

Adventures with GOD!

THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM (C.2.WINTER.3)

Biblical Reference	1 Kings 11:41-43, 12:1-15, 20-24
Key Verse	1 Kings 12:24b
Key Concept	The Lord is the King of my life and I will follow his ways.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summarize the story in their own words. 2. Express different emotions that are involved when there is a division. 3. Share ways that we can seek unity.

Life Application

We learn today that God is sovereign over all things and knows better than we do what is best for our lives. Many times we desire things that we think are best for us and we cling to them. It is in those moments that, as believers, we must seek God's guidance through prayer and reading the Bible or find friends (Christian) to give us good advice. We must be ready to hear the voice of God in our lives and make wise decisions.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Review	See instructions	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	See instructions	15 minutes
Activity	Worksheet	10 minutes
Conclusions	Schedule	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read 1 Kings 11:41-43, 12:1-15, 20-24 and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

Review: Choose three or four children to share with the class some of their experiences in completing the weekly schedule. Then collect all the schedules and store them in the individual folders. Then spend some time reviewing the previous lesson.

Bible Exploration: Have the children open their Bibles to 1 Kings 11:41-43, 12:1-15, 20-24. Remind the children that this is the word of God. Read the story together, taking turns. Then summarize what they've just read, asking for volunteers to represent the major characters (acting out the story) as you read.

For 120 years Saul, David and Solomon (king of Israel) had established a strong government. After Solomon's death the northern tribes broke away to form their own nation. Ten tribes

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joined to form a nation in the north called Israel and made Jeroboam king. Only two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, remained loyal to Rehoboam in Jerusalem. They took the name of Judah and lived in Jerusalem, home of the temple, the capital. From that time, the nation of Israel (as a unified nation) ceased to exist.

Rehoboam, Solomon's son, went to Shechem because Israel wanted to make him king. Jeroboam had fled from King Solomon and had been in Egypt, but Israel summoned him. He stood before the King Rehoboam to file a petition saying,

"Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor...and we will serve you." (v. 4) The king asked for three days to think about the request. Rehoboam consulted with the elders who told the king to accept the petition. But Rehoboam also asked the advice of some young men who had grown up with him and they responded that he should make their yoke even heavier. On the third day Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam. He answered them by following the advice of his younger friends. The Israelites went home, but that was not the end of the story. Rehoboam reigned over them but Israel rebelled against the house of David and did not accept the king's messengers and killed them.

Jeroboam had returned to Israel and they made him king. Only the house of Judah remained faithful to Rehoboam. Rehoboam then came to Jerusalem with 180 soldiers chosen from all the thousands of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin to fight Israel and regain his kingdom. But God spoke to Shemaiah, a man of God and commanded them not to fight. So they returned home without fighting.

When you have finished telling the story, ask questions like:

What happened to the unified kingdom of Israel? What are the dangers that division brings in this story? Where do we see division today? How does it make God feel when he sees people divided and not united? How does it make us feel when we see disunity and division?

What do we continue to learn about the consequences of Israel choosing a human king over God? Certainly God did not want this to happen to Israel but they wanted a king and God granted them one, knowing the consequences it would bring. Today, we all have to make decisions that can have positive or negative consequences. Many times we ask God for things that really are not in our best interest. God can give us what we ask just as he did with the people of Israel, but it causes God pain, knowing that we will suffer the consequences of our

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desires. God asks us to be faithful and to wait on God, who has the care and control of our lives and knows what is best and appropriate for us. We have to wait and trust.

Activity: Divide the class into groups and then give each group a copy of the worksheet to find the hidden messages that are enclosed in boxes. When you have found them, ask them to write the complete sentence at the bottom of the sheet. Check the answers and explain that these sentences contain some elements that help us stay unified if we are ready to obey.

The phrases are:

- "Honor God and keep His commandments"
- "Listen to God and act with wisdom"
- "Act according to God's heart"

Conclusions: Give each child the new schedule for this week.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

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Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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Worksheet 1

Hidden Message

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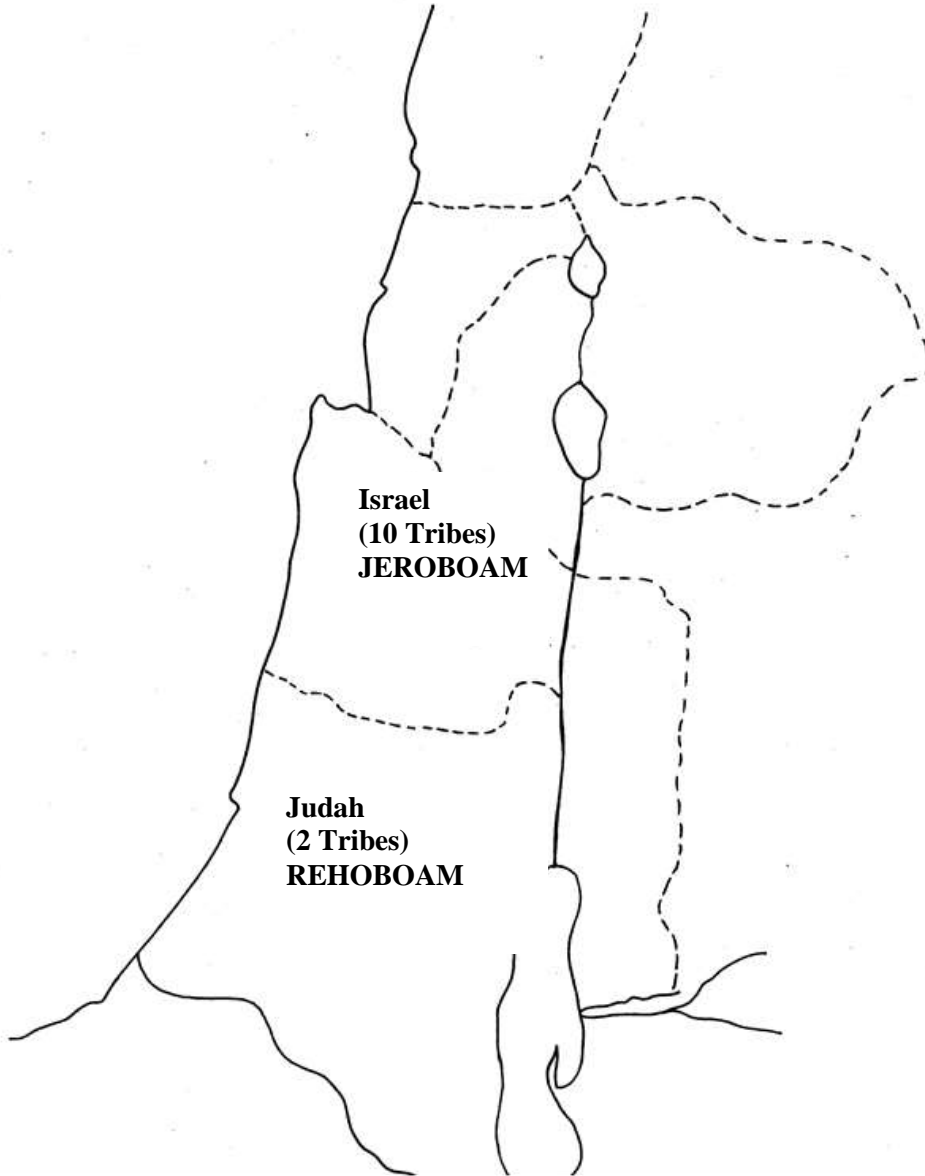
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Map

United Division



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Worksheet 2

Schedule: LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF GOD AND MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

Every night during the week, take time to reflect on the day's events. List the things that have influenced you and how you decided to react to them.

“There is a way that may seem right to a man.

But in the end it leads to death.” Proverbs 14:12

DAY	INFLUENCES	REACTIONS
Sunday		
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		