, move the chair back a few inches until one of them loses their balance and steps over the line.

Christians will often try to obey God's commands but still want to see how close to the line they can get without crossing it. This usually results in crossing a line into a behavior that is harmful to themselves or others. God doesn't want us to see how "bad" we can be without being "too bad." He wants us to always try our best to copy Him.

1 Kings 11:7-13
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61
 God would take the kingdom from Solomon's son

83
 Solomon disobeyed God



Moab and Ammon were sons of Lot, Abraham's nephew. Ruth also came from the land of Moab.



At that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the way. Now Ahijah had clad himself with a new garment; and the two of them were alone in the field. Ahijah took the new garment that was on him, and tore it in twelve pieces. He said to Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces; for Yahweh, the God of Israel, says, 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you (but he shall have one tribe, for my servant David's sake and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), because they have forsaken me, and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon. They have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in my eyes, and to keep my statutes and my ordinances, as David his father did. However, I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake whom I chose, who kept my commandments and my statutes, but I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and will give it to you, even ten tribes. I will give one tribe to his son, that David my servant may have a lamp always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for myself to put my name there.'"

1 Kings
11:29-36

1 Kings 11:29-36

3

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39 David would continue to have a descendant ruling in Jerusalem

17 David obeyed God

What was the consequence of David's loyalty to God? (God would continue to have David's grandson rule over one tribe)

<p>1 Kings 11:37-43</p>	<p>“I will take you, and you shall reign according to all that your soul desires, and shall be king over Israel. It shall be, if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do that which is right in my eyes, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, that I will be with you, and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. I will afflict the offspring of David for this, but not forever.”</p> <p>Therefore, Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.</p> <p>Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, aren't they written in the book of the acts of Solomon? The time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in his father David's city; and Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.</p>
	<p><i>There have been many Christians throughout history, and you will certainly meet at least a couple during your lifetime, who appear on the outside to be truly following God. But on the inside, they have slowly let a very big sin to grow and grow, until it became so big they cannot keep it a secret anymore. Just like with Solomon and Rehoboam, those people often need to be given consequences. Sometimes this can cause younger Christians to feel doubts about God. It's important to remember that even when the people in our lives who we look up to change, God never changes. Other Christians can be great for helping us grow, but we should never get confused and think any human being is even close to perfect.</i></p>

1 Kings 11:37-43
 “I will take you, and you shall reign according to all that your soul desires, and shall be king over Israel. It shall be, if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in My ways, and do that which is right in My eyes, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as David My servant did, that I will be with you, and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. I will afflict the offspring of David for this, but not forever.”

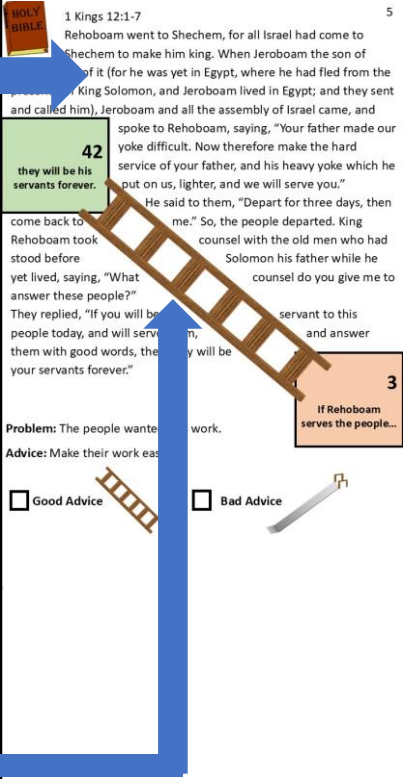
28
 God will always let someone from his family rule in Israel
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6
 If Jeroboam obeys God...



Shishak is the first Pharaoh to be mentioned by name in the Bible. He is also known as Shoshenq I.

<p>1 Kings 12:1-7</p>	<p>Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. When Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was yet in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon, and Jeroboam lived in Egypt; and they sent and called him), Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came, and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, "Your father made our yoke difficult. Now therefore make the hard service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, lighter, and we will serve you." He said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." So, the people departed. King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men who had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, "What counsel do you give me to answer these people?" They replied, "If you will be a servant to this people today, and will serve them, and answer them with good words, then they will be your servants forever."</p>
	<p><i>Who do you go to when you need advice? (parents, teachers, Sunday school teachers, pastors) While no one is perfect, most of the time you will get the best advice from talking to people who are older than you. They have had more experiences and have already had opportunities to learn from their mistakes.</i></p>



1 Kings 12:1-7

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42 they will be his servants forever.

3 If Rehoboam serves the people...

Problem: The people wanted to work.
Advice: Make their work easier.

Good Advice Bad Advice

But he abandoned the counsel of the old men which they had given him, and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him. He said to them, “What counsel do you give, that we may answer these people who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Make the yoke that your father put on us lighter?’”

The young men who had grown up with him said to him, “Tell these people who spoke to you, saying, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but make it lighter to us’—tell them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist. Now my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, but I will add to your yoke. My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.’”

So, Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king asked, saying, “Come to me again the third day.” The king answered the people roughly, and abandoned the counsel of the old men which they had given him, and spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.”

So, the king didn’t listen to the people; for it was a thing brought about from Yahweh, that he might establish his word, which Yahweh spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. When all Israel saw that the king didn’t listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, “What portion have we in David? We don’t have an inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, Israel! Now see to your own house, David.” So, Israel departed to their tents.

Why do you think Rehoboam gave this response? (He wanted people to obey him out of fear, he let the power of being king go to his head, he thought he was superior to the common people) Will people respect you more if you lead with love and compassion, or if you lead with intimidation and fear? (love and compassion) Have you ever gotten bad advice from one of your friends? What was it?

1 Kings
12:8-16

1 Kings 12:8-16

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Rehoboam gave the people more work



51 The Israelites followed Jeroboam

97

1 Kings 12:26-31
 Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will return to David's house. If this people goes up to offer sacrifices in Yahweh's house at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, even to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me, and return to Rehoboam king of Judah." So, the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold; and he said to them, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Look and behold your gods, Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" He set the one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. This thing became a sin, for the people went even as far as Dan to worship before the one there. He made houses of high places, and made priests from among all the people, who were not of the sons of Levi.

What are some ways to get good advice from other people and avoid bad influences? As you grow into adulthood, only date other Christians. If you get married, marry a Christian who has a strong relationship with God and will be a good partner for making life choices together. Be friends with people of all beliefs, but have one or two close friends who have a strong relationship with God and can give good advice when you need it. Find a church with a pastor who will help you get to know God better. Be involved in a Bible study or small group so you have a community of believers with whom you can open up and talk to them about the difficult decisions in your life.

Problem: The people wanted less work.
 Advice: Make their work harder.



Good Advice  Bad Advice 

1 Kings 12:26-31
 Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will return to David's house. If this people goes up to offer sacrifices in Yahweh's house at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, even to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me, and return to Rehoboam king of Judah." So, the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold; and he said to them, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Look and behold your gods, Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" He set the one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. This thing became a sin, for the people went even as far as Dan to worship before the one there. He made houses of high places, and made priests from among all the people, who were not of the sons of Levi.

75
 Jeroboam was afraid of losing power...

1
 He disobeyed God's command to not worship statues.

Problem: The Kingdom of Judah had the temple, not Israel.
 Advice: Build gold calves for the people to worship in Israel.

Good Advice  Bad Advice 

	<p><i>When things weren't going well for Jeroboam, his wife went to see a prophet named Ahijah. She disguised herself so that he wouldn't know she was the queen. But God told Ahijah exactly who she was.</i></p>
<p>1 Kings 14:6-9, 14</p>	<p>So, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet as she came in at the door, he said, "Come in, Jeroboam's wife! Why do you pretend to be another? For I am sent to you with heavy news. Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you prince over my people Israel, and tore the kingdom away from David's house, and gave it to you; and yet you have not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in my eyes, but have done evil above all who were before you, and have gone and made for yourself other gods, molten images, to provoke me to anger, and have cast me behind your back" ...</p> <p>Moreover, Yahweh will raise up a king for himself over Israel who will cut off the house of Jeroboam. This is the day! What? Even now.</p>
	<p><i>Who listened to the wrong people in this passage? (Solomon, who listened to his wives about worshipping statues; Rehoboam, who listened to the advice of his young friends instead of his father's counselors; Jeroboam, who listened to a counsel that told him to make a new place of worship with golden calves)</i></p>

1 Kings 14:6-9, 14 8


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19
God will choose a new family to rule Israel.

43
Jeroboam built altars to false gods

for yourself other Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back."

"Moreover, Yahweh will raise up a king for himself over Israel who will cut off the house of Jeroboam. This is the day! What? Even now."

 The worship of bulls, cows and calves was very popular in ancient times. Ways to spell one cow-god's name were Milcom, Molech and even Milk!



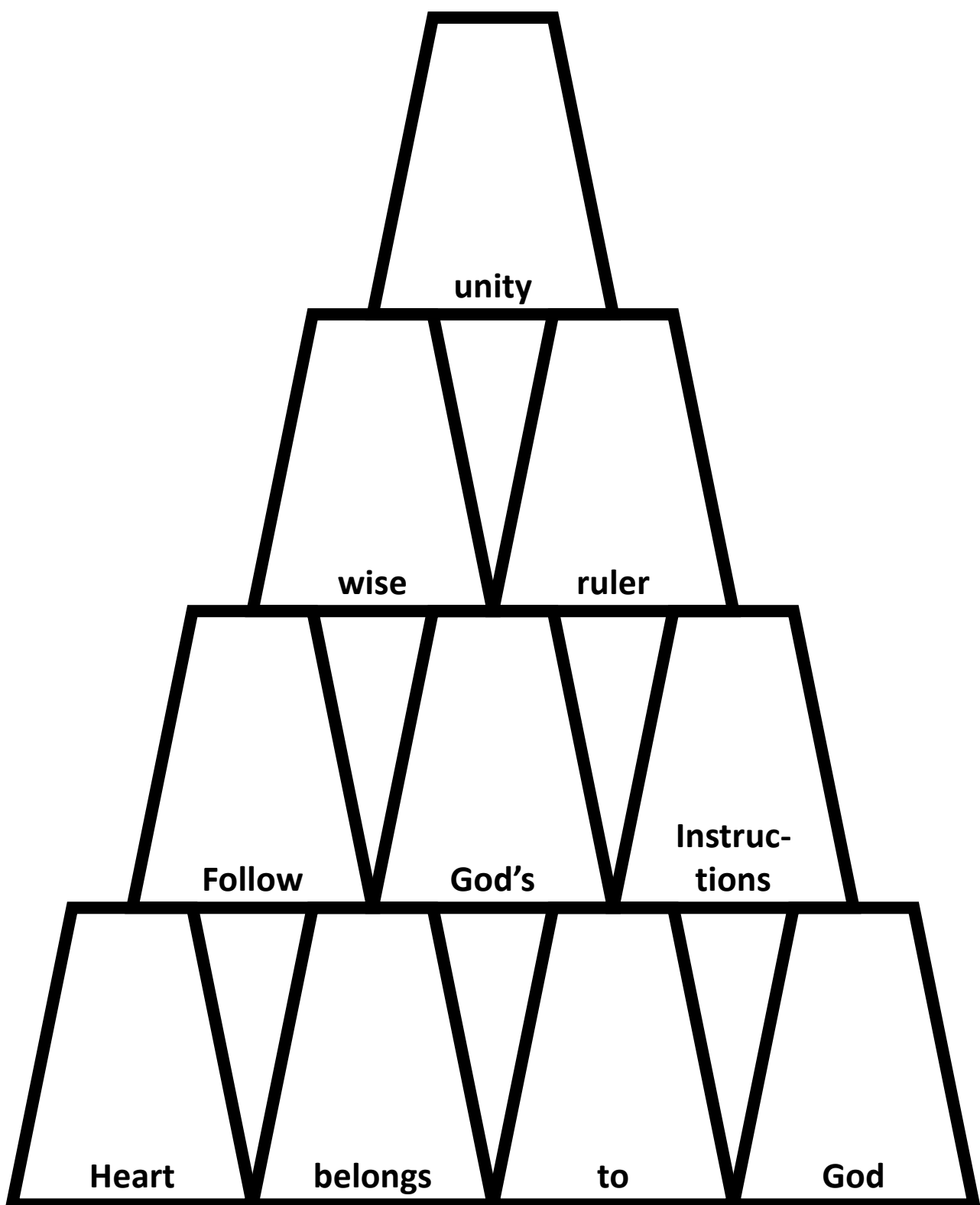
Charles Foster, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Closing Activity:

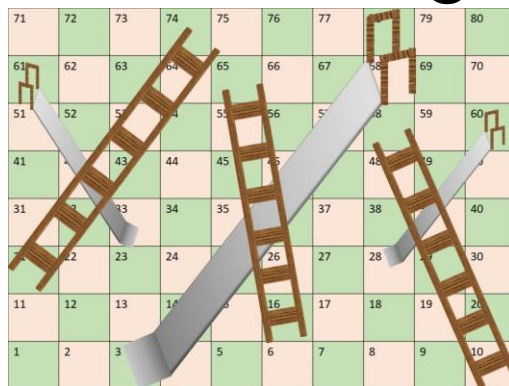


Hand out cups with the below words written on them, in random order.

- What did God tell Saul he needed to have?
- A heart that belongs to God.
- Find the cups that say, “Heart belongs to God,” and line them up.
- What will a person do if their heart belongs to God?
- Follow God’s instructions.
- Find the cups that say, “Follow God’s instructions,” and place them on top of the first row of cups.
- What did God give Solomon as long as he followed after God with his heart and obeyed Him?
- He would make him a wise ruler.
- Find the cups that say, “Wise ruler,” and stack them on top of the pile.
- What did Israel have as long as Solomon led them in worshipping God alone?
- Unity.
- Add the Unity cup to the top of the pyramid.
- What will happen if we take away the bottom row?
- Everything will fall down.
- Push out the bottom cups so the rest fall down.
- When Solomon stopped following God with his whole heart, everything else that was built on top of that fell away, too. We need to have a good foundation in God.



The Divided Kingdom



1 Kings 11:1-6

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites, of the nations concerning which Yahweh said to the children of Israel, **“You shall not go among them, neither shall they come among you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.”** Solomon joined to these in love. He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines. His wives turned his heart away. When Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with Yahweh his God, as the heart of David his father was. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did that which was evil in Yahweh’s sight, and didn’t go fully after Yahweh, as David his father did.

4

Solomon
worshiped their
gods

22

Solomon married
many pagan
women

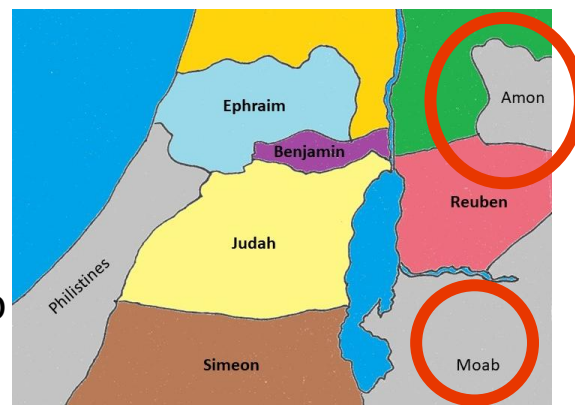
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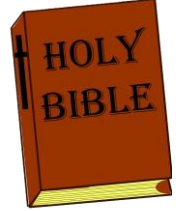
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83
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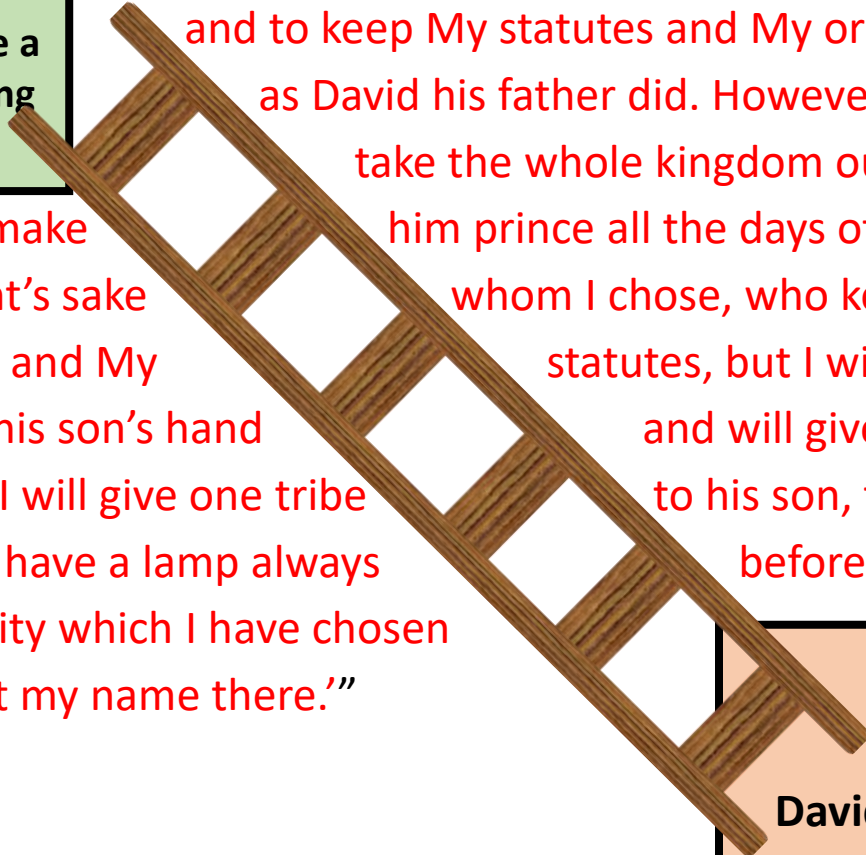
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39

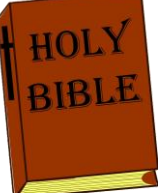
David would continue to have a descendant ruling in Jerusalem

17

David obeyed God



1 Kings 11:37-43



“I will take you, and you shall reign according to all that your soul desires, and shall be king over Israel. It shall be, if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in My ways, and do that which is right in My eyes, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as David My servant did, that I will be with you, and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. I will afflict the offspring of David for this, but not forever.”

28

God will always let someone from his family rule in Israel

Therefore, Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon. Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, aren't they written in the book of the acts of

Solomon? The Jerusalem over all slept with his fathers, David's city; and Rehoboam

time that Solomon reigned in Israel was forty years. Solomon and was buried in his father his son reigned in his place.

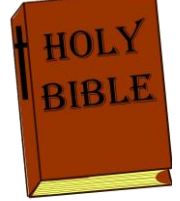


Shishak is the first Pharaoh to be mentioned by name in the Bible. He is also known as Shoshenq I.



6

If Jeroboam obeys God...



Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. When Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was yet in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon, and Jeroboam lived in Egypt; and they sent and called him), Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came, and

spoke to Rehoboam, saying, "Your father made our yoke difficult. Now therefore make the hard service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, lighter, and we will serve you."

42

they will be his servants forever.

He said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." So, the people departed. King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men who had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, "What answer these people?"

They replied, "If you will be a servant to this people today, and will serve them, and answer them with good words, then they will be your servants forever."

3

If Rehoboam serves the people...

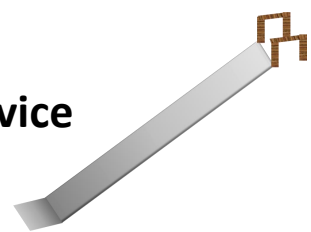
Problem: The people wanted less work.

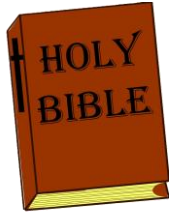
Advice: Make their work easier.

Good Advice



Bad Advice





But he abandoned the counsel of the old men which they had given him, and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him. He said to them, "What counsel do you give, that we may answer these people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Make the yoke that your father put on us lighter'?" The young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Tell these people who spoke to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but make it lighter to us'—tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. Now my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, but I will add to your yoke. My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.'" So, Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king asked, saying, "Come to me again the third day." The king answered the people roughly, and abandoned the counsel of the old men which they had given him, and spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions." So, the king didn't listen to the people; for it was a thing brought about from Yahweh, that he might establish his word, which Yahweh spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. When all Israel saw that the king

97
Rehoboam gave the people more work

didn't listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, "What portion have we in David? We don't have an inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, Israel! Now see to your own house, David." So, Israel departed to their tents.

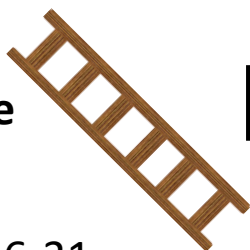
51
The Israelites followed Jeroboam

Problem: The people wanted less work.

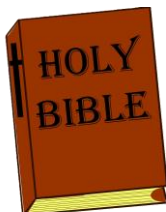
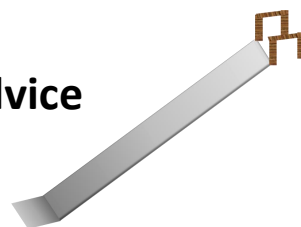
Advice: Make their work harder.



Good Advice



Bad Advice



1 Kings 12:26-31

Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will return to David's house. If this people goes up to offer sacrifices in Yahweh's house at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, even to Rehoboam

king of Judah; and they will kill me, and Rehoboam king of Judah." So, the king took counsel, and he said to them, "It is too much for you to go up

75
Jeroboam was afraid of losing power...

1
He disobeyed God's command to not worship statues.

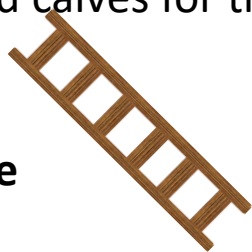
return to Jerusalem. Look and behold your gods, Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" He set the one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. This thing became a sin, for the people went even as far as Dan to worship before the one there. He made houses of high places, and made priests from among all the people, who were not of the sons of Levi.

Problem: The Kingdom of Judah had the temple, not Israel.

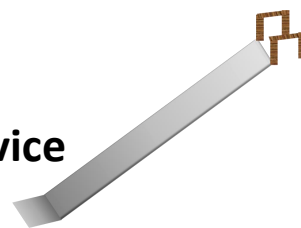
Advice: Build gold calves for the people to worship in Israel.

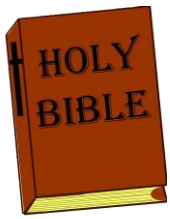


Good Advice



Bad Advice





1 Kings 14:6-9, 14

So, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet as she came in at the door, he said, "Come in, Jeroboam's wife! Why do you

pretend to be another? For I am sent to you with heavy news. Go, tell

Jeroboam, 'Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: "Because I exalted you

from among the people, and made you prince over My people

Israel, and tore the kingdom away from David's house, and gave it to you; and yet you have not

been as My servant David, who kept My

commandments, and who followed Me with all

his heart, to do that only which was right in My

eyes, but have done evil above all who were

before you, and have gone and made

gods, molten images, to provoke

Me behind your back." ...

43
Jeroboam built altars to false gods

for yourself other

Me to anger, and have cast

"Moreover, Yahweh will raise up a king for himself over Israel who will

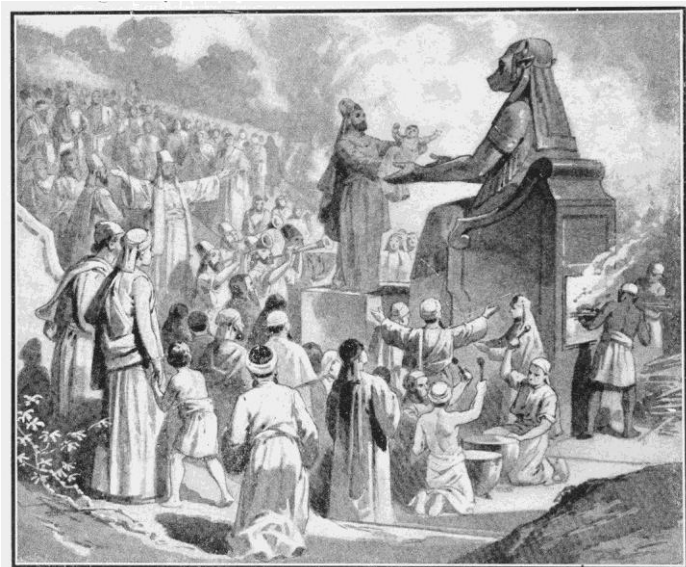
cut off the house of Jeroboam. This is the day! What? Even now!"

19

God will choose a new family to rule Israel.



The worship of bulls, cows and calves was very popular in ancient times. Ways to spell one cow-god's name were Milcom, Molech and even Milk!



Charles Foster, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

The Divided Kingdom



Name: _____

Solomon, Jeroboam, Jerusalem, Shechem, Rehoboam,

Northern, Southern, Prophets

nehonrtr _____

hecsmeh _____

rajbeoom _____

ophrsept _____

ejmrusael _____

hareboom _____

urtnsheo _____

moolosno _____