

The Kingdom Divided

1 Kings 11-14



The Story

King Solomon began ruling Israel following and believing the true God. God gave Him a very large kingdom and lots of money. When Solomon got older, he forgot about the true God and believed in idols. God was very sad that Solomon had turned away from Him. Because Solomon turned away from God, God said that He would divide Solomon's kingdom into two parts.

Solomon died. His son began to rule the kingdom. The new king's name was Rehoboam. The people in the kingdom had to work very hard for Solomon. They also had to pay him lots of money, called taxes. The people in the northern part of the kingdom did not want to do these things anymore. The people's leaders went to the new king, Rehoboam and asked, "Please take away some of the hard work and taxes that your father made us pay. Then we will be your servants." Rehoboam didn't know how to answer. He said, "Give me three days to think about it."

Some of Solomon's advisors were with Rehoboam. Their job was to tell the king what he should do. Rehoboam asked them to help him answer the question the people had asked. The advisors said, "Listen to the people. Take away some of the hard work

and taxes." Rehoboam didn't like this answer. He went to ask some of his friends what he should do. His friends said, "Make the people work harder and pay you more money." Rehoboam liked this answer. He told the leaders, "You will work harder and pay more taxes for me than you did for my father."

The leaders of the people did not like this answer. They decided that another man, Jeroboam, would be their new king. God's words to Solomon had come true. Solomon's kingdom was split into two parts.

Rehoboam stayed king over the southern part of Solomon's kingdom. His kingdom was called Judah. Jeroboam became the king of the northern part of Solomon's kingdom. His kingdom was called Israel.

Both Rehoboam and Jeroboam were bad kings. They did not listen to what God was telling them. They made idols for the people to worship. So, the people did not worship the true God. Both of these kings made their people turn away from God. Because they did these bad things and did not say they were sorry, God promised that bad things would happen to their families.

God's kingdom of Israel is divided.

Activity One - Answer these Review Questions together.

1. Who began to rule after Solomon had died?
2. Some of the leaders of the people came to Rehoboam and asked him a question. What did they want Rehoboam to do?
3. Rehoboam asked two groups of people what he should do about the people wanting to do less work and pay less money to him. Which group of people did Rehoboam listen to—Solomon’s advisors or his friends?
4. Because Rehoboam listened to his friends, what did the leaders of the people do?
5. There were now two kings in Solomon’s kingdom. Whose words had come true?
6. All of God’s words come true. God said that bad things would happen if Solomon did not listen to what God had to say. Which other two people did not listen to what God had to say?
7. Bad things would happen to Rehoboam and Jeroboam if they did not listen to God. What do you think would happen to us if we do not believe and listen to what God has told us?

Activity Two - The sentences below tell about the story. If the sentence says something that is correct, circle yes. If the sentence says something that is wrong, circle no.

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. God was happy with King Solomon. | Yes | No |
| 2. All the people liked Rehoboam as king. | Yes | No |
| 3. Rehoboam listened to Solomon’s advisors. | Yes | No |
| 4. Some of the people chose a new king. | Yes | No |
| 5. Solomon’s kingdom did not split into two. | Yes | No |
| 6. The new kings were bad kings. | Yes | No |
| 7. The new kings listened to God’s words. | Yes | No |
| 8. All of God’s words came true. | Yes | No |

Disobedience to God has dire consequences.

Passages

Psalms 119:105 - Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Matthew 4:10 - You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.

Hymn - TLH #462 or v. 1, 4

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given
Till toils and cares shall end.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for giving us Your Word in the Bible. Please help us to walk in the path that You set for us. Watch over us so that one day we will see You in heaven. Amen.

The Kingdom Divided

1 Kings 12-14



The Story

When King Solomon began ruling Israel, he worshiped and believed in the true God. As Solomon grew older, he turned away from the Lord and built idols for his family. The Lord was very unhappy with Solomon. Because Solomon turned away from the Lord, the Lord told Solomon that he would divide Solomon's kingdom into two parts after he died.

Rehoboam became king when Solomon died. He was not wise like his father. Before he was crowned king, the leaders of the 10 tribes of Israel asked him, "Please take away some of the hard work and high taxes your father made us pay. Then we will be your servants." Rehoboam didn't know how to answer.

He said, "Give me three days to think about it." Rehoboam asked his father's advisors what to do.

They said, "Listen to the people and take away some of the hard work and high taxes." Rehoboam also asked his rich friends what he should do.

They said, "Make the people work harder and pay more taxes." Rehoboam decided to follow this advice.

So he told the leaders of Israel, "You will work harder and pay more taxes to me than you did for my father."

The 10 tribes of Israel didn't like the answer Rehoboam gave them. They said that Jeroboam, Solomon's servant, would be their king. God's words to Solomon had come true. Solomon's kingdom was split into two parts.

Rehoboam stayed king over two tribes. He ruled in the southern part of Solomon's kingdom. His kingdom was called Judah. Jeroboam became the king over the other 10 tribes of Israel. He ruled over the northern part of Solomon's kingdom. His kingdom was called Israel.

Jeroboam was a bad king. He did not follow the Lord and do what He said. Jeroboam made two golden calves for the people to worship. He put one in the city of Dan and the other in Bethel. He did not want the people in Israel to go to Jerusalem to worship in the temple. Jeroboam led the people of Israel away from the true God to worship idols. Because Jeroboam led the people away from the Lord, the Lord said that bad things would happen to Jeroboam's family.

Rehoboam also was a bad king. He did not follow the Lord. He made idols for the people in Judah. They put idols on the hills and in the trees. Bad things would also happen to Rehoboam's family because he did not follow the ways of the Lord.

God's kingdom of Israel is divided.

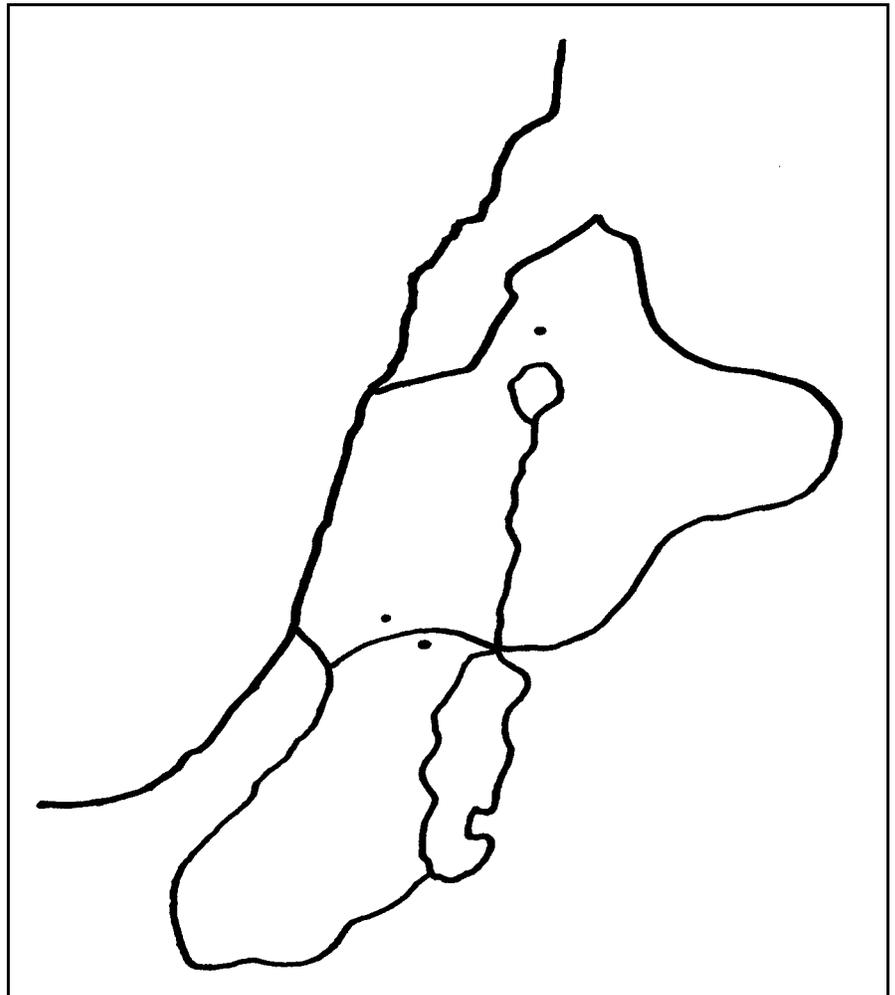
Disobedience to God has serious consequences.

Activity One - Answer the following discussion questions orally as a whole group or in smaller groups as time permits.

1. How did Solomon begin ruling Israel?
2. What did Solomon do to make the Lord unhappy? What did the Lord do to Solomon's kingdom?
3. Who became king after Solomon?
4. What question did the 10 tribes of Israel ask Rehoboam?
5. What answer did Rehoboam give the 10 tribes?
6. What did the 10 tribes do after Rehoboam's answer? Who became their king?
7. What kind of king was Rehoboam? What kind of king was Jeroboam?
8. What consequences came to both Jeroboam and Rehoboam because they did not follow what the Lord said?

Activity Two - Map Skills - THE DIVIDED KINGDOM. Follow the directions to put the items on the map.

1. Label the northern part Israel. (10 tribes of Israel)
2. Label the southern part Judah. (Judah and Benjamin)
3. There are 3 cities on the map, Label the city to the far north Dan. Label the city near the southern border of Israel Bethel. Label the only city in Judah Jerusalem.
4. Label the sea in Israel Sea of Galilee.
5. Label the sea near Judah Dead Sea.
6. Label the river between them Jordan River.
7. Color Israel yellow.
8. Color Judah red.
9. Color the seas and rivers blue.



Passages

Psalm 119:105 - Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Matthew 4:10b - You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.

The kings in our story did not follow God's Word. What happens when we do not follow God's Word?

What are some other things that could replace God's Word in someone's life?

What are some things we could do if someone was trying to take God's Word away from us?

Hymn - TLH #462 v. 1, 4

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given
Till toils and cares shall end.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for giving us Your Word in the Bible. Please help us to worship only You and walk in Your ways. Help us not to lead others from Your Word but lead them to Your Word. Amen.

The Kingdom Divided

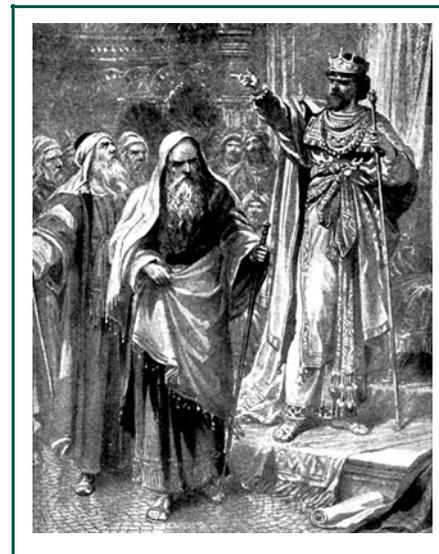
1 Kings 12-14

Have you ever heard anyone say he is 'older and wiser' than he was before? Why do you suppose you get wiser with age? Today's lesson shows what can happen if you disregard the advice of older and wiser people.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

You have given me many people in my life to guide me. Please help me to listen and act on the good advice of those older and wiser who have studied Your Word. Give me the attitude to listen and study Your lesson today and then apply it to my life. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story - 1 Kings 12-14 (excerpts)

Rehoboam went to Shechem to be made king. So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was still in Egypt), that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, "Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and we will serve you."

So he said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed.

Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived.

And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him.

Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist! Now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you

with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!'"

So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day. Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him; and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men.

Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, they departed to their tents. But Rehoboam reigned over the cities of Judah.

Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the revenue; but all Israel stoned him with stones, and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam fled to Jerusalem. So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

Now it came to pass when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they made him king over all Israel. There was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

And when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam.



But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, "Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me." ' " Therefore they obeyed the word of the LORD.

Then Jeroboam built Shechem and dwelt there. Also he built Penuel.

Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."

Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods!" And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. Now this thing became a sin.

And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'" And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."

So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself. The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar.

Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.

Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."

But the man of God said to the king, "It was

commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.'" So he went another way.

Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel. And their father said to them, "Saddle the donkey for me." So he rode on it, and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. Then he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?"

And he said, "I am."

Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread."

And he said, "I cannot return with you. For I have been told by the word of the LORD, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.'"

He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.' " (He was lying to him.) So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water.

Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back; and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have disobeyed the word of the LORD, your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.'"

So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him. When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey and lion stood by the corpse. Men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road, and the lion standing by the corpse. Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

Now when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard it, he said, "It is the man of God who was disobedient to the word of the LORD. Therefore the LORD has delivered him to the lion."

Then he went and found his corpse thrown on the road, and the donkey and the lion

standing by the corpse. The lion had not eaten the corpse nor torn the donkey. And the prophet took up the corpse of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back. So the old prophet came to the city to mourn, and to bury him. Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb; and they mourned over him.

So it was, after he had buried him, that he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. For the saying which he cried out by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass."

After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places, and he became one of the priests of the high places. And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam.

At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick. And Jeroboam said to his wife, "Please arise, and disguise yourself, and go to Shiloh. Indeed, Ahijah the prophet is there, who told me that I would be king over this people. Go to him; he will tell you what will become of the child." And Jeroboam's wife did so; she arose and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah.

But Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were glazed by reason of his age. And so it was, when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. (For he had been warned by God.) Why do you pretend to be another person? For I have been sent to you with bad news. Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler over My people Israel, and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you; and yet you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart; but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back;

"Therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel. The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies

in the field; for the LORD has spoken!"

"Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

"Moreover the LORD will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam. For the LORD will strike Israel, He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their wooden images, provoking the LORD to anger. And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin."

Then Jeroboam's wife arose and departed. When she came to the threshold of the house, the child died. And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD.

The period that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. Then Nadab his son reigned in his place.

Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king. He reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem.

Now Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images.

It happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house; he took away everything.

And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days. So Rehoboam rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Abijam his son reigned in his place.

Outer Aim - God's kingdom of Israel is divided.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks with words from the word box. Some of the words will be used more than once. (see the number behind the word)

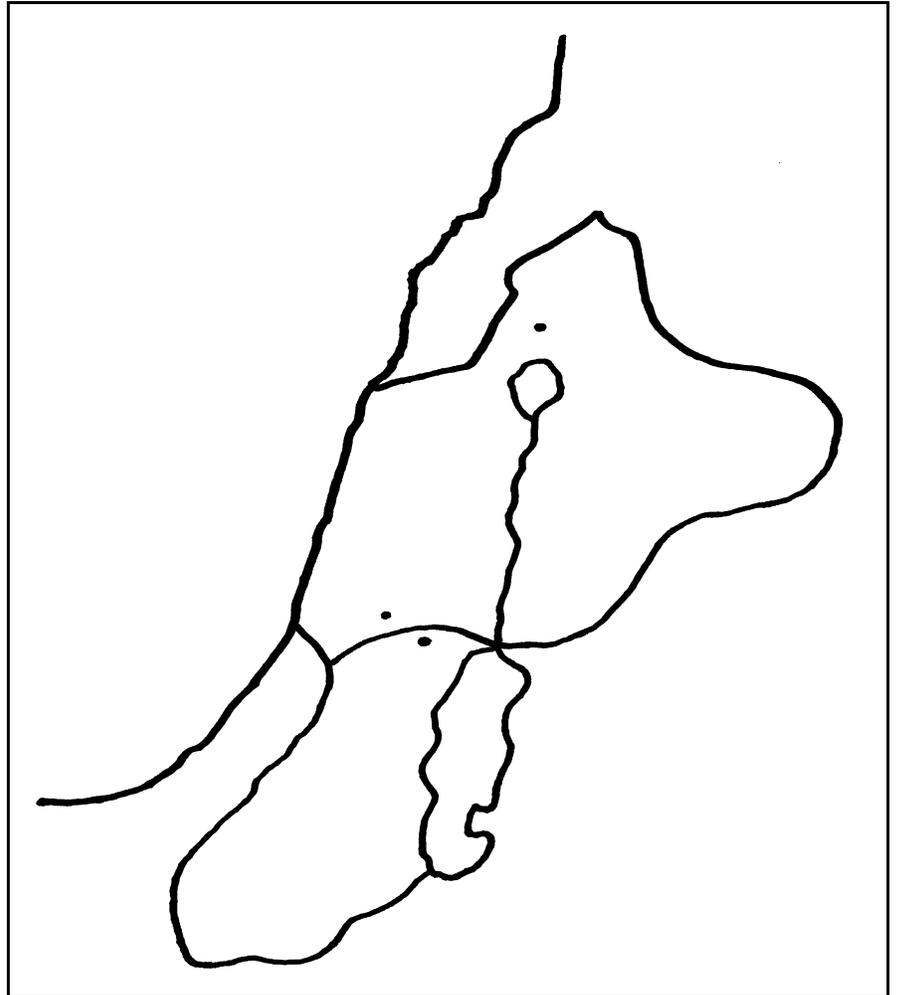
Rehoboam	idolatry	two	ashes	Bethel
Judah (2)	Benjamin	Ahijah	Egypt	home
friends	Dan	Israel	country	died
Jeroboam (3)	sin	city	harder	withered

1. After Solomon died, _____ was made king of Israel.
2. _____ came back from _____ to ask that the burdens of the people be lessened.
3. Rehoboam got advice from _____ groups of people. The advice he followed was from his _____.
4. Rehoboam would make life _____ for the people in his kingdom.
5. Ten of the tribes of Israel decided to follow _____. The two tribes that stayed with Rehoboam were _____ and _____.
6. Jeroboam's kingdom was called _____. Rehoboam's kingdom was called _____.
7. Jeroboam introduced _____ to his kingdom. He placed idols in _____ and _____.
8. A prophet of the Lord talked to the people of Israel. As he talked, Jeroboam stretched out his hand, it _____. Then _____ poured out of the altar as a sign that Jeroboam's kingdom would be destroyed.
9. The prophet of the Lord was to go _____. He was tricked and _____ because he did not listen to what the Lord told him.
10. _____'s son got sick. He tried to trick _____ to find out what the Lord's plan was for his son.
11. Ahijah, the Lord's prophet, knew about Jeroboam's trick. Jeroboam's family would be punished because of his _____. Dogs would eat the family members that died in the _____. Birds would eat the family members that died in the _____.

Inner Aim - Disobedience to God has dire consequences.

Your Turn - Map Skills - THE DIVIDED KINGDOM. Follow the directions to put the items on the map.

1. Label the northern part Israel. (10 tribes of Israel)
2. Label the southern part Judah. (Judah and Benjamin)
3. There are 3 cities on the map, Label the city to the far north Dan. Label the city near the southern border of Israel Bethel. Label the only city in Judah Jerusalem.
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What God's Word Tells Us

- Discussion Questions. These questions are to be discussed as a whole class or in small groups.

1. Several people in today's story disobeyed God's commands. Tell how each of the following people disobeyed God—Rehoboam, Jeroboam, the prophet of the Lord.
2. Because each of the men above disobeyed God, God sent a consequence (something that happened because they disobeyed Him). What were the consequences that God sent to each of the men in question #1.
3. We sin everyday. Our sins have consequences also. Give examples sins and their consequences that happen in your lives.
4. How can we repent of our sins and show that we are truly sorry for our sins?

Passages

Psalm 119:105 - Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Matthew 4:10 - You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.

Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Hymn/Prayer - TLH #462 or v. 1, 3, 4, 5

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

Should I with scoffers join
Her altars to abuse?
No! Better far my tongue were dumb,
My hand its skill should lose.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise. Amen.

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1 Kings 12-14

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Prayer

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Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived.

And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him.

Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist! Now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you

with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!'"

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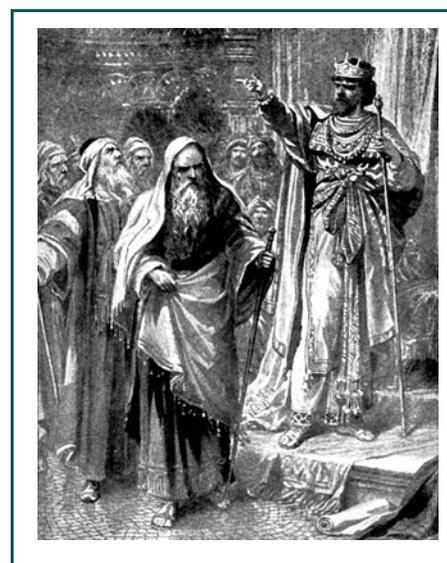
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And when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam.

But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, "Speak to Rehoboam the



son of Solomon, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me." ' ' Therefore they obeyed the word of the LORD.

Then Jeroboam built Shechem and dwelt there. Also he built Penuel.

Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."

Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods!" And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. Now this thing became a sin.

And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'" And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."

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Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.

Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."

But the man of God said to the king, "It was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return

by the same way you came.'" So he went another way.

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And he said, "I am."

Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread."

And he said, "I cannot return with you. For I have been told by the word of the LORD, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.'"

He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (He was lying to him.) So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water.

Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back; and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have disobeyed the word of the LORD, your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.'"

So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him. When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey and lion stood by the corpse. Men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road, and the lion standing by the corpse. Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

Now when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard it, he said, "It is the man of God who was disobedient to the word of the LORD. Therefore the LORD has delivered him to the lion."

Then he went and found his corpse thrown on the road, and the donkey and the lion standing by the corpse. The lion had not eaten the corpse nor torn the donkey. And the prophet took up the corpse of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back. So the old prophet came to

the city to mourn, and to bury him. Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb; and they mourned over him.

So it was, after he had buried him, that he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. For the saying which he cried out by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass."

After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places, and he became one of the priests of the high places. And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam.

At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick. And Jeroboam said to his wife, "Please arise, and disguise yourself, and go to Shiloh. Indeed, Ahijah the prophet is there, who told me that I would be king over this people. Go to him; he will tell you what will become of the child." And Jeroboam's wife did so; she arose and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah.

the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the LORD has spoken!"

"Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

"Moreover the LORD will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam. For the LORD will strike Israel, He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their wooden images, provoking the LORD to anger. And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin."

Then Jeroboam's wife arose and departed. When she came to the threshold of the house, the child died. And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD.

But Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were glazed by reason of his age. And so it was, when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. (For he had been warned by God.) Why do you pretend to be another person? For I have been sent to you with bad news. Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler over My people Israel, and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you; and yet you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart; but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back;

"Therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel. The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in

The period that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. Then Nadab his son reigned in his place.

Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king. He reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem.

Now Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images.

It happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house; he took away everything.

And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days. So Rehoboam rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Abijam his son reigned in his place.

Outer Aim - God's kingdom of Israel is divided.

Inner Aim - Disobedience to God has dire consequences.

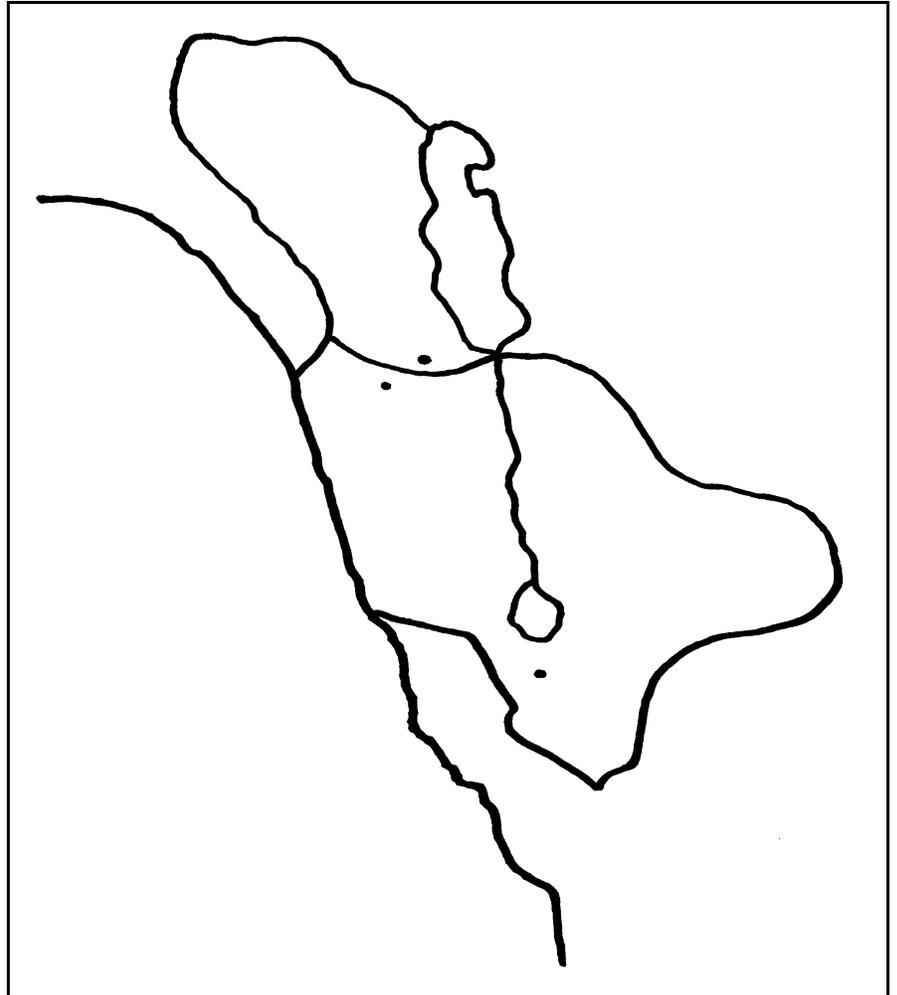
What the Story Tells Us -Fill-in the blanks with words from the word box. Not every word in the word box will be used. Some of the words will be used more than once.

Rehoboam	Egypt	idolatry	Elijah	home	sin
Moab	officials	Josiah	county	died	Judah
friends	Ahijah	city	harder	Benjamin	two
Jeroboam	Israel	ashes	Bethel	back	withered

1. After Solomon died, _____ was made king of Israel.
2. _____ came back from _____ to ask that the burdens of the people be lessened.
3. Rehoboam got advice from _____ groups of people. The advice he followed was from his _____.
4. Rehoboam would make life _____ for the people in his kingdom.
5. Ten of the tribes of Israel decided to follow _____. The two tribes that stayed with Rehoboam were _____ and _____.
6. Jeroboam's kingdom was called _____. Rehoboam's kingdom was called _____.
7. Jeroboam introduced _____ to his kingdom. He placed idols in _____ and _____.
8. A prophet of the Lord talked to the people of Israel. As he talked, Jeroboam stretched out his hand, it _____. Then _____ poured out of the altar as a sign that Jeroboam's kingdom would be destroyed.
9. The prophet of the Lord was to go _____. He was tricked and _____ because he did not listen to what the Lord told him.
10. _____'s son got sick. He tried to trick _____ to find out what the Lord's plan was for his son.
11. Ahijah, the Lord's prophet, knew about Jeroboam's trick. Jeroboam's family would be punished because of his _____. Dogs would eat the family members that died in the _____. Birds would eat the family members that died in the _____.

Your Turn - Map Skills - THE DIVIDED KINGDOM. Follow the directions to put the items on the map.

1. Label the northern part Israel. (10 tribes of Israel)
2. Label the southern part Judah. (Judah and Benjamin)
3. There are 3 cities on the map, Label the city to the far north Dan. Label the city near the southern border of Israel Bethel. Label the only city in Judah Jerusalem.
4. Label the sea in Israel Sea of Galilee.
5. Label the sea near Judah Dead Sea.
6. Label the river between them Jordan River.
7. Color Israel yellow.
8. Color Judah red.
9. Color the seas and rivers blue.



What God's Word Tells Us

Discussion Questions. These questions are to be discussed as a whole class or in small groups.

1. Several people in today's story disobeyed God's commands. Why is it such a bad thing to disobey God?
2. What were the serious consequences for each of the king's disobedience to God? How does this disobedience to God affect the relationship of the people and God?
3. We know that if we believe we will go to heaven because Jesus died for our sins. So, does it matter if we disobey God? Can we prevent ourselves from disobeying God?
4. There are many ways in which we are disobedient to God today. What are some ways that we are disobedient? What are some factors that affect how we act towards God?
5. How has disobeying God affected your life? Give an example of this.

Passages

Psalm 119:105 - Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Matthew 4:10 - You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.

Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Hymn/Prayer - TLH #462 or v. 1, 3, 4, 5

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

Should I with scoffers join
Her altars to abuse?
No! Better far my tongue were dumb,
My hand its skill should lose.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise. Amen.



STORY

The Kingdom Divided - I Kings 12-14

TEACHER PRAYER

I thank You Lord that You have given me, Your servant, the privilege of declaring Your Truth to little children. Help me, Oh Lord, to let Your Truth shine forth as a lamp for the children, lighting their way through this sin-darkened world. I pray that You will fill all of us with Your Spirit that we may live in joyful and heartfelt obedience to You and Your Word. Your name may be glorified through us. In the name of our Savior Jesus we pray. Amen

VOCABULARY

Scourge (12:11) - whip with knots or hard objects fastened to the lashes

The River (14:15) - the Euphrates

Tirzah (14:17) - the capital city of Israel at the time

High Places (14:23) - places for pagan worship

OUTER AIM

God's kingdom of Israel is divided

INNER AIM

Disobedience to God has dire consequences

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 1, pp 334-340)

Solomon was blessed - Solomon was rich - Solomon was wise - but Solomon was also disobedient to God. His prosperity and wisdom were sacrificed on the altars of idols.

Solomon's "wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God..." (I Kings 11:4)

"Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, 'Because you have done his, and have not kept My covenant and My Statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.'" (I Kings 11:11 also read vs. 1-3, 12 and 13)

Solomon had many enemies. One from among his own administration was Jeroboam. Jeroboam had been a servant of Solomon. He was very industrious and Solomon had made him "the officer over all the labor force of the house of Joseph." (11:28)

It appears that he was generally well liked among the people. Now it happened that the prophet Ahijah revealed to Jeroboam that because of Solomon's disobedience the LORD revealed that He would tear the kingdom out of the hands of Solomon and divide it in two. The prophet Ahijah further announced to Jeroboam that he was chosen to rule over the ten tribes of Israel. To Solomon's son (Rehoboam) "I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there." (I Kings 11:36) (Though the house of Benjamin is not always mentioned, it is generally considered part of Judah.)

When Solomon became aware of God's promise to Jeroboam through the prophet, he tried to kill Jeroboam. Jeroboam fled to Egypt and was there until the death of Solomon. 12:1-24

Rehoboam was the one and only son recognized by God's word as the legitimate heir to the throne. He, therefore, became king after Solomon. The people contacted Jeroboam notifying him that Solomon was dead and Jeroboam returned from Egypt.

Jeroboam and a delegation of the people met with Rehoboam urging him to lighten the burdens on the people which Solomon had enforced. If an agreement could be reached, they promised to serve Rehoboam. As a result, Rehoboam sought counsel from the elders of the people. They urged gentleness and kindness toward the people promising that the people would respond with loyal dedication and service.

Rehoboam stubbornly rejected the counsel of the elders and rather sought out the advice of those with whom he had grown up. They advised stern and harsh treatment of the people even more severe than that of his father Solomon. Rehoboam accepted their advice and advised the people accordingly. The people of the northern tribes reacted by revolting against Rehoboam severing all ties with Judah and made Jeroboam king over the ten northern tribes which were known then as Israel.

Rehoboam sought to assemble an army from the houses of Judah and Benjamin to attempt to force Israel under his rule but was advised by a man of God, "Thus says the LORD 'You shall not go up nor fight'" (12:24) 12:25-33

Jeroboam settled in as king of Israel. Yet, something bothered him. Jerusalem remained the center of worship for all the people of both Judah and Israel. He feared that continued contact with Judah could easily erode the loyalty of the people which he enjoyed. Therefore, he determined that he would establish places of worship in Israel—one at Bethel (about 12 miles north of Jerusalem) and one at Dan (about 100 miles north of Jerusalem). What kind of worship would Jeroboam establish? He made calves of gold and said to the people, "Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt." Before these idols at shrines and high places, priests were appointed who were not of the house of Levi to offer sacrifices on the altars. "And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth."

Jeroboam's son became extremely ill. What should he do? He decided to disguise his wife so that they wouldn't recognize her and send her—where else but—to Shiloh to the prophet of the one true God, Ahijah. Ahijah had a message from the LORD for Jeroboam. "You have done more evil than all who were before you." As a result, the house of Jeroboam would be taken away as one takes out the garbage. As for his sick son, "when your feet enter the city, the child shall die." Nevertheless, the LORD makes it clear to Jeroboam that out of all in his house in this young child "there is found something good toward the LORD God of Israel." Beyond that, the LORD foretells the destiny of Israel through the prophet Elijah in vss. 15-16. This came to pass through the invasion and captivity by the Assyrians some time later.

As for Rehoboam who ruled in Judah, he and the people also did evil. They too, "built for themselves high places, sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree." (14:23 and 24) Their dedication to the LORD waned and their weakness was obvious. Their enemies looted the house of the LORD of its treasures taking "everything away."

STUDENT PRAYER

I thank You Lord for Your Word of Truth and for pastors and teachers whom You have called to bring Your Words to us. Fill us with Your Spirit that we may avoid all that is against Your Word. So move us to walk with You in your Word in all that we say and do. Thus we pray Your name will be glorified through us and many will see Your salvation and walk with us in obedience and love to You.

PRESENTATION

Disobedience to God always has serious consequences: It affects our relationship with God It may offend others, that is, lead them into the trap of sin It may contribute to stifling the labors of His kingdom. Above everything, it may give people occasion to ridicule rather than to respect the name of God and worship him.

You may take each of the persons mentioned in our lesson who were disobedient to God and examine how the above four points applied to their lives. (You might include Solomon with Jeroboam and Rehoboam because of his obvious contribution to the sad state of affairs outlined in our lesson).

Discuss the sad state of affairs that results when those called to be leaders in spiritual matters mislead the people. As in the days of Israel and Judah, disobedience to God and the disregard of His Truth today also results in the people making their own religion or accepting something which is not of God and therefore harmful which could destroy one's relationship with God and eternal life.

APPLICATION

Because of our sinful flesh we are all prone to disobey God in our thoughts, words and deeds. Each of us, however, by God's grace has His Spirit in us. Because of God's Spirit in us, we are able to spot evil and root it out of our lives through repentance and faith in His forgiving love in Christ Jesus. The unbelieving world around us together with Satan and our sinful flesh are continually trying to tempt us to disobey God and to walk the way of evil. As we walk with the Spirit of God, we walk righteously to His glory and for our own good and blessing.

Disobedience to God is always harmful. Repeat the four points from the presentation section in application to us personally. Use examples of disobedience to God from the lives of children to show how seriously it affects one's relationship with other people and above all, with God. Example: Disobedience to parents, teachers, laws; lying etc. Repentance is the way to cast sin out of our lives. Describe how true repentance is healing for our soul: admitting one's guilt to ourselves, to others involved, to Christian friends and/or to parents and above all to God. We must be truly sorry for our sins not merely sorry that we "got caught." We will make amends in any way we can to correct the wrong and accept the assurance that we are truly forgiven through the forgiving love of God earned for us by Christ Jesus our Savior. We will praying earnestly for strength to avoid such sins in the future.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Matthew 4:10 - You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve

Deuteronomy 5:7 - You shall have no other gods before Me.

Psalms 119:105 - Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Galatians 5: 16 - Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh

HYMN CHOICES

Lord Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word - TLH #261

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord - TLH #462

Stand Up! Stand Up For Jesus - TLH #451

Fight The Good Fight With All Thy Might - TLH #447