

## JEROBOAM SETS UP GOLDEN CALVES

**Scripture:**

**I Kings 11:26-39, 12:1-33**

**Materials Needed:**

Blindfolds/strips of material  
Cookies (snack) cups/water  
Material ripped/cut into 12 small pieces  
Tennis ball or beanbag (for MV)

**Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

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

To Know—When Jeroboam was promised the northern kingdom and an enduring house if he followed God, instead of trusting that God was in control of Rehoboam’s decisions, he became fearful and set up two golden calves and an alternative worship system that led the nation away from God.

To Realize—They must trust that God is in control of circumstances instead of taking matters into their own hands because of fear.

To Respond by—trusting that God is in control and not taking things into their own hands.

**Setting up the Story:**

Have students work in teams of two. One student will have their hands tied behind their back and the other will be blindfolded. The student who can’t use their hands will verbally guide the student who can’t see to do 3 simple tasks: Eat a cookie and drink a cup of water.

Either have all teams trying to accomplish the tasks at the same time and the first successful one is declared the “winner” or have each team try the tasks and time them. Either way...the result should be somewhat entertaining!

At the end, ask the members who had their hands tied: “How hard was it not to be able to do the task yourself and help your teammate?”

Ask the one who couldn’t see: “How hard was it to trust your teammate when you couldn’t see what you were doing? You had to go by what they were saying.”

There was someone in today’s lesson who couldn’t see what was going to happen...but he heard what God was telling him.

Scripture

I Kings  
11:26-39

**Telling the story:**

- I. Jeroboam is Promised the Northern Kingdom
  - A. His own attempts at rebelling don’t succeed

**As you tell the story:**

His name was Jeroboam!

He was in charge of the workers that Solomon had worked TOO hard!

(have some material ripped into 12 pieces.)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B. Ahijah comes to Jeroboam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They are alone</li> <li>2. Tears new cloak into 12 pieces</li> <li>3. Jeroboam takes 10 pieces</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Did Jeroboam MAKE this happen? Who GAVE him the kingdom?  READ 11:31</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. Jeroboam is Given Promises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ten tribes</li> <li>2. Enduring family IF obeys</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>It's like Jeroboam's hands are tied. Who is going to bring this about? God is. Does Jeroboam have to make it happen? No.</p>
I Kings 12:1-24	II.	<p>Rehoboam's Decisions Are Under God's Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. He decides not to listen to people</li> <li>B. Israel Makes Jeroboam King</li> <li>C. Rehoboam turns away from fighting</li> </ul>	<p>Storytell details briefly.</p>
I Kings 12:25-33	III.	<p>Jeroboam Institutes False Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. He is afraid he will lose the kingdom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the people offer sacrifices</li> <li>2. their hearts will go back to Rehoboam</li> <li>3. they will kill Jeroboam</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Had GOD brought about giving Jeroboam 10 tribes who were following him, just like he was told?  What had he done to MAKE it happen? It was as if his hands were tied.</p> <p>But there was something Jeroboam COULDN'T SEE...he couldn't see what the people would do when it was time to go back to Jerusalem to worship God at the Temple. Who had built the Temple? Solomon!</p> <p>Storytell what Jeroboam thought would happen. Jeroboam couldn't SEE what would happen...but WHO had he heard from? God! WHAT had God said would</p>

B. He makes two golden calves

1. Bethel
2. Dan
3. Tells Israel these are their gods

C. He puts in other religious symbols

1. high places vs. temple
2. priests
3. feasts
4. sacrifices

happen...that the people would follow him.

Jeroboam was AFRAID and he DIDN'T TRUST what God had told him.

Point to Bethel and Dan on a map or draw a map and mark where they are.

He's taking matters into his OWN hands and saying "I don't have to obey God's way, because it's not going to work!" He copies the worship in Jerusalem and tells the people that is THEIR god, and his festivals are about the same time as the ones God had told His people to observe.

### **Concluding the Story:**

Why did Jeroboam take matters into his own hands and do what was wrong? From FEAR: God won't do what he says. (OR, God won't do it the way I want.) What could Jeroboam have done? TRUST: God WILL do what He says. What had God already said to Jeroboam. What did Jeroboam believe about God?

Jeroboam isn't the only one who struggles with fear. Let's say that a student is doing their homework, but they are afraid they are going to do it wrong. What is the temptation? Let's say a student has studied for a test. But they are afraid they won't do well. What is the temptation? Let's say that a student is over at a friend's and they know there is something they shouldn't be watching. But they are afraid if they say, "No." that their friend will think they are a baby. What is the temptation? There are many ways we are tempted to take matters into our own hands because we are AFRAID.

What should we do instead? What should Jeroboam have done instead? TRUST that GOD would take care of it!

## **JEROBOAM SETS UP GOLDEN CALVES HELPS FOR THE TEACHER**

### **Personal Application Questions:**

1. Is there anything in your life right now that seems “out of control” or isn’t going according to how you would like it to turn out? What promise do you have that God is still in control of the situation and working it out?
2. What fears do you have that instead of taking matters into your own hands, you need to trust instead?

### **Application Questions to Think Through for your Students:**

1. Point out to your students that TRUST in God is like having the blindfold on, because we can’t SEE God...but we can HEAR the promises He makes in His Word. How can they increase their trust in God? (read His Word)
2. In what ways do your students “take matters into their own hands” rather than trusting God? (ex: cheating on a test, giving into peer pressure, being sneaky with parents rather than telling the truth, trying to work mom/dad against each other in order to get what they want.)

### **Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5**

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.*

Have the students sit in a circle and pass a beanbag or tennis ball around the circle. Each person says the next word when the beanbag is passed to them. On the second round, each person says 2 words. On the third round, 3 words. After several rounds, say the verse all together as a group.