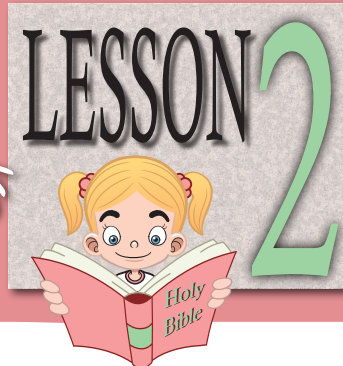


Rehoboam Follows

Poor Advice

1 KINGS 12:1-24



Old Testament 7
Part 1: The Divided Kingdom

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 7 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

1 Kings 12:1-24; 14:21-31; 2 Chronicles 9:31-12

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: “[H]e who heeds counsel is wise” (Proverbs 12:15b).

OLDER CHILDREN: “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise” (Proverbs 12:15).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Older Means Wiser”](#)
- [“Wise Kids”](#)
- [“Proverbs 11:14”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [The Divided Kingdom 1](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “O.T. 7 Bible Facts”)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from the books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Bible Class Workshop Visuals: [“What Advice Will You Hear”](#)
- [“Map of the Divided Kingdom”](#) (provided in Maps section of curriculum Web site)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must never think that I “know it all”; I must be willing to listen to the advice of others who want to help me obey God and go to heaven.



LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Who was the first King of Israel? Who was king after David? Did he always make good choices? What were some bad choices Solomon made? After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. But Rehoboam did not learn from his father's mistakes.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Sometimes we need help making choices/decisions. Do you ever ask other people for help when you have to make an important decision? We may ask our friends for help, or we may ask our parents, grandparents, or teachers for help. In today's lesson, Solomon's son listened to some people who did not help him make good choices.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Rehoboam was the son of Solomon and Naamah, an Ammonitess (1 Kings 14:21)—that means that she was a woman from the kingdom of Ammon. [She was one of many idol-worshipping women that Solomon married (1 Kings 11:1).] First Kings 14:21 says that Rehoboam was 41 years old when he became King of Israel, and he was king for 17 years. Solomon had left behind great wealth, but he had also required a heavy tax burden to support his massive building projects, his army, and his enormous family.



NOTE: Different dates for Rehoboam's reign have been estimated, but the most likely is 931-913 B.C. Note also that some have argued that a scribal error was introduced in 1 Kings 14:21 in the age of Rehoboam. They argue that Rehoboam was much younger than 41 (possibly 21 or 16), based on 2 Chronicles 10:8, 13:7, and 1 Kings 12:10.

2. The Israelites were very tired of high taxes that supported Solomon's extravagant lifestyle. They were afraid that Rehoboam would carry on his father's policies. The capital city was Jerusalem, but Rehoboam decided to go to an ancient city in the northern section, **Shechem**, to meet with the people and to try to gain their support. Instead, he was met with demands for lower taxes and questions from the people about what he planned to do.



NOTE: **Shechem** was an important city in the hill country of Ephraim between Mt. Ebal (the mount of blessing) and Mt. Gerizim (the mount of cursing). Jacob had lived in Shechem for a while and dug the famous well where Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman in John 4; it was then called Sychar. Shechem was one of the Cities of Refuge provided under the Law of Moses. During the time of Joshua and the judges, it was an important meeting place of the northern tribes (Joshua 24:1). Later Shechem became a major city of the Samaritans. Today it is a large city called Nablus, inhabited mostly by Muslims..

3. Rehoboam asked for advice and then chose to follow the advice of the younger men instead of the older, wiser men. He combined his poor judgment and/or arrogance with the poor advice of his peers. The result was that the 10 northern tribes revolted and became a separate

nation—known as the northern tribes or Israel. Only the two southern tribes of Benjamin and Judah (thereafter known only as Judah, or the southern tribes) stayed under Rehoboam’s control. The other 10 tribes decided to follow Jeroboam. This was the beginning of the divided kingdom (see map in recommended visuals).



NOTE: If Rehoboam was 40-41, his peers would not have been “young” by our standards (cf. 1 Kings 12:10; 2 Chronicles 10:8). Also, remember that the 12 tribes at this point were 11 sons of Jacob, with both of Joseph’s sons getting an inheritance, making 12 land allotments. The Levites were given cities throughout the kingdom rather than specific areas of land.

4. Immediately, Rehoboam tried to make the southern kingdom (tribes of Judah and Benjamin) stronger. He fortified Bethlehem, Hebron, and other cities. Priests and Levites who did not want to serve under Jeroboam went to the south, to Rehoboam. They helped provide some leadership for the first three years of Rehoboam’s reign—until he started promoting idol worship (2 Chronicles 11:17). Rehoboam continued to live in luxury, as his father had. He had a large family (2 Chronicles 11:18-23) and spent lots of money on elaborate places for idol worship. He did not bring his people back to God. When his kingdom was well established and strong, he “forsook the law of the Lord” (2 Chronicles 12:1).



NOTE: God sent Shishak, King of Egypt, to Jerusalem with a massive army to take tribute. Shishak was the son of an Assyrian king. His wife (Tahpenes) is mentioned in 1 Kings 11:19. One of his wife’s sisters became the wife of Jeroboam. Shishak invaded the Southern Kingdom with twice the number of chariots that Pharaoh used in the time of Moses (Exodus 14:7), five times as many horsemen as Solomon had, and 12 times as many Philistines as came against Israel in 1 Samuel 13:5. His infantry was “without number.”

5. We can learn from Rehoboam how important it is to listen respectfully to those who are older, like our parents, grandparents, teachers, older people in our congregation, etc. They have lived longer, usually know more, and are usually wiser. Older Christians who love God want to help us get to heaven. They can be a big help to us as we grow up. Read together Leviticus 19:32; Proverbs 16:31; 1 Peter 5:5; Proverbs 1:5; 11:14; 19:20.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

	Israel	Judah
Number of Tribes	10	2
First King	Jeroboam	Rehoboam
Number of Kings	19	19+1 queen (Athaliah)
Number of Dynasties	9	1
Kind of Kings	All bad; some worse	Some good; most bad
Capital	Samaria	Jerusalem
Fate of Kingdoms	Conquered and deported by Assyria: 722 B.C. (no return)	Conquered and deported to Babylon: 586 B.C. (exiles returned)

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Rehoboam Follows Poor Advice Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Look at pictures in the pictorial directory of some of the older members of the congregation. Call them by name. Talk about ways that we learn about how to be good Christians from them.
- Talk about the importance of making good choices. Give the children different scenarios where they could make a good choice or a bad one (e.g., whether or not to share something, whether or not to obey Mom or Dad, whether or not to take something that doesn’t belong to them, etc.).
- “[Choose Good Advice Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

1st-2nd Graders:

- “[Old People Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Make a Bingo game with books of the Bible. Write each book of the Bible on slips of paper, put the slips of paper in a container or plastic bag, and draw them one at a time for the Bingo game. (You can reduce the number of choices by only using the first half of the O.T., using N.T. books only, etc.) (“[Books of the Bible Bingo Activity](#)” and “[Bingo Board](#)” provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- “[Old People Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Make several copies of blank Bingo cards. Give each student a blank card, and ask them to write different books of the Bible in the blanks on their cards; this way everyone’s board should be different. Write each book of the Bible on a slip of paper, put the slips of paper in a

container, and draw them one at a time for the Bingo game. (You can reduce the number of choices by only using the first half of the O.T., using N.T. books only, etc.) (“[Books of the Bible Bingo Activity](#)” and “[Bingo Board](#)” provided in activity sheets)

- Have the children read 1 Kings 12; 14; 2 Chronicles 9-12 (as well as 6-8, if they did not do so in O.T. 6). [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the 2 Chronicles 6-10 quiz from AP’s [Advanced Bible Reader](#) site for the children to take.

SONGS

“OLDER MEANS WISER” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: “There’s Not a Friend Like the Lowly Jesus”)

Does baby Sam know as much as you do?
No, not close. No, not close.
You’ve lived more years, and show him what to do.
He has no clue; has no clue.

Your parents know all about your struggles.
Older folks—they know what to do.
If you are wise, you will ask for advice.
No not once. Many times.

“WISE KIDS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock”)

Wise kids read their Bibles every day.
(open hands like book)
Wise kids read their Bibles every day.
Wise kids read their Bibles every day,
And we trust upon the Lord! (point to heaven)

Wise kids learn to pray every day.
(fold hands in prayer)
Wise kids learn to pray every day.
Wise kids learn to pray every day,
And they wait upon the Lord! (point to heaven)

So read your Bible, pray, and you’ll be wise. (open hands like book, then fold in prayer)
So read your Bible, pray and you’ll be wise.
So read your Bible, pray and you’ll be wise,
No matter what your size!

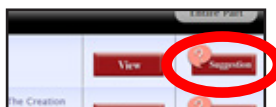
“PROVERBS 11:14”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart](#)” Volume I CD)

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

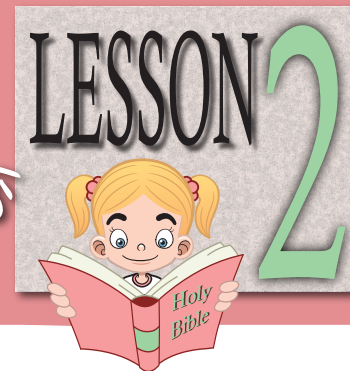
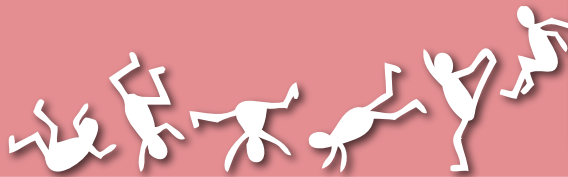
*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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1 KINGS 12:1-24



Old Testament 7
Part 1: The Divided Kingdom

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must never think that I “know it all”; I must be willing to listen to the advice of others who want to help me obey God and go to heaven.



INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 7 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 7 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [O.T. 7 Review Questions](#) for example questions.)

Emphasize the importance of praying for our leaders—at home, in the church, in our schools, in our city, in our state, and in our country (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Children are often kind of scared of the elderly, because they look and act so different than them. Talk about why they’re different to help the children understand them and respect them more. Perhaps discuss how they’ve changed since they were first born. Their minds—who they are—hasn’t really changed all that much, though their body has. Same thing with old folks. Many times their mind hasn’t changed, but their body has. They may be more quiet because they can’t hear as well, or because they’ve learned the wisdom of holding their tongue, or because they’re in pain; they may be grumpy because of their pains, too, just like like we all are, except they probably have more pain than we do. But notice, they’re still just like you and me. They like attention, friendship, to feel needed, to feel loved, and they especially love to see children.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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