

The Kingdom Is Divided

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Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're learning about a sad time in the life of Solomon. Solomon had done a lot of great things. He started off asking God to give him great wisdom so he could be a good king. And, he built a beautiful temple where God's presence could be found in a powerful way. But, as Solomon became more successful, he started to forget about God. In fact, he started worshipping false gods instead of worshiping the real God. This made God very sad. God told Solomon that because of his actions, Solomon's son would only get to rule a very small part of Israel. Instead of Solomon passing the whole kingdom to his son, he was only leaving him with one tribe to rule. Another guy would get to rule the rest of the kingdom. That was a real bummer for Solomon and his son. They were left with very little power. Solomon learned a hard lesson about obedience. Disobedience made his life harder and it will make our lives harder when we disobey. It invites trouble into our lives that only brings disappointment. So kids, don't disobey God, your parents or your teachers. Choose to obey and life will go better for you!

Big Idea

When you disobey God, you make life harder on everyone

Key Question

How does disobedience make life harder?

Memory Verse

Ephesians 6:3 "If you honor your father and mother, things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

Classroom Agenda

- (5 min) Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
- (5 min) WARM UP: Share about a time you were punished because of what someone else did. How did that feel to you?** (Tip: It never feels good to get in trouble, especially when it isn't our fault. Solomon's disobedience caused trouble for others.)
- (5 min) PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
- (20 min) LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
- (2 min) RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
- (3 min) KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **We make bad choices that leads to more trouble and we hurt the people we love.** (The Bible tells us to obey for a reason. Obedience keeps us safe and out of trouble. First we should obey God because he knows what's best for us. We should also obey our parents because they love us and our teachers because they want to help us. When we disobey, it's like we're saying we don't care about them. We just ignore them and do whatever we want. That's not kind or loving.)
 - Bonus Questions:** What happens when we disobey? Why should we obey God and our parents? **4-5th** Share a time you disobeyed and it brought more trouble to your life.
- (5 min) EXPLORE: Read 2 Timothy 3:1-4. Make a list of all the ways people can rebel against God. How can we avoid making these mistakes?** (Answer: Love money more than God, disobey parents, unthankful, and mean. We can avoid these things by giving our hearts to Jesus and choosing to obey him every day.)
- (10 min) PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: KINGDOM DIVIDED LESSON REVIEW GAME

Instructions:

- Before playing, tape a line on the floor or table. Call one side Judah and the other side Israel. Place 5 cups face down on each side of the line. Read a question from below to the class. If they get it right, move one cup from Judah over to Israel. A wrong answer moves a cup from Israel over to Judah. See which kingdom ends up with more cups in the end.

Questions:

1. Who was king in our story? (Solomon)

2. What did Solomon ask God for so he could be a good king? (Wisdom)
3. T or F: Solomon was David's son. (T)
4. How did Solomon make God sad? (disobeyed God worshiped false gods)
5. Is our story from the OT or NT? (OT)
6. How many tribes did Solomon's son get? (1)
7. T or F: Disobedience makes life harder. (T)
8. What can we learn from Solomon's story? (Obey)
9. What's our memory verse today? (See board)
10. Who died for our sins? (Jesus)

Supplies needed: Tape, 10 cups, Paper, Pen

OPTION 2: THE DIVIDED KINGDOM CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Kingdom template (page 5) and a half sheet of construction paper. Have them color the map. Then, have them glue the map onto the construction paper.
- Have them color both sides of the crown. Then, have them place the crown on top of the map, with the crown pieces overlapping slightly at the bottom. Give the kids a Brad and have them poke the Brad through the bottom of both sides of the crown and through the map so the crown can swing open to show the map.
- As they work, read the story from 1 Kings 11:9-13. Remind the kids that Solomon's disobedience brought trouble on himself and his son. Solomon's son only got to rule one part of the kingdom and someone else got the rest. We need to learn from this story and choose to obey God, our parents and our teachers. If we do, life will go better for us!

Supplies needed: Kingdom template (pg. 5, pre cut, 1 set per kid), Crayons, Glue, 1/2 sheets of construction paper (1 half per kid), Brads (1 per kid)

Q7

BIBLE STORYLINE

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When king Solomon disobeyed, the whole nation had to pay the price!

Key Points:

- When Solomon got older, he started worshiping _____
_____.
- God told Solomon he would tear away his _____ from him.
- When Solomon died, his son only got to rule _____.
- When you disobey God, you make things harder on _____!

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 6:3 If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *Share about a time you were punished because of what someone else did. How did that feel to you?*
3. *What did Solomon start doing that made God mad? Why do you think Solomon started to ignore God?*
4. *Who was punished for Solomon's disobedience? How many tribes did his son get to rule?*
5. *Read 2 Timothy 3:1-4. Make a list of all the ways people can rebel against God. How can we avoid making these mistakes?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Color the picture.

WHEN YOU
DISOBEY GOD, YOU
MAKE LIFE HARDER
ON EVERYONE

Key Question

How does disobedience make life harder?

Memory Verse

Ephesians 6:3 "If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."



