

Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

Memory Verse:

Day 1 – Chapter 15 of “The Story”

Day 2 – 1 Kings 17-19

Day 3 – 2 Kings 1, 2, 4 & 6

Day 4 – Amos 1 & 3

Day 5 – Amos 4, 5 & 8

Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



The Story: A Kingdom Torn in Two

December 22-23

“The Story” Chapter 14; 1 Kings 11:28-33

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.



If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. Mark 3:24-25

Scan to go to
the message blog or go to
www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com.

Adult and teen small group discussion points

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. Older people who have walked longer in life often carry a body of wisdom in their heart. Who is a very wise person you know and how has he or she impacted your life? What is one of the best pieces of wisdom this person has offered you through the years?
2. Rehoboam sought counsel to make an important decision (p. 194) and so did Jeroboam (p. 196). What criteria did each seem to use in evaluating the counsel of others? What makes for wise counsel? What kind of counsel does or should your small group provide for each other?
3. In their wisdom, the elders told Rehoboam that if he served the nation, the people would gladly follow him. Jesus modeled this truth in the New Testament when he washed the disciples' feet (John 13). How can serving with a humble heart actually make a person a stronger leader?
4. Jeroboam "counterfeited worship" by redirecting Israel's attention away from the temple in Judah to local idols. What did he gain from this?
5. Jeroboam recognized that Ahijah spoke the truth, even when he did not like it. How do you respond when you hear a truth you do not like? How can you be different from Jeroboam, and use these truths as opportunities to change?
6. Have you had an occasion when someone asked you for advice and counsel because he or she respected your integrity and truthfulness? What happened?
7. Under King Rehoboam, the people of Judah "engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites." The idolatry in the culture had become the idolatry of God's people. In what ways are God's people today similar to the non-Christian culture all around us? How are we different?
8. The split of Israel and Judah led to continual warfare for hundreds of years. What issues divide God's people today? Share with your group practical ways to promote unity at our church and unity with believers from other churches.
9. This section of the "The Story," as well as the teachings and life of Jesus, illustrates that a divided house will always fall. What practical things can we do to bring peace in our family and within our homes?

10. Satan loves to divide families. If the enemy has created conflict in your family (or is trying to do so), how can you battle against this and seek healing and peace?

Close in prayer.



Family's with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Key verse: Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. —1 Kings 15:11

1. Sometimes people don't follow God's rules. Which of God's rules are especially easy or hard for you to keep?
2. Describe some ways that people show God they love him. How do you show God that you love him?
3. The people of Judah started fighting against Israel and decided to start their own country. Have you ever had two of your friends fight and decide not to be friends anymore?
4. What happened because of this fight?
5. Was there a way your friends could have settled their differences better?
6. In the midst of all these bad kings in Israel and Judah, Asa became king of Judah and "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord" (1 Kings 15:11). Do you think it was hard for him to do good things when everybody around him was making bad choices?
7. Tell about a time when others were making poor choices and you decided to follow God. Was it hard? How did it make you feel?

Family Activity: Only the one true God is worthy of our worship. King Solomon opened the door to idol worship, and then Israel and Judah forsook the Lord to follow false gods. Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhJYN2Hk_FQ and watch the video of Matthew Ward's song "I Will Worship You." Have a pencil and paper ready. Write down all of the characteristics of God mentioned in the song. "My God is faithful, truthful . . ."

1. Think about the things people worship today (fame, money, etc.). Can any of those things boast the same characteristics that God possesses?
2. One of the lines says, "I will worship you for the things you've done in me." Have family members share something the Lord has done in them.
3. Deuteronomy 6:13 says, "Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve." Write that verse on an index card and stick it on the refrigerator. Encourage everybody in your family to memorize it this week. Plan something fun as a family if everybody accomplishes this goal.

Pray together: Dear God, please forgive me for thinking I need things that I want, like new video games or other toys. Help me to realize that all good things come from you, and that you give me everything I need. Help me to always keep you first in my life. I love you, Lord. Amen.

