

## Lesson 89

# Israel Is Divided

God divided the nation of Israel as punishment for Solomon's disobedience.

# Studying God's Word

## Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

## Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of adoration and tell God we love and praise him.

I'll start. Dear God, we praise you because . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration  
I'm sorry prayers—Confession  
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving  
Please prayers—Supplication

## Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Who is in control of all things, even when we have to wait a long time?  
God.  
What word means God is in control of everything? Sovereign.  
When we know we've sinned, what should we do? Confess our sins.  
What is the beginning of wisdom? The fear of the Lord.

## Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

### **Pre-K Lesson**

### **K-1st Lesson**

### **Pre-K Lesson**

Before class on a table up front, set up dominoes in a pyramid shape with each one set on its side so that when you tip over the one at the top of the pyramid, the other dominoes will fall.

### **Review**

Refer to Lessons 86–88 Flip Chart pages. When Solomon first became king, what did he ask God to give him? Wisdom.

God gave Solomon wisdom to rule the people of Israel well.

What did Solomon build as a place to worship God? The temple.

Right! God was pleased with the beautiful temple where people could come together to worship.

Solomon wrote most of a book in the Bible to teach his son about wisdom. Which book of the Bible is that? Proverbs.

The book of Proverbs tells us that seeking for wisdom is like searching for hidden treasure. When we read God's Word and use what we learn from it, that's being wise. Wisdom will help us stay close to God and keep away from sins that can hurt us and those around us.

That's what we're going to talk about today, how one person's sin can hurt others.

Think back to the first kings of Israel, King Saul and King David. They both sinned, and the decisions they made hurt not only them but also their families and the people they ruled.

God knew that a king would still have a sinful heart. What about Solomon? He was the wisest king to ever live; does that mean he didn't sin? Let's find out.

## **Solomon's Disobedience**

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. In the book of Deuteronomy, God gave special commands for the kings to follow.

Deuteronomy 17:16–17

We'll read Deuteronomy 17:16–17 where God lists some things the kings should not do. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.

There were certain things God clearly said he did NOT want the kings to acquire, or collect, for themselves. What were the things the kings should not acquire? Many horses, many wives, excessive silver and gold. Why would it be wrong for a king to have many horses? Allow discussion.

Horses back then were mostly used for battle. The more horses a king had, the stronger his army would be. And soon, the king would start using his army to take care of his problems. But God wanted the kings to trust him—not their armies.

God explained why he said not to take many wives. What could happen to the king's heart? Reread verse 17. The king's heart could turn away.

Wives from other countries would bring their false gods with them, so it would be very easy for the king to start worshipping his wives' false gods, causing his heart to turn away from God.

What does it mean that the king should not acquire excessive silver and gold? Allow discussion.

This means that the kings should not collect lots of riches like gold and silver for themselves. God knew that kings could start to love their riches more than they loved God.

So, did King Solomon obey? His kingdom started out great. But Solomon was a sinner just like all people.

Refer to the Flip Chart. He started collecting many horses as well as huge amounts of silver and gold and jewels. Sadly, Solomon did not obey God's command about marriage either.

The Bible tells us that King Solomon had many wives. Guess how many wives he had? Write guesses on the board.

Write “700” on the board. Solomon had 700 wives! And what made it worse is that many of them did not believe in the true God. They taught Solomon how to worship their false gods, and soon Solomon’s heart turned away from the Lord. Isn’t that sad? Solomon disobeyed God’s commands. He did not care about God the way he used to.

## God’s Punishment

What does God think about anyone who disobeys him? Allow discussion.

God is holy and perfect. He does not like disobedience. Because God is just, he must punish sin. God was angry with Solomon for breaking his commandments. God told Solomon that he would tear his kingdom away and give it to someone else.

Usually, the oldest son would become the next king. But this time, one of Solomon’s servants would become king over Israel instead.

When King Solomon died, his son Rehoboam took over the throne. The people hoped King Rehoboam would be kinder and treat them nicely. But Rehoboam had an unkind heart and treated them badly.

The people got very upset. It wasn’t long before they chose a man named Jeroboam to be their king. But the tribe of Judah chose to follow King Rehoboam.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Now the nation of Israel was torn apart into two kingdoms. One kingdom was in the north, called Israel, and one was in the south, called Judah. This is exactly what God had told Solomon would happen because of Solomon’s sin.

Solomon’s sin didn’t hurt just him, did it? It also hurt his son and it hurt the kingdom, the people of Israel.

Let’s use dominoes to show how our sin spreads and hurts others. God knew the people would follow their leaders and do the same things the king would do, which is why God gave special commands for the kings of Israel to obey. But when the king chose to disobey God and worship false gods (pick up the domino at the tip of the pyramid to represent the king then set it back down), the people followed what the king did (tip over the “king” domino at the peak of the pyramid and watch the other dominoes fall). Soon, many people in the kingdom were disobeying God, too.

Solomon’s sin spread and hurt others. It turned his heart away from God and caused his son to lose most of the kingdom. Now the people of Israel were no longer together as one—they were split up into two countries with two different kings.

Have dominoes ready.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

## **K-1st Lesson**

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### **Review**

Refer to Lessons 86–88 Flip Chart pages. When Solomon first became king, what did he ask God to give him? Wisdom.

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What did Solomon build as a place to worship God? The temple.

Right! God was pleased with the beautiful temple where people could come together to worship.

Solomon wrote most of a book in the Bible to teach his son about wisdom. Which book of the Bible is that? Proverbs.

The book of Proverbs tells us that seeking for wisdom is like searching for hidden treasure. When we read God's Word and use what we learn from it, that's being wise. Wisdom will help us stay close to God and keep away from sins that can hurt us and those around us.

That's what we're going to talk about today, how one person's sin can hurt, or affect, others.

Think back to the first kings of Israel, King Saul and King David. They both sinned, and the decisions they made affected not only them but also their families and the people they ruled.

God knew that any man who was crowned king would still have a sinful heart. So he warned the people that the kings must always obey him. What about Solomon? He was the wisest king to ever live; does that mean he didn't sin? Let's find out how he did.

### **Solomon's Disobedience**

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. In the book of Deuteronomy, God gave special commands for the kings to follow.

Deuteronomy 17:16–17

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There were certain things God clearly said he did NOT want the kings to acquire, or collect, for themselves. What were the things the kings should not acquire? Many horses, many wives, excessive silver and gold.

Why would it be wrong for a king to have many horses? Allow discussion.

Horses back then were mostly used for battle. The more horses a king had, the stronger his army would be. And soon, the king would start relying on his army to take care of his problems rather than trusting in God. But God wanted the kings to trust him—not their armies.

God explained why he said not to take many wives. What could happen to the king's heart? Reread verse 17. The king's heart could turn away. What do you think that means? Turn away from what? Allow discussion.

Wives from other countries would bring their false gods with them, so it would be very easy for the king to start worshipping his wives' false gods, causing his heart to turn away from God. Also, God's design for marriage has always been one man and one woman for life. So, taking many wives was disobeying God's plan.

What does it mean that the king should not acquire excessive silver and gold? Allow discussion.

This means that the kings should not collect lots of riches like gold and silver for themselves. God knew that kings could start to love their riches more than they loved God.

So, this was what God told the kings to be careful not to do. Did King Solomon obey? His kingdom started out great. God blessed him with wisdom, honor, and riches. He built the temple and ruled the people well. But Solomon was a sinner just like all people.

Refer to the Flip Chart. He collected many horses along with huge amounts of silver and gold and jewels. He became the richest king on earth! Solomon broke two commands for the kings to follow. What about the other command not to take many wives? Sadly, Solomon did not obey God's command about marriage either.

The Bible tells us that King Solomon loved many foreign women. These women were from foreign countries. But God had told his people NOT to marry women from these countries. Yet Solomon disobeyed God and did what he wanted to do.

Can you guess how many wives Solomon had? Write guesses on the board.

Write "700" on the board. Solomon had 700 wives! And what made it worse is that many of them did not believe in the true God. They taught Solomon how to worship their false gods, and soon Solomon's heart turned away from the Lord. Isn't that sad? Solomon disobeyed God's commands, and he did not care about God the way he used to.

## God's Punishment

What does God think about anyone who disobeys him? Allow discussion.

God is holy and perfect. He does not like disobedience. Because God is just, he must punish sin.

## 1 Kings 11:11 & 13

God was angry with Solomon for breaking his commandments. Let's read what God said to Solomon in 1 Kings 11:11. Read the verse.

What was the Lord going to tear away from Solomon because he disobeyed God? His kingdom.

Who would God give the kingdom to? One of Solomon's servants.

Usually, the oldest son would become the next king. But God told Solomon his servant would become the next king over Israel instead.

God promised to still give something to Solomon's son. Listen to this. Read 1 Kings 11:13.

How many tribes did God say he would give to Solomon's son? One tribe.

God said that one of Solomon's servants would become king over most of Israel. But because he made a promise to David a long time ago, God would allow Solomon's son to be the king over one tribe of Israel.

When King Solomon died, his son Rehoboam took over the throne. The people hoped King Rehoboam would be kinder and treat them better than Solomon had. But Rehoboam had an unkind heart. He said he'd make them work harder and punish them worse than his father did!

The people got very upset. It wasn't long before they chose one of Solomon's servants, named Jeroboam, to be their king. But the tribe of Judah chose to follow King Rehoboam.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Now the nation of Israel was torn apart into two kingdoms. One kingdom was in the north, called Israel, and one was in the south, called Judah. This is exactly what God had told Solomon would happen because of Solomon's sin.

Did Solomon's sin affect only him? No.

Who else would it affect or hurt? His son, his kingdom/people.

Have dominoes pyramid ready.

Let's use dominoes to show how our sin affects others. God knew the people would follow their leaders and do the same things the king would do, which is why God gave so many commands for the kings of Israel to obey. But when the king chose to disobey God and worship false gods (pick up the domino at the tip of the pyramid to represent the king then set it back down), the people followed what the king did (tip over the "king" domino at the peak of the pyramid and watch the other dominoes fall). Soon, many in the kingdom were disobeying God, too.

Solomon's sin affected him and those around him. It turned his heart away from God and caused his son to lose most of the kingdom. Now the people



of Israel were no longer together as one—they were split up into two countries with two different kings.

## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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