

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 95: THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED**  
**1 KINGS 11:26-40; 12:1-24**

Jeroboam was from the town of Zereedah in Ephraim. His father Nebat had died, but his mother Zeruah was still alive. Jeroboam was one of Solomon's officers, but even he went against Solomon. Here is how it happened: While Solomon's workers were filling in the land on the east side of Jerusalem and repairing the city walls, Solomon noticed that Jeroboam was a hard worker. So he put Jeroboam in charge of the work forces from the tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim. One day when Jeroboam was leaving Jerusalem, he met Ahijah, a prophet from Shiloh. No one else was anywhere around. Suddenly, Ahijah took off his new coat and ripped it into twelve pieces. Then he said: Jeroboam, take ten pieces of this coat and listen to what the LORD God of Israel says to you. "Jeroboam, I am the LORD God, and I am about to take Solomon's kingdom from him and give you ten tribes to rule over. But Solomon will still rule one tribe, since he is the son of David my servant, and Jerusalem is my chosen city. "Solomon and the Israelites are not like their ancestor David. They will not listen to me, obey me, or do what is right. They have turned from me to worship Ashtarothe goddess of Sidon, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of Ammon. "Solomon is David's son, and David was my chosen leader, who did what I commanded. So I will let Solomon be king until he dies. Then I will give you ten tribes to rule over, but Solomon's son will still rule one tribe. This way, my servant David will always have a descendant ruling in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to be worshiped. You will be king of Israel and will rule every nation you want. I'll always help you if you obey me. And if you do what I say, as my servant David did, I will always let someone from your family rule in Israel, just as someone from David's family will always rule in Judah. The nation of Israel will be yours. "I will punish the descendants of David, but not forever."

Then when Solomon heard about what the LORD had told Jeroboam, Solomon tried to kill him, but Jeroboam escaped and went to King Shishak of Egypt and stayed there until Solomon died. Rehoboam, Solomon's son, went to Shechem where everyone was waiting to crown him as king. But Jeroboam, the son of Nebat heard what was happening, so he stayed in Egypt, where he had gone to hide from Solomon. But the people from the northern tribes of Israel sent for him. Then together they went to Rehoboam and said, "Your father Solomon forced us to work very hard. But if you make our work easier, we will serve you and do whatever you ask us to do."

"Give me three days to think about it," Rehoboam replied, "then come back for my answer." So the people left. Rehoboam went to some leaders who had been his father's top officials, and he asked them, "What should I tell these people?" They

answered, "If you want them to serve and obey you, then you should do what they ask today. Tell them you will make their work easier." But Rehoboam refused their advice and went to the younger men who had grown up with him and were now his officers. He asked, "What do you think I should say to these people who asked me to make their work easier?" His younger advisors said: Here's what we think you should say to them: "Compared to me, my father was weak. He made you work hard, but I'll make you work even harder. He punished you with whips, but I'll use whips with pieces of sharp metal on them!" Three days later, Jeroboam and the others came back. Rehoboam ignored the advice of the older advisors. He spoke directly and told them exactly what his own younger advisors had told him: "My father made you work hard, but I'll make you work even harder. He punished you with whips, but I'll use whips with pieces of sharp metal on them!" When the people realized that Rehoboam would not listen to them, they shouted: "We don't have to be loyal to David's family. We can do what we want to do. Come on, people of Israel, let's go home! Rehoboam can rule his own people." Adoniram was in charge of the people who were forced to work hard, and Rehoboam sent him to talk to the people. But they killed him with stones. Then Rehoboam ran to his chariot and hurried back to Jerusalem. So the people from the northern tribes of Israel went home, leaving Rehoboam to rule only the people from the towns that were in Judah. Ever since that day, the people of Israel have been against David's family that are in Judah. All of this happened just like the LORD's prophet Ahijah had told Jeroboam it would happen. When the Israelites heard that Jeroboam was back, they called everyone together. Then they sent for Jeroboam and made him king of Israel. Only the people from the tribe of Judah remained faithful to David's family. After Rehoboam returned to Jerusalem, he decided to attack Israel and take control of the whole country. So he called together one hundred and eighty thousand soldiers from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Meanwhile, God told Shemaiah the prophet to give Rehoboam and everyone from Judah and Benjamin this warning: "Don't go to war against the people from Israel--they are your relatives. Go home! I am the LORD, and I made these things happen." So Rehoboam and his army obeyed the LORD and went home.

## 95. THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED

(1 KINGS 11:26-40; 12:1-24)

This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says. Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to you.  
1 Kings 11:31



# **95. THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED**

**1 KINGS 11:26-40; 12:1-24**

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

"This happened because of the LORD, that He might fulfill His word." **1 KINGS 12:15**

## **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. Solomon noticed that Jeroboam was a hard worker. So he put Jeroboam in charge of the work forces from the tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim.  
TRUE or FALSE
2. One day when Jeroboam was leaving Jerusalem, he met Ahijah, a prophet from Shiloh. TRUE or FALSE
3. Ahijah told Jeroboam to take two pieces for himself because God was going to give him two of the twelve tribes of Israel to rule over. TRUE or FALSE
4. The LORD told Jeroboam that He was going to give one tribe to Solomon's son because He promised there would always be someone from David's family to rule in Jerusalem. TRUE or FALSE
5. The LORD told Jeroboam that if he would obey the LORD and walk in His ways that He would always be with him, just like He was with David.  
TRUE or FALSE

## **ANSWER THE QUESTIONS**

1. Did Solomon's son Rehoboam go to Shechem where all the people were waiting for him to be crowned king of Israel?
2. Did the people ask Rehoboam to make their work easier because his father Solomon made their work so hard? What did they say they would do if he did make their work easier? Did they say they would obey him?
3. Did Rehoboam ask his father Solomon's advisors what to do? What did they tell him to do? Did they tell him to do what the people were asking?
4. Did Rehoboam listen to the older advisors?
5. What did Rehoboam tell the people? Did he tell them that he was going to be worse than his father Solomon was?
6. Did everything happen just like the prophet Ahijah told Jeroboam it would happen?

## Decisions, Decisions!

In today's lesson we will be learning about listening to good advice and bad advice and what happens when we listen to bad advice. We have to make choices and decisions all of the time. Our friends may not always give us good advice. We need to learn how to listen to the Lord.

Read off the following questions to your class and ask for answers from the children.

1. Bobby saved some money to buy a really special video game. But, Jimmy asked Bobby to borrow some money so he could buy something he really wanted. Bobby thought about lying and saying that he spent the money already on something else. What do you think is the right thing for Bobby to do?
2. Ashley never really liked math very much so she asked her best friend Kathy if she would sit next to her during the big test and let her see her answers. What do you think is the right thing for Kathy to do?
3. Billy and Josh were really good friends. One day they were playing during recess at school. A group of boys came up to them and asked Josh to play with them, but made fun of Billy and said they didn't want him to play. What do you think is the right thing for Josh to do?
4. Sabrina moved into a new house and met some new girls on the street. They said they would be her friend if she went and stole some candy for them. What do you think is the right thing for Sabrina to do?

After the children have given you answers go back over each question and change the last phrase to "What would Jesus do?" Emphasize that it does not matter what we think or what our friends think, what matters is what Jesus thinks about a situation.