



# MOSAIC Gospel Project

## Volume 4, Unit 12, Lesson 4: The Kingdom Divided

**Bible Passage:** 1 Kings 11-12

### Personal Preparation

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 (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.

Take time to reflect on how you have failed to lead others. Thank God for sending Jesus as the perfect king to lead us and rescue us from sin. Pray that the individuals would know Jesus as their King and Savior.

### Memory Verse

Start the lesson by reviewing the memory verse with the group. This is the last week with this memory verse.

#### James 1:5

*"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."*

### Points of Emphasis

1. God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.
2. God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

### Activity #1

Lead the group to begin working on the activity sheet. Feel free to let the individuals continue working as you teach the lesson.

## Video

Solomon became king after his father, David. Solomon had the chance to ask God for anything, and he 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. Only Jesus is perfect.

Play the video for the lesson titled "The Kingdom Divided."

## Bible Lesson

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, but Jesus' righteousness will unite all believers to God.

## Activity #2

Guide the group to finish working on the activity sheet. Review the memory verse with the group and help them learn it. Encourage the individuals to write the verse using the Velcro pictures. This is the last week with this memory verse.

## Christ Connection

**King Solomon failed to lead God's people perfectly. God's people needed a better king, a perfect king! Even though Solomon was not faithful to God, God was faithful to keep his promise to make David's kingdom last forever.**

Through David's family, God would send his own Son, Jesus, 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.

Play the Gospel Presentation video. Discuss the gospel with the individuals, and answer any questions they might have. Help them think through what the gospel could mean for their lives.

## Review Questions

*(Optional: Play the Questions from Kids (QFK) video to continue the discussion on the division of the kingdom. Today's episode asks if it matters how often we go to church.)*

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

- 1. Point to how Solomon sinned.** Married many wives, worshiped false gods
- 2. Point to whose son would lose the whole kingdom except for one tribe.** Solomon
- 3. Point to Solomon's son.** Rehoboam

4. **Point to who decided not to make the work easier for the workers.** Rehoboam
5. **Point to who led the nation of Israel to worship false gods.** Jeroboam

## Group B

1. **How did Solomon sin?** Solomon married many women, and Solomon worshiped their false gods.
2. **What did Rehoboam say that angered the people?** He promised to make their lives harder, not easier.
3. **How did Jeroboam lead the Northern Kingdom into sin?** He made idols to prevent people from worshiping at the temple.
4. **If Solomon had so much wisdom, why did he worship false gods?** Wisdom cannot save us. Wisdom is valuable, but it 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. Thankfully, through Jesus, we can have salvation and freedom from sin.

## Group C

1. **Why wasn't Solomon the right king for God's people?** God's people needed a better king—a perfect king! Through David's family, God sent 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,
2. **What kinds of things distract you from God?** Solomon disobeyed God's law by collecting horses and chariots, silver and gold, and many wives. Worldly wealth,

health, wisdom, fame, and power can distract us from God because we are tempted to trust in these things instead of trusting in God.

3. **What hope do we have even when our lives are turned upside down by sin?** Sin—our own or the sin of others—can have great consequences in our lives. In every situation, God is in control. Our hope is in God, who works everything for his glory and our good.

## Group D

## Advanced Learner

1. **What does this story teach us about God?** God did not give up on his people. God knows everything about the past, present, and future. Through Rehoboam, God graciously kept the promise he made to David, that his kingdom would last forever.
2. **What kind of leader did God's people need?** God's people needed a leader who would lead them perfectly, a leader who would lead them to worship and follow God always. They needed a leader to lead them back to God.
3. **Does it matter how often you go to church? Why or why not?**
4. **How can you show your love for God?**

## Prayer

**Father, thank you for your faithfulness. Even when Solomon sinned, you kept your promise to David. You sent Jesus to save us from sin, and he is King forever. Help us have wisdom to follow you each day, now and in the future. Amen.**

