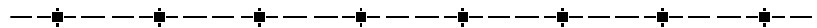


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A King Follows Bad Advice

Rehoboam

I Kings 11-12

A King Follows Bad Advice
I Kings 12:1-24

Memory Verse:

If a kingdom is divided
against itself, that kingdom
cannot stand.
(Mark 3:24 NIV)

Lesson Goals:

1. Rehoboam sought the counsel of others as to how he should rule.
2. Rehoboam chose to follow bad counsel.
3. Israel was divided.
4. The division was a consequence of Solomon's sin.

Last week we learned about Adonijah. He tried to make himself the king, but King David was not dead yet. King David made Solomon the king. The prophet Nathan was instrumental in preventing Adonijah from usurping the throne.

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 12:1-24 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

When Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, became king of Israel, he was not sure about how he should rule.

Now Jeroboam had been an enemy of Saul. The prophet, Ahijah, had told Jeroboam that God would give him ten tribes of Israel to rule over them. But Jeroboam had been afraid of Solomon and fled to Egypt. (I Kings 11:26-40) The people had sent to Egypt for Jeroboam. Jeroboam came with the people of Israel to Rehoboam and asked him to lighten their load. They said that King Solomon made them work very hard. They wanted Rehoboam to make their load lighter. They told Rehoboam that if he would do that, they would serve him. It is important to notice that they did not ask Rehoboam to remove their load. They only asked that he make it lighter. He asked the people to wait three days and then return. He would give them a response at that time. (I Kings 12:1-6) Rehoboam went to the elders. These were the men who had advised King Solomon during his reign. Rehoboam asked the elders for advice. He asked them how he should respond to the men of Israel. The elders told Rehoboam to do as the people asked. They said that if Rehoboam did that, the people would serve him. (I Kings 12:6-7)

But Rehoboam was not finished. He went to ask the advice of the young men who grew up with him and were now serving him. Rehoboam asked the young men what they thought about it. He asked them what they thought his response should be. The young men gave Rehoboam bad advice. They told him to tell the people that he would make things worse than Solomon had done. (I Kings 12:8-11)

Since Rehoboam had told them to wait three days, Jeroboam and the men of Israel waited. Then Jeroboam and the men of Israel returned to hear Rehoboam's response. But he was mean to them because Rehoboam followed the bad advice of the young men who served with him. He said, "My father put a heavy load on your shoulders. But I'll make it even heavier. My father beat you with whips. But I'll beat you with bigger

Rehoboam – Bible Facts

1. Rehoboam was the son of King Solomon.
2. Rehoboam asked for the advice of the elders and his friend.
3. Rehoboam followed the advice of his friends.
4. The people rejected Rehoboam as their king.
5. God planned things that way.

whips." (I Kings 12:12-14) Have you ever followed bad advice? What happened?

For Rehoboam, the consequences were not good. The kingdom of Israel was divided. The Bible says that, "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." (Mark 3:24 NIV)

The people told the king that they would not follow him and they would not serve him. The people went home. But the Bible says that things happened the exact way God planned it. Jeroboam would be a king over Israel. Rehoboam would rule over the Israelites who lived in the towns of Judah. (I Kings 12:15-20) Rehoboam planned to send 180,000 of his fighting men from Judah and Benjamin to get Israel back. He wanted to force them to serve him. (I Kings 12:21) Has anyone ever tried to force you to do something you didn't want to do? Did it work? But Shemaiah, a man of God, told Rehoboam that God did not want him to go fight the Israelites. God told Rehoboam that the Israelites were his relatives. God also told Rehoboam that things happened the exact way that He had planned. The fighting men obeyed God and went home. (I Kings 12:22-24)

God sent Jesus to help us know God will and to help us obey Him. (John 6:37-40) The Bible says, "If you love me, you will obey what I command. (John 14:15 NIV)

Review Questions

1. **Who was Rehoboam?** (Rehoboam was the son of King Solomon.)
2. **Whose counsel did Rehoboam seek?** (Rehoboam asked for the advice of the elders and his friend.)
3. **Whose advice did Rehoboam follow?** Rehoboam followed the advice of his friends.
4. **What did the people do?** (The people rejected Rehoboam as their king.)
5. **What did God do?** (God planned things that way. He told Solomon the kingdom would be divided as a consequence of his sin and disobedience.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God sent Jesus to help us know God and to help us obey God. Jesus was obedient to God and did exactly what God commanded. (John 14:31) We can know God by inviting Jesus into our hearts. When we ask God for forgiveness and invite Him to be a part of our lives, He will forgive us, and He will come to be a part of our lives forever. (Romans 10:9-10) We express our love to God by our obedience. (John 14:15)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.
3. Ask God to help you love Him and obey Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to know God.

Application

Rehoboam sought the counsel of others as to how he should rule. Rehoboam chose to follow bad counsel. He was mean to the men who asked him to lighten their load. They refused to follow and serve him. As a result, Israel was divided. The division was a consequence of Solomon's sin. But it was God's plan. (I Kings 12:24) God wants us to love and obey Him. When we do that, we express our love for God. (John 14:15)

Planning for the next week:

Jeroboam (A King Leads God's Children to Idolatry) — I Kings 11-13

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 12:12–20 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Decorate your room with balloons. Write the words to the memory verse on small pieces of paper. Put the pieces of paper inside balloons. After the story, play volleyball with the balloons until they all pop. Then put the verse in order and practice it.)

When Rehoboam became king, Jeroboam came with the people of Israel to Rehoboam and asked him to lighten their load. (I Kings 12:1-6)

Since Rehoboam had told them to wait three days, Jeroboam and the men of Israel did that. Then Jeroboam and the men of Israel went back to hear what Rehoboam had to say. But he was mean to them because Rehoboam did what the young men who served with him told him to say. He said, "My father put a heavy load on your shoulders. But I'll make it even heavier. My father beat you with whips. But I'll beat you with bigger whips." (I Kings 12:12-14) Do you think it was a good idea to say that to the men of Israel? Was it kind? Have you ever followed bad advice? What happened?

For Rehoboam, what happened next was not good. The kingdom of Israel was divided. The Bible says that, "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." (Mark 3:24 NIV) Can you build a bridge with only one leg? It needs two legs to stand on.

The people told the king that they would not follow him and they would not serve him. The people went home. Rehoboam was the king but only of the Israelites who lived in the towns of Judah. (I Kings 12:15-20)

God sent Jesus to help us know God will and to help us obey Him. The Bible says, "If you love me, you will obey what I command. (John 14:15 NIV)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can obey God.
3. Ask God to help you love Him and obey Him.

Did you know? Preschoolers can learn to be kind.

Consider this: Prepare the words to the song "Fruit of the Spirit" On cardstock or construction paper write the words: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Select three students ahead of time and ask them to share their word. Tell them that you need their help. When they share, they will be helping you. When they do share, thank them by name. If others do the same, thank them by name. This will encourage them to be kind.

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Write the words to the memory verse on small pieces of paper. Put the pieces of paper inside balloons. Play volleyball with the balloons until they all pop. Then put the verse in order and practice it.
- **Test your memory** — Create a drama. Have some of the children play the roles of Rehoboam and the men of Israel. Have some of the children pretend to be the elders and some pretend to be the young men who advised Rehoboam. The elders can say, “Be kind.” The young men can say, “Be mean.” Make it simple. Have the children retell the story.
- **Taste activity** — Israel was divided and now had two kings. Bring sweet and sour candy, pudding swirls, or marble cake. Talk about the divided kingdom.
- **Think about it** — Rehoboam went to the elders. These were the men who had advised King Solomon during his reign. Rehoboam asked the elders for advice. He asked them how he should respond to the men of Israel. Talk about the importance of seeking godly counsel.

Rehoboam was mean to the men of Israel because he followed the bad advice of the young men who served with him. He said, "My father put a heavy load on your shoulders. But I'll make it even heavier. My beat you with whips. But I'll beat you with bigger whips." (I Kings 12:12-14) Have you ever followed bad advice? Talk about the consequences of following bad advice.

Talk about knowing the difference between good and bad advice. Use scripture verses that talk about how to live. (James 1:5, Matthew 6:33, etc.)

- **Touch activity** — Make puppets of King Rehoboam and King Jeroboam. Talk about how the kingdom was divided.
- **Run and play** — The kingdom of Israel was divided under Rehoboam. Select two leaders. All the leaders to select team members. Run relay races.
- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to obey Him.
- **Sing** — Sing songs related to the story.

Memory Verse

If a kingdom
is divided
against itself,
that kingdom
cannot stand.

Mark 3:24

NIRV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

REHOBOTHAM

FOLLOWED

BAD

ADVICE

Word Puzzle

E T D E G H T I G G A D
H C A E D N O S S R O V
S X I E Y B R S O O O N
E C K V E E A K G H A S
H S N I D H B N D T I D
A S A L N A S E H A V E
J E E B D M W H N I O D
I O T N M O F G E B A L
N D A L L E B E N A D V
O M N L L G R A D U B A
D S O R O H L A O T O D
A F N P T Q T E N J E Y

ADVICE

GOOD

BAD

FOLLOWED

YOUNG

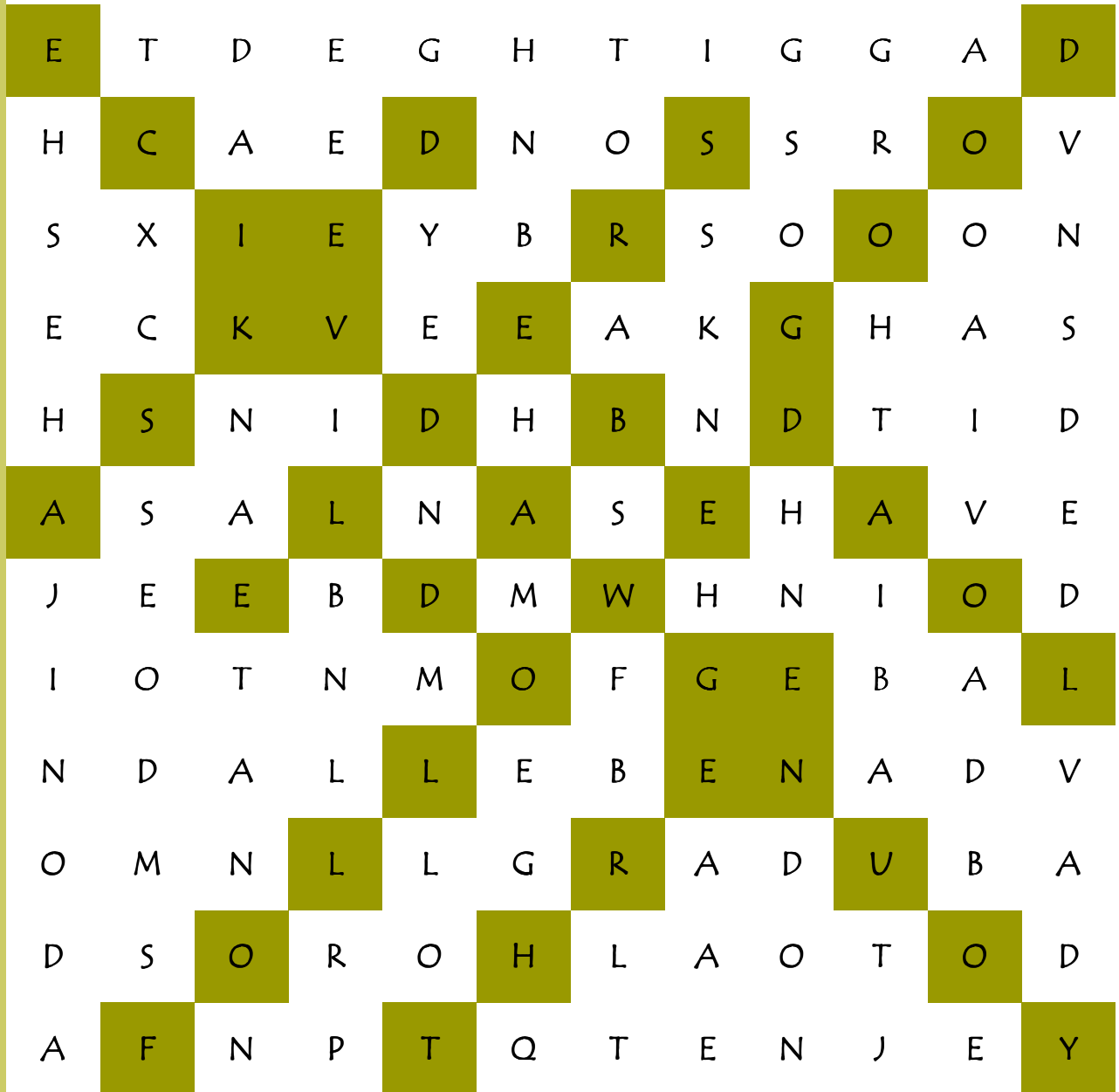
ELDERS

THREE

ASKED

LOAD

Word Puzzle



ADVICE

GOOD

BAD

FOLLOWED

YOUNG

ELDERS

THREE

ASKED

LOAD

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

F Q P D T H R E E N T D
Q F C R L O A D T V B N
J M P C K B A D D O L S
C K Z Q M F N E F B C H
R F P B G O O D P W R S
A D F N M J V H O N K L
F C R K A S K E D F G W
A B P Q A D V I C E R D

ADVICE

GOOD

BAD

THREE

ASKED

LOAD

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

F Q P D T H R E E N T D
Q F C R L O A D T V B N
J M P C K B A D D O L S
C K Z Q M F N E F B C H
R F P B G O O D P W R S
A D F N M J V H O N K L
F C R K A S K E D F G W
A B P Q A D V I C E R D

ADVICE

GOOD

BAD

THREE

ASKED

LOAD

Anagram

1. AEOOMBRJ-

2. AEOOMBRH-

3. OOONMLS -

4. IAAEHHMS-

5. YEPTG -

6. REESLD-

7. NYUGO -

8. AAIHHJ -

Anagram

1. AEOOMBRJ - JEROBOAM
2. AEOOMBRH - REHOBOAM
3. OOONMLS - SOLOMON
4. IAAEHHMS - SHEMAIAH
5. YEPTG - EGYPT
6. REESLD - ELDERS
7. NYUGO - YOUNG
8. AAIHHJ - AHIJAH