

Preschool

The Kingdom Divided

Activity Ideas

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 11-12

STORY POINT: God divided Israel into two kingdoms

MEMORY VERSE: James 1:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Count 12s

Set out counting items in sets of 12. Provide muffin tins or clean, dozen egg cartons for preschoolers to sort the items as they desire. Guide older preschoolers to practice math skills by taking items away and counting what is left.

SAY • Israel was made up of twelve tribes. King Solomon sinned, and God told him, “Since you have done this, I will take away the kingdom from you.” But God had promised Solomon’s father, King David, that the king of Israel would always come from his family, so God did not take the whole kingdom away. God divided Israel into two kingdoms and left one tribe to Solomon’s son. God’s people needed a perfect king. God would send His own Son, Jesus, to be King. Jesus is better than Solomon. Jesus is a perfect King who brings God’s people together.

Make “torn” art

Tape a 4-by-6-inch piece of clear contact plastic for each preschooler sticky side up on a table. Or use glue.

Tear pieces of tissue paper and lay them on the plastic. Seal finished art with another piece of clear contact plastic over the top. Help preschoolers cut small triangles out of one long side to create a crown shape. Print Jesus is the perfect King! on each preschooler’s artwork. Encourage preschoolers to tape their artwork in a window at home.

SAY • Your torn pieces of tissue paper came together into a beautiful crown! God divided Israel into two kingdoms because of Solomon’s sin. But one day, our perfect King Jesus will bring all of God’s people together again!

Play “King, May I?”

Choose one child to be king and two children to be the king’s advisors. Line up the rest of the group on the opposite side of the room. The advisors will face the children, and the king will face a wall. Guide children to take turns asking “King, may I take [number and type of] steps forward?” Each advisor should tell the king how she thinks he should answer, either “Yes, you may” or “No, but you may take [number and type of] steps backward.” The first child to reach the king may take his place in the next round. Choose new advisors and continue play as time allows.

SAY • When Solomon’s son Rehoboam became king, the people asked him to make their work easier. Rehoboam asked his father’s friends and his own friends what he should do. Rehoboam

chose to make the people work harder! They did not want to serve a king like Rehoboam. God divided Israel into two kingdoms. God's people needed a perfect king. God would send His own Son, Jesus, to be King. Jesus is a perfect King who brings God's people together.