Kingdom Divided

“Jehoshaphat”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The Kingdom of Israel divided after Solomon’s death
* The story of King Jehoshephat
* The story of the Prophet Hosea
* The story of the Prophet Jeremiah and the Exile

Series Theme Verse: “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.” – Hosea 6:6

Lesson Objective: For students to understand what made a good king is what still makes a good follower of God today.

Lesson Passage: 2 Chronicles 17:1-9

Materials Needed: Bibles, White Board, Markers, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: 2 Chronicles 17:1-9

* Remind students that Jeroboam who came back from Egypt became King of Israel which contained 10 tribes, and Rehoboam became King of Judah which contained 2 tribes. Israel was known as the Northern Kingdom and Judah was known as the Southern Kingdom. (Use the lesson map as a visual aide)
* Today we are looking at what makes a good king in either of the kingdoms. Both kingdoms had good kings and some extremely bad kings.
* On a white board, have students list all the things that would make a person a bad king.
* Then list all the things that would make a person a good king.
* Now, read the passage about Jehoshaphat, a king good king of the southern kingdom, Judah.
* After reading the passage divide students into groups of two and have them go through the passage and find all the things they can think of that made Jehoshaphat a good king in the eyes of God. (Strengthened the country, followed the ways of David “a man after God’s heart”, did not consult false gods, sought God’s will, followed God’s commands, heart devoted to the ways of God, removed all temples of false gods, sent officials to teach the people God’s law)
* While students are doing this, let them give one answer by groups until every group has had a chance. Write the answers on the board. Then ask students what the opposite of each of these things would be...this is what represented a bad king and both kingdoms had bad kings, too.

The Story Retold:

* In our own lives, we have the same choice the kings like Jehoshaphat had: will we live the good kingdom life or the bad kingdom life?
* Have students look at the things that made a good king.
* Brainstorm ways that these apply to our lives as we follow God. Tale each element mentioned and brainstorm as many specific modern ways to live them out as possible. Items like “strengthened the kingdom” might be difficult and will be more metaphorical like, “strengthen faith or my own body for God’s glory,” etc.
* Ask students to choose one way from the board that they will live out the good kingdom life this week.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* Remind students that living out the good kingdom life is not just about coming to church, but it is the way we live every day.
* Say the verse going around the table one word at a time.

