

The Story: Chapter 14
A Kingdom Divided

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DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX
CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED
INTO TWO SEGMENTS:

1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE
QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE
LEADER.

2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX
QUESTIONS:.

Opening Discussion

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

Thought #1: Life begins to unravel
when our worship is off!

1 Kings 11:4

"As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been."

1 Kings 11:9-13

"The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command. So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. Nevertheless, for the sake of

David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

In the story of Solomon, where do we start to see things go sideways? How did the change in heart and worship play a part in this? What lasting impact did this have on his reign and his family?

Have you experienced this in your own life? When your heart and your worship was skewed, how did it impact your life? What lasting impact did this have on your life? Share this with your group.

Thought #2: We can learn from
Jeroboam's unraveling!

1 Kings 12:28-29

"After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan."

Pastor Kevin reminded us that to worship something or someone is to prize them above all else. It is easy to move things that we love into the category of worship.

Sit for a moment and think about people, places, or things that you have worshiped. That you have prized above all else. These are the "created" and come from the creator. They are good, but Pastor Kevin reminded us that the gift is never greater than the giver.

Go back to those things you have worshiped. These are idols in our lives. Idolatry often leads us to the question: what are you most afraid of losing?

How does the fear of loss (loss of success, loss of health, loss of financial security, loss of reputation, etc.) lead you to idolatry? How does this fear impact your worship?

Thought #3: We know what it's like to compromise!

1 Kings 12:26-27

"Jeroboam thought to himself, "The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam, king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam."

Jeroboam's intent was in the right place. Make worship more accessible and easier for the people! However, when he started to compromise and took a spiritual shortcut, he ended up going in a direction that was way off course.

Have you experienced a time in your life like this? Where did you choose a "spiritual shortcut" or compromise what you knew to be the truth? How did this alter your course?

Pastor Kevin reminded us that The Holy Spirit is faithful to remind us of what we need to know. How does the Spirit, either past or present, prompt or impress on you a course correction? How do you recognize when you are no longer flourishing (but instead struggling)? In what ways do you relate to Jeroboam?

Thought #4 - We can break chains like Asa!

1 Kings 15:9-14

"In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa became king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty-one years. His grandmother's name was Maakah daughter of Abishalom. Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as his father David had done. He expelled the male shrine prostitutes from the land and got rid of all the idols his ancestors had made. He even deposed his grandmother Maakah from her position as queen mother, because she had made a repulsive image for the worship of Asherah. Asa cut it down and burned it in the Kidron Valley. Although he did not remove the high places, Asa's heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life."

Pastor Kevin reminded us last week that at times we need a spiritual checkup and this week he described it as taking inventory to remove idols. Asa shows us in three ways he did this as King.

- Cleaned house within his own family.
- Did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.
- Expelled, cut down, and burned the things that were not.

When you take inventory, what idols do you notice that need to be removed in your own life? How does your "house" or your "family" need to be cleaned from these? What is the Lord asking you to do that you are choosing not to? What is needing to be expelled, cut down, or burned that is out of alignment with what God is speaking to you?

