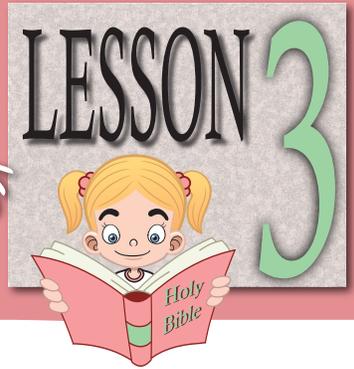


Jeroboam Leads Israel into Sin

1 KINGS 11:26-40



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 11:26-40; 12:25-14:20; 2 Chronicles 11:14-15

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

OLDER CHILDREN: "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan" (Proverbs 29:2).

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.

- ["John 4:24"](#)
- ["The Church Was Built by Christ"](#)
- ["Faith, Obedience, and Authority"](#)
- ["Kings of the Divided Kingdom Songs"](#)
- ["Just Don't Do It"](#)

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: "[In Spirit and Truth](#)"; "[John 4:24 Poster](#)"; "[Jeroboam's Changes](#)"; "[Just Don't Do It](#)"
- "[Who's on the Throne?](#)" bulletin board illustration: Draw two thrones and label them "Israel" and "Judah." Make a crown for the different kings of Israel and Judah (all of them, or only the ones that you will be studying this quarter). As you study each king, place his crown on the appropriate throne. (You can use this to



review each week: take the crowns down after class, and the following week, see if the students can put the crowns back on the correct throne as you review previous lessons.) (crowns and thrones provided in activity sheets)

- “[Map of the Divided Kingdom](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God expects us to worship Him in the way His Word says to, without adding anything or taking anything away from it.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Who was king after Solomon? Did he listen to the people who would have helped him to make good choices? What happened to Rehoboam’s kingdom? Today, we will learn how another man, whose name sounds a lot like Rehoboam, became king over the rest of the kingdom! Let’s see if he followed God.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

What kind of King was Rehoboam? Did he follow God’s commands? Rehoboam was the king over two tribes of the Israelites (Judah and Benjamin). Do you remember why he wasn’t king of all 12 tribes like his father and grandfather had been? Another man became king over the other 10 tribes (known as Israel). But he didn’t want to do what God said any more than Rehoboam did. How important is it that we do as God tells us? Let’s see if we can learn anything from the choices this king made.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jeroboam was the son of Nebat and Zeruah, of the tribe of Ephraim. He was smart, talented, brave, and very ambitious. When he was a young man, he worked for King Solomon and was in charge of a large building project in Jerusalem. The prophet Ahijah told Jeroboam that God would one day make him king over 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel. When Solomon heard about this prophecy, he tried to kill Jeroboam, so Jeroboam ran away to **Egypt**.



NOTE: Solomon married the daughter of the Egyptian pharaoh (1 Kings 3:1). The pharaoh in Egypt who gave Jeroboam sanctuary was not Solomon’s father-in-law, but the man who succeeded him.

2. When Solomon died, Jeroboam decided it was safe to leave Egypt and go home to Israel. The Israelites met at Shechem where Rehoboam was to be anointed king. Jeroboam and the Israelites pleaded with Rehoboam to make their burdens (work on royal projects and taxes) lighter; he promised to give them an answer three days later. When Rehoboam came back and told them that he would make their taxes even higher and their work even harder, most of the Israelites decided they would rather have Jeroboam as their king instead. [This would be a good time to talk about and explain the meanings of the words “rebel” and “rebellion.”]

- The prophet Ahijah had previously told Jeroboam that he must remain true to God and obey His Law if he expected God to bless him and help him be a good king (1 Kings 11:38). But Jeroboam wanted popularity and power more than he wanted God’s help. So he decided to ignore God’s Law.
 - He changed the **object** of their worship; he gave them **two** golden calves to worship instead of God. Remember God’s command: “You shall have no other gods before me!”



NOTE: In setting up these two idols, it is notable that in 1 Kings 12:28 we are told that Jeroboam used the same words that Aaron used in Exodus 32:4,8 after he had made the golden calf for the Israelites at Sinai.

- He changed the **place** of worship from Jerusalem (God’s chosen city, where the Temple was) to Bethel and Dan, so that his followers wouldn’t go to Jerusalem to worship—where they might have been drawn back into serving Rehoboam and David’s descendants as king (1 Kings 12:26ff).
 - He changed special **days** of worship (feast days) so that the Israelites wouldn’t go back to Jerusalem to worship.
 - He changed **those who served** in worship; he made men priests who were not from the tribe of Levi, as God had commanded. Jeroboam even acted as a priest himself.
- Jeroboam had a very large altar built for the sacrifices, but on the first day it was to be used, God sent a warning to Jeroboam through another prophet. The prophet told him that he must change his ways, but Jeroboam ordered his soldiers to arrest the prophet. When the king pointed to the prophet and gave the order to his soldiers, the king’s hand instantly withered and the altar was completely split in two.
 - Even though the prophet of God warned Jeroboam, he did not change his ways. There was continuous warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam, weakening both nations and making both open to outside attacks. Jeroboam’s corrupt influence led Israel into a continuous downward spiral spiritually during his 22 years as king. The people of the 10 northern tribes could have chosen to do right, but they eagerly followed Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:30; 16:26). Every single king of the northern tribes (Israel) who came after Jeroboam followed his example and worshipped idols instead of God.
 - God gave Jeroboam the responsibility and the privilege of being a king over the 10 northern tribes. He had the authority to lead, but he did not use that authority wisely; he forgot that **he** was under the authority of Almighty God. Jeroboam did not have the authority (the right, the privilege) to change God’s laws about anything—especially not for worship. We have no right either (we do not have the authority) to change the pattern of worship God has given to us in the New Testament.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[The Principle of Authority](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about the importance of having permission from God for our actions, especially in regard to worship.

- ILLUSTRATION:** Teachers in school have the authority (the right) to tell us how to behave, what assignments to do, and what supplies we will need. What happens if (1) you don’t behave according to your teachers’ rules? (2) you don’t do your assignments? (3) you don’t bring the supplies she asks for? (4) you change an assignment because you think you have a better idea?

8. Talk with the kids about elements of our worship and how important it is not to change them or add to them, any more than we should change **anything** that the Bible tells us to do. With the older children, read important scriptures related to our worship, such as Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 16:2; John 4:24.

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](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Jeroboam Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Give each child a sheet of construction paper on which you have drawn a line down the middle and “Jeroboam” on one side and “Rehoboam” on the other. Also give each child a circle (or square) to glue under each name. At the end of the lesson, as you remind them of choices Jeroboam and Rehoboam made, ask the children to draw a sad face on the circles (or squares) to show which king did not please God. [You could give them sad face stickers instead.] (“[Jeroboam and Rehoboam Activity Sheet](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Modify the above to use as a class activity: draw a line down the middle of the chalkboard or a magnetic board. Write “Jeroboam” on one side of the line and “Rehoboam” on the other. As you remind the children of choices both kings made, ask them individually to put sad face cutouts under the appropriate king’s name.
- Worship booklets: for each child in the class, cut three sheets of copy paper (or construction paper) in half and stack them like a book. Staple the stack along the left edge to make a booklet. Write “I will worship God the right way!” on the cover page. Write (or help each child write) SING (page 1), PRAY (page 2), GIVE (page 3), LISTEN (page 4), LORD’S SUPPER (page 5). Give the children pictures that they can color and glue onto each page. As they work on their booklets, talk to them about having the right attitude and behavior during worship.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Write review questions about this lesson and preceding lessons on small poster board disks. Put the disks in a bag or plastic carton and shake them up. Let each child take out a disk, one at a time, to see if he can answer the question. If he answers the question correctly, he keeps the disk until all the questions have been answered correctly. If he cannot answer the question, he must put it back into the container. The winner of the game is the individual (or team) with the most disks.
- Write review questions (with a Sharpie) on the back of balloons you have inflated. Tape the balloons to the wall or pin them to the bulletin board. Let the students choose a balloon and answer the question on it. (You can divide the class into teams and keep score.)
- “Which is Which?” game: Put Rehoboam’s name on a small bag or basket and Jeroboam’s name on another one. Using the review questions for Lessons 2 and 3 ([provided on the Web site](#)), write clues about each man on tongue depressors (large craft sticks). Let the students decide which of the two men the clues best describe, and then put the sticks in the correct bag/basket.
- “[Worship Activity Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets): Make an activity sheet about worship. List several things that people have changed/added to worship (instrumental music, women

preachers, taking Lord's Supper once a month, etc.). At the bottom of the page, list the scriptures for the correct ways to worship God. Ask the students to look up the scriptures and write down how God says He wants us to worship Him. Discuss how changing what God says about today's worship is no different than what Jeroboam did during his reign as king.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Write review questions about this lesson and preceding lessons on small poster board disks. Put the disks in a bag or plastic carton and shake them up. Let each child take out a disk, one at a time, to see if he can answer the question. If he answers the question correctly, he keeps the disk until all the questions have been answered correctly. If he cannot answer the question, he must put it back into the container. The winner of the game is the individual (or team) with the most disks.
- Write review questions (with a Sharpie) on the back of balloons you have inflated. Tape the balloons to the wall or pin them to the bulletin board. Let the students choose a balloon and answer the question on it. (You can divide the class into teams and keep score.)
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- Have the children read 1 Kings 13 (as well as 11-12 and 14 if they did not do so this quarter)

SONGS:

"JOHN 4:24"

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See "[Hidden in My Heart 2](#)" CD)

"THE CHURCH WAS BUILT BY CHRIST" ([Click to Hear](#))

by: Lora Laycook

(Tune: "My Hope is Built on Nothing Else")

VERSE 1:

The Church was built by Christ, our Lord;
Our Father tells us in His Word.
'Twas on the Lord's day, this we know,
On Pentecost of long ago.

CHORUS:

'Twas built by Jesus, God's own Son,
We know that He built only one.
We know that He built only one.

VERSE 2:

Then let us worship Christ, our Lord;
As He commands us in His Word;
We'll give and teach, we'll sing and pray,
And we will worship on His day.

(CHORUS)

VERSE 3:

On the first day of every week,
Our Lord has taught us we should meet,
He gave His body; we eat the bread.
We drink the cup; His blood was shed.

(CHORUS)

“FAITH, OBEDIENCE, AND AUTHORITY” ([Click to Hear](#))

by: Sarah Richey
(Tune: “Farmer in the Dell”)

Believing in the Lord,
Believing in the Lord,
That's what faith is,
Believing in the Lord.

Doing what He said,
Doing what He said,
That is obedience,
Doing what He said.

Telling what to do,
Telling what to do,
That is authority,
Telling what to do.

“KINGS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM SONGS”

by: Andy Baker
(Tune: See “[Kings of the Divided Kingdom Songs](#)” at BibleClassWorkshop.com)

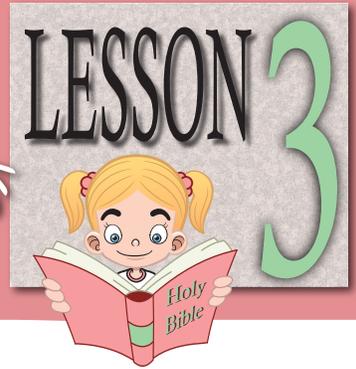
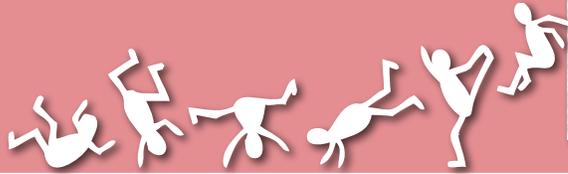
“JUST DON’T DO IT”
by: April Meacham
(Tune: See [“To Know God...in Song”](#) book/CD)

***** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE
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Old Testament 7
Part 1: The Divided Kingdom

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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MEMORY WORK:

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if the students can put the crowns back on the correct throne as you review previous lessons.) (crowns and thrones provided in activity sheets)

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God expects us to worship Him in the way His Word says to, without adding anything or taking anything away from it.

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.)

1. Talk about how we are to behave in worship, that worship is one way we show God how much we love Him. If you want to show your mother that you love her, do you purposefully do what she says **not** to do? How would your dad feel if you said, “Daddy, I love you very much!” and then did something (on purpose) that he told you not to do? How would your mom or dad feel if you disobeyed them over and over and over? Would they believe that you really loved them? If we love our parents, we don’t disobey them on purpose. If we love God, we don’t disobey Him on purpose—and that includes the way we worship Him. Read John 14:15.
2. Ask several teenagers or adults to act out good and bad behavior during worship. Ask your students to point out the wrong and right behaviors.
3. In conjunction with Sunday’s ILLUSTRATION about authority, talk about other people who have authority over us (i.e., that have the right to tell us what to do, point out what is right and wrong), such as policemen, judges, elders, etc.

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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