



THE GOSPEL PROJECT SR. UNIT 11. 4 Soloman's Sin Divides a Nation

Date: Sunday May 24, 2026 **Teachers:** Denzil (lead) Nate B (co-lead)

Bible Passage: 1 Kings 11–12 **Key Passage:** Proverbs 2:10

Props: from home: compass OR compass on smartphone

At centre: construction paper, cut out before class a heart and rip paper and hide before class, activity sheet

Review Rules:

One Mouth speaking at a time (Teacher points to mouths/kids point to their mouths)

Two Hands kept to myself (kids wiggle hands and keep them to themselves)

Two Feet kept to myself (kids cross legs)

Speak Kind Words like our God 3 in One

ACROSTIC OF JESUS

INTRO TO BIBLE STORY:

Susan

materials: (Before class, cut out a large paper heart, tape/whiteboard to tape onto for the group to see)

Ask for 4-5 volunteers. Give the heart to one child and tell her to tear off a piece of the heart and keep it, and then pass the rest to another child. Continue until each child has a piece of the heart. Allow the children to try to put the heart back together like a puzzle. You may choose to give them clear tape to use. Even when we tape our heart back together, it still doesn't look the same as it did before, does it? We have been learning about the wisdom of Solomon, and that wisdom comes from listening to God's voice, but today we see how Solomon stops listening to God's voice and we are going to see what happened to King Solomon when he allowed his heart to be divided.

Let's review our story up until now.

BIBLE STORY INTRO materials: (whiteboard) (Write these statements on the board with blanks to fill in, masking tape or painters tape** bring from home

Solomon asked God for (**wisdom**) to (**lead**) God's people.

Wisdom comes from (**listening to God's voice**) and (**obeying**) His Ways.

God chose Solomon to build a (**temple**) where He would (**dwell**) with His people.

God's goal is to **BE WITH US!**

Solomon had wisdom from God but his heart chased other things...and he no longer feared the Lord or obeyed Him and there were great consequences for his sin, his heart was divided and that caused the kingdom to be divided (Split the class in two and put painters/masking tape down the middle). See if you can spot where Solomon began to go wrong as we watch the video.

BIBLE STORY (VIDEO)

DISCUSSION VIDEO

Nate

Discuss why the two smaller groups could not play Lobster Tag. Ask what happens when we follow the wrong leader. What are some ways we can know if we are following the right leader? Who is the perfect leader we should

follow? When Solomon stopped trusting God, God split the kingdom into two weaker kingdoms. When we follow Jesus, we are following a perfect leader! Jesus' kingdom can never be split or weakened.

DISMISS JR. KIDS

KEY PASSAGE VERSE

Denzil

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." Proverbs 2:10
(scramble a few words for the kids to decode)

The Fear of the Lord isn't fear like scary fear, but fear as in awe and wonder. Discuss fearing God from a place of desiring His will. Knowing who God is and who you are is life.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW materials: *(decide on how to ask questions/distribute points)*

Nate

How many wives did King Solomon have? (700, 1 Kings 11:3)

What did Solomon's wives cause him to do? (turn away from God and worship other gods, 1 Kings 11:4)

How many times did God warn Solomon not to worship false gods? (two times, 1 Kings 11:9-10)

What were the consequences of Solomon's sin? (God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned, 1 Kings 11:11)

What was the name of Solomon's son? (Rehoboam, 1 Kings 11:43)

Who ruled over the northern kingdom? (Solomon's official, Jeroboam; 1 Kings 11:31)

ACTIVITY: "Divided" materials: (Coloured Paper ripped in half hid around the room before class)

Denzil

Rip some colour paper in half and give one piece to each student, tape the other piece somewhere in the room where it's slightly hidden. Tear a piece of paper in half before the kids: this is what happened to Solomon's Kingdom, when Solomon refused to obey God. His sin had a huge effect on His people. Our sin hurts other people too. Solomon's sin tore His people apart.

Your piece of paper was torn in half. Go find the other half of your paper. (when they bring it back) Solomon was not a perfect King and His sin and bad choices destroyed things. God had a plan to not only repair the world but repair our hearts. The perfect King Jesus came to give His life for us and give us new hearts that are not divided, and He is coming again to make all things that are broken WHOLE again.

ACTIVITY: "Endurance challenge" materials: (none)

Nate

Guide kids to spread out around the room. Explain that when you say "go," each kid should move into a plank position. Give them instructions of how to move.

Lay on your stomach on the floor with your hands flat on the floor at shoulder level and your toes on the floor.

Push up onto your hands to straighten your arms. Lift your whole body except your hands and toes off of the floor.

Hold that position as long as you can.

You may choose to time how long kids can hold the plank position. When a kid tires, she may drop out. Doing anything for a long period of time can be difficult. It requires endurance, or "the ability to withstand hardship, adversity, or stress." Solomon lost his ability to endure, and love God with his whole heart, mind and soul. God allowed the consequences of his sin to play out.

ACTIVITY: "N, S, E, W"

Denzil

materials: (printed map of the divided kingdom (in PDF PK, ** use a compass app on your phone)

Our world is divided and there is only one King who can unite it. King Jesus is coming back to earth to make everything right again.

God is going to unite all people in heaven and on earth who are a part of His church the Body of Christ, whom Christ is the Head. He will bring together people from every tribe and tongue from the North the South the East and the West. There is still so much division especially in the Middle East where this story takes place.

We are going to pray right now for God to establish his peace and justice in the Middle East. Show the kids where N, S, E and West are in the room.

Play a game... ask all the kids to lie down and when you say a direction they have to jump up and face that direction. (Then call out directions fast/slow repeating ones, and eliminate anyone that flinches.

ACTIVITY SHEET: "Make it whole"/SNACK/ FREE PLAY