Kingdom Divided

“Israel Becomes Israel and Judah”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The Kingdom of Israel divided after Solomon’s death
* The story of Abijah
* The story of the Prophet Amos

Series Theme Verse: “Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” – Amos 5:23-24

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that when Solomon died, the Kingdom of Israel split into two kingdoms: The Kingdom of Israel and The Kingdom of Judah.

Lesson Passage: 2 Chronicles 9:30-10:17

Materials Needed: Bibles, Coloring Map of Divided Kingdom for each student, Poster board, Colors or markers, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: 2 Chronicles 9:30-10:17

* How long was Solomon king of Israel? (40 years)
* When Solomon died, where was he buried? (Jerusalem, the City of David)
* Who followed Solomon as King of Israel? (Rehoboam, Solomon’s son)
* Where did Rehoboam go to be made king? (City of Shechem)
* Who returned from Egypt to see what happened when Reheboam was made king? (Jeroboam)
* Explain to students that Jeroboam was a high ranking official while Solomon was alive, but he plotted against King Solomon to steal the throne from Solomon. When Solomon found out, he tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam escaped to Egypt. Now that Solomon is dead, Jeroboam is returning to see what will happen with the empty throne.
* What did Jeroboam do? (He went with the people to Rehoboam and asked the king to not continue taxing the people and working the people as hard as King Solomon had)
* If Rehoboam eased their workload, what would the people do? (Serve Rehoboam)
* What was Rehoboam’s response? (Come back in three days for my answer)
* How did Rehoboam begin to figure out an answer for the people? (He consulted his father’s advisors)
* How did they advise Rehoboam to answer the people? (Be kind to the people and lighten their load and they will serve you)
* Did Rehoboam take their advice? (No, he asked the young men he grew up with for advice)
* What did the young men say to Rehoboam? (Tell the people you will add more work and labor to the people than Solomon ever did)
* Did Rehoboam take their advice? (Yes, he told the people he would make things harder on them than they were under Solomon)
* What was the response of the people to Rehoboam’s plan to be tougher than Solomon? (They left him and became their own separate Kingdom, leaving on the towns in Judah for Rehoboam to be king over)
* Explain to students that Jeroboam who came back from Egypt would become King of Israel which contained 10 tribes, and Rehoboam would become King of Judah which contained 2 tribes. From here on out, Israel was known as the Northern Kingdom and Judah was known as the Southern Kingdom.

The Story Retold:

* Two Kingdoms
  + Use the map at the end of the lesson and have students draw out on Poster Board a large version of the map of the divided Kingdoms.
  + Let students work together to color the Kingdom of Israel one color and the kingdom of Judah another color.
  + Write the names of the first king of each beside their capital cities of Jerusalem and Shechem.
  + Hang the poster on the wall as a reminder each week of the two divided kingdoms.
  + Add to the poster each week so students see where the upcoming events happened on the map.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* Explain to students that this verse reminds us that it is possible to get so caught up in being “religious” that we miss out on the truth that God called us to live out our faith by fighting for justice in all areas of life.
* Ask students how they can fight for justice in their worlds.
* Say the verse in groups (boys, girls, white shoes, etc) to begin memorizing the verse.

