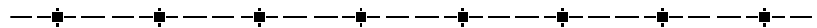


Old Testament

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 Leads
God's Children to Idolatry**
Jeroboam

Last week we learned about Rehoboam. He became king after his father, Solomon, died. The men of Israel asked Rehoboam to lighten their load. But he followed the bad advice of the young men who served with him and refused the request. The men of Israel refused to follow and serve Rehoboam. As a result Israel was divided.

I Kings 11-14

Read the Bible
READ: I Kings 14:1-18 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

**A King Leads
God's Children to Idolatry**
I Kings 14:1-18

Begin with Prayer

Today we will learn about Jeroboam. God had sent Ahijah to tell Jeroboam that he would rule over ten tribes of Israel. This happened while Solomon was still the king. God also told Jeroboam that He would be with him if he (Jeroboam) would obey His command and do what was right. Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam when he found out about it. Jeroboam was afraid of Solomon so he ran away and went to Egypt. (I Kings 11:26-40)

Memory Verse:

Anyone who has my commands
and obeys them loves me.
My Father will love the one
who loves me. I too will love him.
And I will show myself to him.
(John 14:21 NIV)

When Solomon died and Rehoboam became king, the people of Israel sent for Jeroboam. Jeroboam and the men of Israel asked Rehoboam to make their load lighter. Rehoboam consulted with the elders and with the young men who served with him. Sadly, Rehoboam followed the bad advice of the young men. He told the men that he would make their load heavier. So the men of Israel said they would not follow Rehoboam and they would not serve him. (I Kings 12:1-16) As a result, Israel was divided. Rehoboam reigned over the men of Israel who lived in the towns of Judah. Jeroboam reigned over ten tribes. (I Kings 12:17)

Jeroboam was afraid that his kingdom was not secure. He did a very sinful thing. He made two gold statues. They looked like calves. He told Israel that they should not go to worship so far away in Jerusalem. He told them to worship the calves. He put one calf in Bethel and the other one in Dan. So Jeroboam caused Israel to sin. (I Kings 12:25-30)

Jeroboam sinned against God but he didn't stop there. He built temples for the gods. Jeroboam appointed priests who were not Levites (the tribe of priests). He set up a feast like the Feast of Booths (where they offered sacrifices to God). Jeroboam offered sacrifices. He put priests in Bethel. God had given specific instructions for offering sacrifices and for appointing priests. Jeroboam was not following those instructions. (I Kings 12:31-33) The Bible says that "Jeroboam did not change his evil ways." (I Kings 13:33) Jeroboam appointed more priests. He appointed

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Jeroboam reigned over ten tribes.
2. Understand that Jeroboam led Israel to worship idols.
3. Learn that God had promised to be with Jeroboam, if he would obey God's commands.
4. Recognize that there were consequences for Jeroboam's sins.

Jeroboam — Bible Facts

1. Jeroboam was king over ten tribes.
2. Jeroboam was afraid his kingdom was not secure.
3. Jeroboam made two golden calves.
4. Jeroboam told Israel to worship the calves.
5. Jeroboam did more evil than all the other kings.

anyone who wanted to be a priest. All this was sin which led to the downfall of Jeroboam. (I Kings 13:34) One day, Abijah, Jeroboam's son, got very sick. Jeroboam sent his wife to ask the prophet, Ahijah, what would happen to the boy. But Jeroboam told his wife to use a disguise (like a costume) and pretend to be someone else. He also told her to take ten loaves of bread, some cakes, and honey. (I Kings 14:1-4) But God told Ahijah that Jeroboam's wife would come pretending to be someone else. When she arrived, Ahijah told her he knew who she was. He told her that he had bad news for her. Ahijah told Jeroboam's wife that the child would die as soon as she set foot in the city. (I Kings 14:6-14) God said to Jeroboam, "You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have provoked me to anger and thrust me behind your back." (I Kings 14:9) God said that he would raise up another king who cut off every descendant of Jeroboam. God also said that he would punish Israel because of their sins. (I Kings 14:15-16) Then Jeroboam's wife left. As soon as she entered their home, the boy died. (I Kings 14:17-18) Jeroboam was disobedient and caused Israel to sin. 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)

Review

1. **Who was Jeroboam?** (Jeroboam was king over ten tribes.)
2. **Why was Jeroboam afraid?** (Jeroboam was afraid his kingdom was not secure.)
3. **What did Jeroboam do?** (Jeroboam made two golden calves.)
4. **What did Jeroboam tell Israel to do?** (Jeroboam told Israel to worship the calves.)
5. **What did God say about Jeroboam?** (Jeroboam did more evil than all the other kings.)

Do You Know Jesus?

Jesus was obedient to God. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus rose from the dead. Because He is alive, we can have a personal relationship with Jesus. (John 3:16) God wants us to know Him. He also wants us to obey Him. (John 14:31) Would you like to invite Jesus into your heart so that you can know God?

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

Jeroboam reigned over ten tribes of Israel, but Jeroboam led Israel to worship idols. God had promised to be with him, if Jeroboam would obey God's commands. But Jeroboam sinned and led Israel to sin. He built temples for other gods, he sacrificed to other gods, and he even appointed priests. There were consequences for Jeroboam's sins. God told Jeroboam that He would punish Israel for their sins.

Planning for the next week:

Asa (A King Fails to Depend on God) — I Kings 15-16

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 14:1–14 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Bring costumes and let everyone dress up. Make masks.)

One day, Abijah, Jeroboam's son, got very sick. Jeroboam sent his wife to ask the prophet, Ahijah, what would happen to the boy. Jeroboam told his wife to use a disguise (like a costume) and pretend to be someone else. Have you ever worn a costume? He also told her to take ten loaves of bread, some cakes, and honey. (I Kings 14:1-4)

God told Ahijah that Jeroboam's wife would come pretending to be someone else. When she arrived, Ahijah told her he knew who she was. He told her that he had bad news for her. Ahijah told Jeroboam's wife that the child would die as soon as she set foot in the city. Jeroboam's wife must have been very sad. (I Kings 14:6-14)

God said to Jeroboam, "You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have made me angry." (I Kings 14:9) Have you ever done something wrong? When we do wrong, we can ask God for forgiveness. (I John 1:9)

Jeroboam was disobedient and caused Israel to sin. 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)

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 obedience through redirection.

Consider this: If a preschooler is going to color in a book, give him a coloring page. If a preschooler throws a block, give him a ball. Use positive statements like, "Let's color on this page."

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Write the letters for “Obedience” on card stock. On the back write the words to the memory verse. Have the children spell obedience and practice the verse.
- **Test your memory** — Jeroboam worshipped idols and built temples for idol worship. He did many wrong things. Make a list of the sins that Jeroboam did. Use the list to tell the story. Talk about God’s forgiveness.
- **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** — Jeroboam not only sinned, he led Israel to sin. Talk about how we can influence others to obey God.
- **Touch activity** — Bring costumes and let everyone dress up.
- Make masks out of paper plates.
- **Run and play** — Jeroboam ruled ten tribes. Rehoboam ruled over two tribes. Have the children run races in pairs.
- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to obey Him.
- **Sing** — Sing “Obedience” or other songs related to the story.

Memory Verse

Anyone who has
my commands and
obeys them loves me.

My Father
will love
the one who loves me.

I too will love him.

And I will show
myself to him.

John 14:21 NIRV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

JEROBAM

DID

EVIL

Word Puzzle

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

JEROBOAM

REHOBOAM

AHIJAH

WIFE

SON

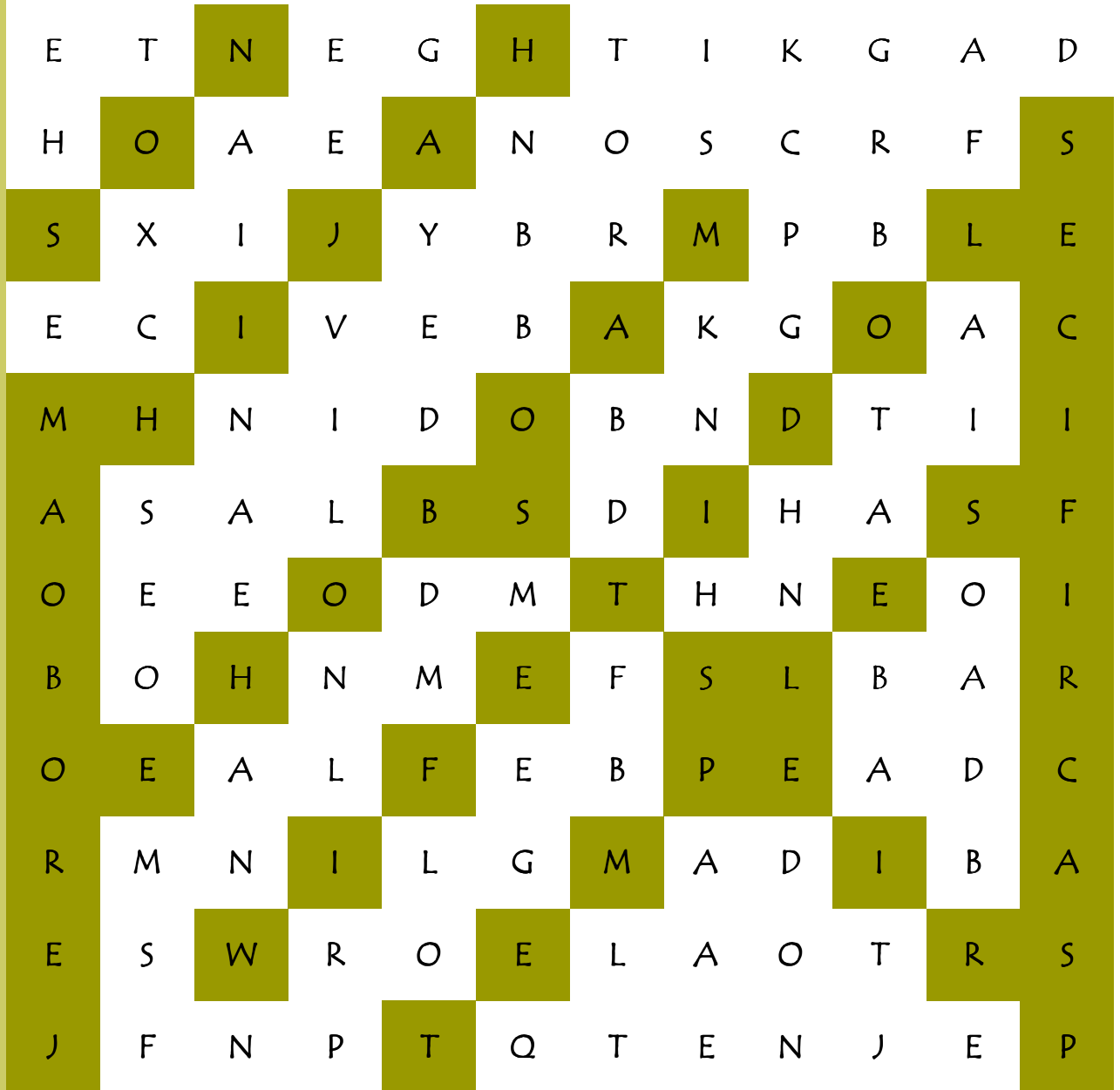
IDOLS

TEMPLES

SACRIFICE

PRIESTS

Word Puzzle



JEROBOAM

REHOBOAM

AHIJAH

WIFE

SON

IDOLS

TEMPLES

SACRIFICE

PRIESTS

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

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

WIFE

SON

PRIESTS

TEMPLES

SACRIFICE

IDOLS

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

P R I E S T S C E N T D

Q F C R L B G D T V B N

W I F E K B A I D O L S

C K Z Q M F N V K S O N

R F P B G V T D P W R S

A D S A C R I F I C E V

F C R K A S K E D F G W

T E M P L E S V C E F G

WIFE

SON

PRIESTS

TEMPLES

SACRIFICE

IDOLS

Anagram

1. AEOOMBRJ-

2. EINNDS-

3. OEPPHRSDIW -

4. ILDSO-

5. ELD EAISLR- LED ISRAEL

6. HHJAAI-

7. AAIHBJ -

8. IIEEOTNSDDB -

Anagram

1. AEOOMBRJ - JEROBOAM
2. EINNDS - SINNED
3. OEPPHRSDIW - WORSHIPPED
4. ILDSO - IDOLS
5. ELD EAISLR - LED ISRAEL
6. HHJAAI - AHIJAH
7. AAIHBJ - ABIJAH
8. IIEEOTNSDDB - DISOBEDIENT