

LOWER ELEM Flight Plan October 11th



Lesson	The Kingdom Divided
Bible Passage	1 Kings 11-12
Story Point	God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.
Key Passage	“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9
Big Picture Q & A	How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.



INSTRUCTIONS: Find and circle the seven differences between the top and bottom versions of the Bible story picture.



Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 12 • Session 4
The Kingdom Divided

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Solomon started by worshipping false gods.
- Solomon's son Rehoboam became king after Solomon.
- The people asked Rehoboam to make their work easier, but he promised the opposite.
- God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.

KEY PASSAGE: *Isiah 42:8*

BIG-PICTURE QUESTION:
 1. How many gods are there? There's

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Who is a wise King (an Solomon)?

- How does Jesus understand people?
- How might following Jesus be difficult, and how might it be easy?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Purchase the ingredients for banana splits. Allow your kids to not a banana knife to divide the bananas to prepare the treats. Talk about why God split Israel and how Jesus unites people to God and one another.

leader bible study

The downfall of David's kingdom was propelled by David's sin with Bathsheba. Amid the pain of losing their firstborn son, God showed David and Bathsheba that He still loved them. Bathsheba gave birth to Solomon. God chose Solomon to be Israel's next king. (See 2 Sam. 12:24-25; 1 Chron. 22:9-13.)

David spoke to his son from his deathbed, giving specific instructions: "Keep your obligation to the LORD your God to walk in his ways" (1 Kings 2:3a). After 40 years of reigning over Israel, David died and Solomon became Israel's king.

King Solomon loved God. He received wisdom from the Lord and was dedicated to building His temple. But early on, we see hints that Solomon's heart was not completely devoted to God. He married foreign wives who turned Solomon's heart away from God. (1 Kings 11:4)

Solomon gradually abandoned what he had believed. Israel had a history of turning away from God, and Solomon was no exception.

God was angry with Solomon. He had warned him twice not to turn to false gods. God planned to discipline Solomon by taking the kingdom away from his family. God was going to take the kingdom from Solomon's son Rehoboam—every tribe except for one. God graciously left one tribe for Rehoboam, keeping the promise He made to David. (See 2 Sam. 7:16.)

God set apart Jeroboam, one of Solomon's servants, to become leader over 10 tribes of Israel. Parts of the tribe of Benjamin followed Jeroboam, and some followed Rehoboam. When Solomon died, all of Israel gathered to make Rehoboam their new king. They asked Rehoboam to lighten the burden of service Solomon had given them, but Rehoboam refused. In fact, he promised to make their work even harder.

Israel rebelled against Rehoboam and made Jeroboam king. Only the tribe of Judah stayed with Rehoboam. So the kingdom was divided into two kingdoms—the Northern Kingdom was called Israel (ruled by Jeroboam) and the Southern Kingdom was called Judah (ruled by Rehoboam).

Every king failed to lead God's people perfectly. God had a plan to send them a better king, a perfect king. God would use the house of David—the single tribe He reserved for Rehoboam—to bring into the world His Son, Jesus, to become King over all of God's people forever and lead them back to God.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

October Focus: A Nation Divided



OCT 4th: Solomon Built the Temple *1 Kings 6-8*

Story point: God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them.



OCT 11th: The Kingdom Divided *1 Kings 11-12*

Story Point: God divided Israel into two Kingdoms because Solomon sinned.



OCT 18th: Israel and Judah Taken Captive *2 Kings 17 & 2 Chronicles 36*

Story Point: Israel ignored God's prophets and was captured. Judah didn't listen to God's warning.



OCT 25th: The Captives Came Home

Ezra 1-3

Story Point: God kept His promise to bring His People home.



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- Discussion
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to talk about what they do when they don't get along with someone else. How does conflict make them feel?

Big Picture Question

As we get into our story, we need to set up a big picture question. This question will help us focus on a specific lesson we can learn from the various stories we will study over the next few weeks. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke?*** *These next few weeks we will see how sin breaks apart the Nation of Israel—the nation God built up from Abraham's one son and talk through the answer: God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.*

Key Passage

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together **2 Peter 3:9**. At times, it may feel like the whole world is only getting worse and worse. Israel may have wondered; when will the Messiah come? We may wonder, when will Jesus come back? Our key passage is a beautiful reminder that God is faithful. He isn't wasting time, He is patiently waiting so more people have opportunities to turn from sin and trust in Jesus!

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Solomon became king after his father, David. Solomon had the chance to ask God for anything, and asked for wisdom. God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people. God also gave Solomon wealth and power. Solomon wrote many things to teach God's people that wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word. Then, God used Solomon to fulfill His promise to David. God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them. However, as wise as Solomon was, he was not a perfect king.

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 11-12 Read from the Bible or use the story example to help you tell the story. Wrap up with the insights below.

Solomon's story is a sad one, but it helps us see that even a wise person can make foolish, sinful choices. Solomon married more than one woman, and some of his wives were from groups of people that God said not to marry. Those groups of people worshiped false gods and did evil things. Over time, Solomon's heart turned away from God.

Solomon began to worship the evil, false gods that his wives worshiped. God was angry with Solomon, but He also remembered His covenant with David. God warned Solomon that the kingdom would be taken from Solomon's son, except for one tribe.

When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. He did not show wisdom, and he drove the people away. But though it may have seemed that Rehoboam was to blame, it was really Solomon whose sin caused the mess. God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.



We learned that David was a great king, but not the perfect King that God's people needed. Solomon was a wise and powerful king, but he was not the perfect King the people needed either. Solomon's sin divided the kingdom. Through David's family, God would send His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be a perfect King over God's people forever. Jesus is greater than Solomon. Jesus brings His people together and leads them back to God.

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: GOD DIVIDED ISRAEL INTO TWO KINGDOMS BECAUSE SOLOMON SINNED.

King Solomon loved God, but he did not love God with his whole heart. He began to worship the false gods that his wives worshiped. God said to Solomon, "Since you have done this, I will take the kingdom away from you. You will be king the rest of your life, but when your son becomes king, he will lose everything except for one tribe."

When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. The people told Rehoboam, "Your father, Solomon, made us work too hard. We will gladly serve you if you make our work easier."

Rehoboam told the workers, "My father did not make you work hard enough! I'll make you work even harder!"

The people did not want to serve a king like Rehoboam, so they made Jeroboam king. Jeroboam had been one of Solomon's officials. Now he was king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Only Judah and Benjamin remained under Rehoboam's rule, and that was the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Now Jeroboam was the king of Israel, but he wasn't a good king. Jeroboam led all the people to worship the false gods instead of the one true God.



Christ Connection: King Solomon failed to lead God's people perfectly. God's people needed a better king, a perfect king! Through David's family, God would send His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be a perfect King over God's people forever. Jesus is greater than Solomon. Jesus brings His people together and leads them back to God.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find 1 Kings 11–12. . Briefly review some of the differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Ask the kids to identify which Bible division 1 Kings is in (*Old Testament History*) and see if anyone can name the other books that share that division (*Joshua–Esther*). Remind the kids that we use divisions to help us organize the Bible. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **How did Solomon sin?** (*Solomon married many women, and Solomon worshiped their false gods; 1 Kings 11:2-4*)
2. **What did Rehoboam say that angered the people?** (*He promised to make their lives harder, not easier; 1 Kings 12:13-14*)
3. **How did Jeroboam lead the Northern Kingdom into sin?** (*He made idols to prevent people from worshiping at the temple; 1 Kings 12:27-30*)
4. **If Solomon had so much wisdom, why did he worship false gods?** *wisdom cannot save us. Help them see that wisdom is valuable, but if cannot fix the brokenness in our hearts. We need salvation through Jesus to have our hearts fixed to love and obey God.*
5. **Why did God allow Rehoboam to stay king over Judah?** *God's covenant to David was not broken by Solomon's sin. God keeps His promises even though we sin. He promised to send the Messiah through David's family and that a member of David's family would be on the throne forever.*
6. **If God was going to let Rehoboam stay king, why divide the kingdom at all?** *sin always has consequences. God loves us even when we sin, but He does not always protect us from the consequences of our sin.*

What movement-based activity can I use?



God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

IN CONTROL

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Ongoing Object Lesson for the Temple

Not necessary, but could be a powerful way to make the connections of the lessons this month: Have the children work together to build a temple out of sugar cubes. Keep this temple for the next few weeks and incorporate it into future lessons as you find helpful:

Oct 4th: Solomon Built the Temple

Give each child a cotton ball and have them stretch it out without breaking it. Have them add their cotton to the temple to show how God's glory filled the temple when it was dedicated.

Have the kids draw on little pieces of paper, or cover very small objects with gold paper. Tuck these treasures in the temple.

Oct 11th: The Kingdom Divided

When the kingdom split, the temple in Jerusalem was part of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Ask the kids to consider where the Northern Kingdom would go to worship.

Oct 18th: Israel & Judah Taken Captive

Take the treasures out of the temple then destroy it by knocking it down, pouring hot water over it, etc.

Oct 25th: The Captives Come Home

Have the kids rebuild the temple, but do not provide as many or as nice of resources. Highlight how rebuilding was a bittersweet thing for the people of Israel.

Divide the Kingdom

Write the names of the twelve tribes on individual craft sticks. Help children count the sticks as you name each tribe. Write Israel on one cup and Judah on another cup. Help children put the tribe of Judah in its cup and the other tribes in the other cup. Briefly retell the Bible story. (Optional, place sticks on map where they belong)

- King Solomon's sin split the kingdom. Only Judah and Benjamin stayed with King Rehoboam. Jesus was born into David and Solomon's family in Judah.

Whole or half-hearted?

Write scenarios on index cards. Invite kid volunteers to draw cards one at a time. Each volunteer must act out the scenario on the card once with a whole-hearted attitude and once with a half-hearted attitude. The other kids must guess what activity the volunteer is acting out. Suggested scenarios:

You have to clean your room before you can go to your friend's house.

You have been selected to be the line leader at school.

You score a goal in your soccer game.

You are learning a new dance move that is popular at your school.

You are going to pick up a new pet from the animal shelter.

- Some of those scenarios would be very fun and some might not be fun; either way, it's obvious when someone is doing something whole-heartedly. Solomon obeyed God at first, but the Bible tells us that when he got older, his heart was not wholly devoted to God. His obedience was half-hearted, and eventually he didn't obey at all. **God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.** When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in us. He helps us love God and obey Him whole-heartedly.

Piece it Together

Print a copy of the Bible story picture poster. Cut it into strips, at least one strip per kid. Determine the number of strips based on the age and size of your group.

Challenge kids to work together to assemble the picture. Provide tape for kids to connect the strips. Hold up an uncut copy of the Bible story picture.

- What do you think is happening in the picture? Some of these people look pretty upset. Who in this picture do you think is in charge? Does the king look like a good king or a bad king? Who remembers from our Bible story what was happening in this picture?



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide*.**

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're
ready
for
Sunday!



