

REHOBAM'S UNWISE CHOICE

Scripture:
I Kings 12

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse:

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know— When the Israelites came and asked Rehoboam to lighten their work load, he consulted with Solomon's advisor's but rejected their council they told him to be a servant, and instead went to his peers who told him to answer harshly. When he followed their council, ten tribes revolted and formed their own country.

To Realize—When they seek council and hear something from a wise source that has their best interests in mind, they should not stubbornly reject it and continue getting advice until they find someone who tells them what they want to hear.

To Respond by—Seeking and listening to wise council, even when it is not what they want to hear.

Setting up the Story:

Make a list of who students think seventh (sixth) graders get advice from when they have a problem that they need to solve.

Older students

Friends

Parents

Siblings

Have them indicate on a scale of 1-5 how often they think kids in their age range go to each source. (One=rarely Five=often)

Yesterday we looked at how Solomon's heart was turned away from God by his wives. When it was time for his son to become king, his son was presented with a difficult choice and he needed some advice.

Scripture

Telling the story:

I. People's Request

- A. All Israel comes to Shechem

As you tell the story:

Background: Solomon's idols (review surrounding nations on map). Solomon was trying to establish peace with surrounding countries. Wasn't that a wise thing to do? Not at expense of disobeying God.

Solomon had had a huge work force. It was hard working for

- B. Jeroboam comes from Egypt

- C. Ask Rehoboam to lighten load

- II. Rehoboam Seeks Council
 - A. "Three Days"
 - B. Seeks advice from Solomon's advisors
 - 1. Elders
 - 2. Were for Rehoboam
 - 3. Had experience
 - 4. "Be a servant"
 - C. Seeks advice from peers
 - 1. Had grown up with Reh.
 - 2. Were for Rehoboam and themselves
 - 3. Little or no experience
 - 4. "Be a tough leader"
 - a. little finger thicker than loin
 - b. whip with scorpions

- III. Rehoboam Loses 10 Tribes
 - A. Rejects Elders' advice

 - B. Chooses Peers' advice

 - C. Tribes stone Adoniram
 - D. Rehoboam Flees to Jerusalem

Solomon. Man in charge was Jeroboam. When God told Solomon his kingdom would be torn away from him, he thought it might be given to Jeroboam, so Jeroboam ran away to Egypt for safety. After Solomon died, Jeroboam came back.

Who are these advisors for? Why would their advice not sound good to Rehoboam? His father had been the greatest and now he doesn't want to seem weak! "be a servant"??

Then he gets some other advice. Storytell.

Here's the key question: WHEN did Rehoboam reject the elder's advice? (see if students pick it up)
 I used to think he got advice from here and there and then he thought it over, "Hmmm. Which one am I going to choose?" But after he had heard the wise advice, he rejected it. It wasn't what he wanted to hear, so then he went and found someone who would tell him what he wanted to hear.

Concluding the Story: