

Materials I Need:



Legend:



-  = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade
 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade



Focus and Memory Verse:

“I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commands and followed Me with all his heart, doing only what was right in My eyes.” 1 Kings 14:8

 **Hook:**

Where Does the King Look for Direction? (Visual Aid/Discussion). ,  Assemble the king's face using **1KG04.GF9 Pgs. 1 - 5** from the TOOK time activity, “I'll Keep My Eyes on God,” to use while reviewing the kings of 1 Kings. Ask, “Where did King David look for direction in his life and for the nation of Israel?” He looked to God (have king's eyes looking up) and the nation was blessed. When he looked away for a short time, he suffered a great consequence (quickly have king look down then back up). Ask, “What about King Solomon?” King Solomon began looking to God as his father David had done (king's eyes up). But later in life, he had one eye on God and one eye on the world (one eye up, one eye down). He looked away more than his father David did. Ask the students if they know who was the next king. Tell them that Rehoboam followed Solomon. Ask which example of Solomon King Rehoboam followed. Was it looking to God (have king look up) or to the world (king looks down) in his decisions? Explain that in today's Bible adventure, the students will hear what Rehoboam did, about the kings who followed, and how their choices affected the nation of Israel.

Good Advice (Discussion). ,  Have you ever done the opposite of what you were advised/counseled to do? Everyone can probably think of a time in their life when they were given wise counsel, ignored it, and suffered negative consequence because of this poor choice. Share one of these times in your life with your students, prefacing it with the previous statement. Ask the students to think of a time in their lives that they turned away from the wise counsel of their parent, teacher, or other knowledgeable person. Perhaps they put off doing a school paper until the last day and then couldn't complete it on time or told a lie or bought something that they were later sorry they had spent their money on. Ask if anyone would like to tell the class their story. What was the advice? Who was it from? What did they do instead? What were the consequences? What would they do differently in the future? Why should they follow wise counsel?

Consequences of Sin (Visual Aid/Discussion). ,  Bring in a pair of handcuffs and allow the students to be “cuffed” by a teacher. Talk to them about who would wear these handcuffs. Ask them, “What does a person have to do in order to be arrested by the police? What would our city be like if the police never did anything to those who do wrong things? What would it be like if your parents let you do whatever you wanted without ever punishing you for bad choices?”
Debrief: We should be thankful to God that He hates sin and punishes it. The consequences or penalties (“spankings”) for sin should help us to avoid it the next time. If we're going to avoid the spankings for sin, we need to learn what it means to truly obey God.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



A King's Crown (Role-Play). 🎨, 🦋 Wear different crowns to represent different kings in the story. Use two crowns from a fast food restaurant. Assemble them inside out and decorate each of the crowns differently. Have one crown represent Jeroboam and the other Rehoboam. Wear the crown that represents the king/kingdom you are telling about as you tell the story. Switch back and forth as needed.



Timeline of the Kings (Visual Aid/Overhead). 🎨, 🦋 This timeline may be copied onto butcher paper and used as a tool to show students which king was in power and which prophet was being used by God as a mouthpiece to the nations. Refer to the dates and pictures on the timeline for today's lesson as well as future lessons, **1KG04.GF1.**



Map of the Divided Kingdom (Visual Aid/Overhead). 🎨, 🦋 **1KG04.GF2.**



Rehoboam with the Elders of Israel (Illustration/Coloring Page). 🎨, 🦋 1 Kings 12:6-8, **1KG04.GF3.**



Jeroboam with the Two Golden Calves (Illustration/Coloring Page). 🎨, 🦋 1 Kings 12:25-30, **1KG04.GF4.**



Jeroboam's Withered Hand (Illustration/Coloring Page). 🎨, 🦋 1 Kings 13:3-4, **1KG04.GF5.**

Bible Adventure –

Though we don't know for sure who wrote the book of 1 Kings, we do know that it was written for the benefit of God's people who had been taken captive to Babylon. When we are suffering it is common for us to question and want to know the reason why. 1 Kings records the history of the kings of Israel, beginning with David and his son, Solomon. It also records an important historical event in that nation-- the dividing of the kingdom into two smaller nations. For many divided nations, a division was a good thing, a beginning of freedom, as in the case of the United States and Great Britain.

For the nation of Israel, however, a divided kingdom meant a weaker kingdom. When Solomon was king, Israel enjoyed the greatest wealth and peace it had ever known. When he died, the kingship passed to his son, Rehoboam, who proved to be an unwise king. Solomon had worked the people very hard in building the temple and the king's huge palace. After working so hard for so many years, the people needed a break. When Rehoboam became king, the people asked him for rest. First, Rehoboam went to the elders of Israel to see what they thought of this request. The elders wisely told the king to give the people what they wanted. Unfortunately, he didn't take their advice. Instead, Rehoboam went to friends his own age and asked what they thought. "Don't go easy on the people," they told him, "Be even tougher on them than your father was!" In his pride, Rehoboam chose to listen to the foolish advice of his friends and commanded that the people of Israel work even longer and harder than before!

This is not what the people wanted to hear. Angry and upset, ten of the tribes returned to their tents ready to rise up against Rehoboam and his kingdom. Only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to the king. He thought this would make him a greater king than his father had been, but his choice resulted in the dividing of the nation of Israel. The king did not listen to the counsel of wise, godly men God had placed in his life. Proverbs 12:15 says, "The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice." We need to listen to the advice of others. We often cannot see the pitfalls and blindspots that others can. A wise person will listen to the godly, Biblical advice of a parent, teacher, or friend.

Rehoboam then made another foolish mistake. He sent Adoram, the man who was in charge of forced labor, to the ten tribes. When the tribes stoned Adoram to death, the king knew he was in trouble and fled to Jerusalem. Now the ten tribes needed someone to lead them. They remembered Jeroboam, a mighty warrior who served King Solomon. Solomon had become angry with Jeroboam and wanted him killed, so Jeroboam went to Egypt for safety. God had told Jeroboam that he would one day rule over ten tribes of Israel. Now this was coming true, as Jeroboam returned and became Israel's king.

So the nation of Israel was divided into two separate nations, with King Jeroboam leading the ten northern tribes now called Israel, and King Rehoboam leading the two southern tribes now called Judah. With such hard feelings among the people, it was unavoidable that fighting would begin. Rehoboam gathered an army to attack the ten northern tribes, but before he could begin, Shemaiah, a man of God, gave the king a word from the Lord telling him to retreat. This time Rehoboam listened to wise advice, and war was avoided.

Meanwhile, in the northern kingdom of Israel, King Jeroboam had a big problem. The nation was divided, but they were still spiritually united by the temple worship begun by Solomon. Jeroboam knew his people would go down to Jerusalem at least once a year to offer sacrifices to the Lord at the temple. Jeroboam feared that his people might be influenced by Rehoboam and turn back to him. So Jeroboam came up with an awful plan to keep his people in Israel. He made two golden statues of calves, setting one up at Bethel and one at Dan, and told the people, "Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." This was the same mistake Aaron had made during the days of Moses! Jeroboam was setting up idol worship as Israel's national religion. No wonder the Northern Kingdom throughout its history did not have even one good king on its throne. Israel began its rebellion against God with idolatry and ended the same way—in serious sin and rebellion against the One who created and loved them.

God was not pleased at all with Jeroboam's leadership, so he sent a man of God from Judah to confront the king. The man predicted to Jeroboam that a later king of Israel would sacrifice the evil priests that Jeroboam had hired on the high places that the king had set up for idol worship (this is exactly what happened in 2 Kings 22-23). He also prophesied that the altars Jeroboam had built to false gods would be split apart by the power of God, as a sign of His displeasure with the idol worship. Jeroboam didn't like what he was hearing from this man of God, so he commanded that he be arrested. But when Jeroboam stretched out his hand toward the man, his hand shriveled up, and he could not even pull it back to himself. Now, that would get your attention, wouldn't it? Not only that, but the altar split apart, just as the man of God had said it would. Jeroboam begged the man of God to pray that God would heal his hand, and God did. The king wanted the man to come home with him, but the man refused because of the king's wickedness. The man of God rejected Jeroboam because of his sin, and God rejected the nation of Israel for the same reason. The prophet Ahijah had prophesied that the nation of Israel would be taken out of its land against its will. God had raised up Jeroboam to lead His people, but instead of leading them to follow the Lord, he led them in the opposite direction—into a life of sin. God said about the king, "I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commands and followed Me with all his heart, doing only what was right in My eyes" (1 Kings 14:8). Now Israel would no longer receive the blessings of God. Jeroboam's reign was just the beginning of a long line of kings who were increasingly wicked and rebellious toward God.

What about the southern tribes of Judah? Were they following God during this time? I'm afraid not. King Rehoboam was busy setting up his own "high places" where people could go to worship idols. Just like the Canaanites who lived in the land before them, the people of Judah were worshipping false gods! In His anger, God sent Shishak, king of Egypt, to discipline them by taking valuable things out of the temple and the treasury.

All the days of Jeroboam and Rehoboam were filled with wickedness, lies, rebellion against God, and wars with one another. Once the greatest nation in the world under the leadership of David and then Solomon, Israel had fallen into a state of total disaster! Worse than that, they had turned their backs on God and replaced Him with the idols He had commanded them to destroy some 400 years earlier. Neither Israel nor Judah worshiped the true God any longer.

Many of the Israelites living as captives in Babylon had never heard this history of their people. It must have been very sad for them to learn of the wickedness of God's people who had lived before them in Israel and Judah. But it also helped them to see why God had allowed Israel to be captured by the Babylonians. God was using this time in Babylon to teach His children that there are consequences for sin and rebellion. Instead of complaining about being captives, they could now learn from the book of 1 Kings the mistakes of their ancestors and live for God--not in rebellion to Him.

Did it seem rather sudden to you that the nation of Israel should go from the good leadership of David and then Solomon to the wicked leadership of Jeroboam and Rehoboam? Actually, it wasn't sudden at all. The divided kingdom really began with King Solomon who allowed all the foreign women he married to turn his heart away from God. Because of Solomon's sinful choices, God began the process of taking the kingdom away from him and his family. Our hearts can sometimes desire the opposite of what God wants for us, and we can fool ourselves into thinking that our sin won't have any consequences, but it always

does. Even the smallest sin can have big consequences in our lives. God is holy and will punish sin. Knowing that can help us live in humility and fear of Him and follow *His* ways, not our own.

Aim Questions:

1. **Who wrote the book of 1 Kings?** *Author unknown.*
2. **Why was the book written?** *To show the people in captivity why they were suffering.*
3. **Whom did God choose to be the next king of Israel after King David?** *King Solomon.*
4. **Who took Solomon's place on the throne of Israel?** *Rehoboam.*
5. **What foolish choice did Rehoboam make?** *He kept the forced labor going on in Israel, even though the people asked for rest.*
6. **How was the nation of Israel divided?** *Ten northern tribes (Israel); two southern tribes (Judah).*
7. **Who became the first king of Israel?** *Jeroboam.*
8. **What sinful choices did both kings make?** *They allowed idolatry to be practiced in their countries.*



Look:



The Kings of the Divided Kingdom (Worksheet). 🦋, 🦋 Have students find out which kings followed the Lord by looking up the Scripture references after each king that is named. Instruct them to put a happy face in the box after each one that followed the Lord and a sad face in the box after each one that did not, **1KG04.GF6**. *Answers: None of the northern kings (Israel) chose to follow the Lord. The kings of the southern tribes (Judah) who chose to follow the Lord were: Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, Josiah.*



Questions of a King (Discussion/Game). 🦋, 🦋 It can be confusing to remember all the happenings of Israel and Judah. Here are some questions to ask the students about Rehoboam and Jeroboam. You may divide the class into two teams and provide each with two signs, one marked with an "R" and the other with a "J." Select two students from each team to be the sign holders. Ask the following questions. If both teams hold up the correct sign, award them one point each. If only one team answers correctly, award that team both of the points. Award the winning team with a small treat.

Who ruled over Judah? R
Who ruled over Israel? J
Who was prophesied to reign? J
Who was Solomon's son? R
Who reigned where the temple was? R
Who hid in Egypt from Solomon? J
Who taxed the people greatly? R
Which king led his people away from the Lord? Both J + R



Messed up Media (Activity/Discussion). 🦋, 🦋 Tape any Saturday morning TV commercial or cartoon and show how the media likes to tell children that all parents are nerds and not worth listening to. Many portray adults in a dishonoring way. After showing them the clips (you can request a copy from Children's Ministry if you need to), ask them how the media is selling children a lie. What does God have to say about where to get godly advice? What happened to Rehoboam when he did not pay attention to the elders' advice?



Aim Questions (Worksheet). 🦋 Have students answer the aim questions about today's Bible Adventure, **1KG04.GF7**.



Passage Review Questions (Worksheet). 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **1KG04.GF8 Pgs. 1 & 2**.



Took:



I'll Keep My Eyes on God (Craft). 🦋, 🦋 Each student will need
1KG04.GF9 Pg. 1 instruction sheet copied onto white paper
1KG04.GF9 Pgs. 2 – 4 copied onto white cardstock
1KG04.GF9 Pg. 5 & 6 copied onto colored cardstock as indicated
scissors
glue

Have students follow the directions on the instruction sheets to assemble this craft. Each student can look to God for direction in making decisions (up) or to their own/the world's ways (down).



Get Wise Counsel (Discussion). 🦋, 🦋 In the lesson, Rehoboam, king of Judah, did not listen to the counsel of the elders of Israel. He sought after the counsel of his spoiled and selfish friends, which was bad. Ask the students from whom should they seek counsel and wisdom. Tell them that they should first go to God in prayer and then to their parents, godly teachers, discipleship leaders, or pastors. Explain that these individuals may not tell the students what they want to hear, but because of the years of acquired wisdom, their advice has a big advantage over the advice of friends.

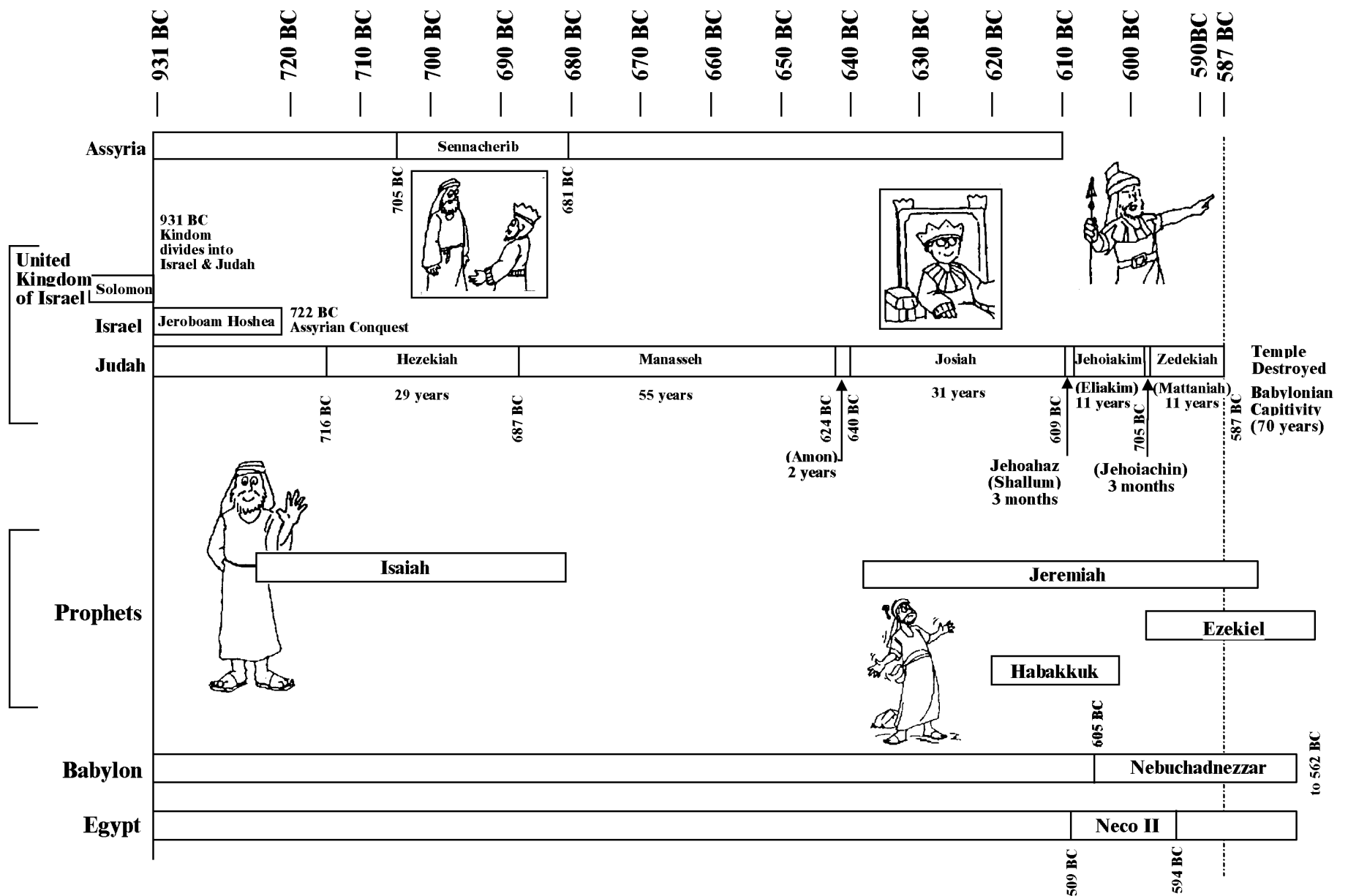


Listen to Wise Advice (Craft). 🦋, 🦋 Each student will need:
1KG04.GF10 Pg. 1 copied onto colored cardstock
1KG04.GF10 Pg. 2 copied onto cardstock for the base
5 chenille wires of assorted colors
cellophane tape
colored markers

Have students cut out the telephones on **1KG04.GF10**. Next, have them wind the chenille wires on a pencil and then remove the pencil gently so that the wires look like telephone cords. Have them tape the cords to the base sheet and write on the telephones the names of people who would give them wise advice. Then have them tape the phones to the cords. Ask the students who they would call when they need wise counsel. What should they do first? (*Go to God in prayer.*)

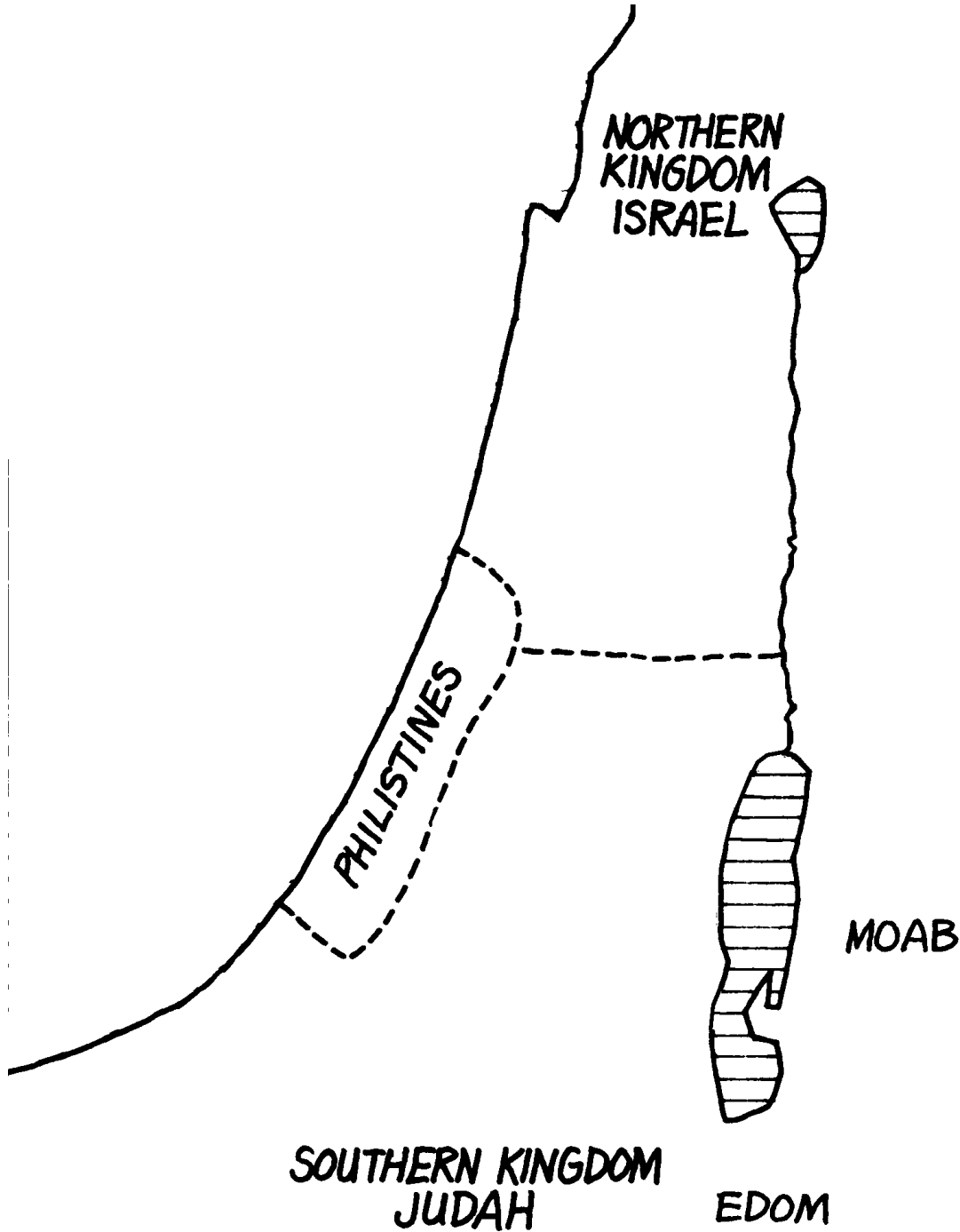
Timeline of the Kings

931 BC - 587 BC



The Divided Kingdom

Jeroboam	Zimri	Ahaziah	Jehoahaz	Zechariah	Pekahiah
Nadab	Omri	Joram	Jehoash	Shallum	Pekah
Baasha	Ahab	Jehu	Jeroboam II	Menahem	Hoshea



Rehoboam	Jehoram	Amaziah	Hezekiah	Jehoahaz
Abijah	Ahaziah	Azariah	Manasseh	Jehoiakim
Asa	Queen Athaliah	Jotham	Amon	Jehoiachin
Jehoshaphat	Joash	Ahaz	Josiah	Zedekiah

Rehoboam with the Elders of Israel



Jeroboam with the Two Golden



Jeroboam's Withered Hand



Kings of the Divided Kingdom

Find out which kings followed the Lord by looking up the Scripture references after each king. Put a happy face in the box after each one that followed the Lord and a sad face in the box after each one that did not.



Judah's Kings		
Rehoboam	1 Kings 14:21-24	
Abijah	1 Kings 15:1-3	
Asa	1 Kings 15:9-12	
Jehoshaphat	1 Kings 22:41-43	
Jehoram	2 Kings 8:16-18	
Ahaziah	2 Kings 8:25-27	
Joash	2 Kings 12:1-2	
Amaziah	2 Kings 14:1-3	
Azariah	2 Kings 15:1-3	
Jotham	2 Kings 15:32-34	
Ahaz	2 Kings 16:1-3	
Hezekiah	2 Kings 18:1-3	
Manasseh	2 Kings 21:1-2	
Amon	2 Kings 21:19-22	
Josiah	2 Kings 22:1-2	
Jehoahaz	2 Kings 23:31-32	
Jehoiakim	2 Kings 23:36-37	
Jehoiachin	2 Kings 24:8-9	
Zedekiah	2 Kings 24:17-19	

Israel's Kings		
Jeroboam	1 Kings 14:7-9	
Nadab	1 Kings 15:25-26	
Baasha	1 Kings 15:33-34	
Zimri	1 Kings 16:15-20	
Omri	1 Kings 16:25-26	
Ahab	1 Kings 16:30	
Ahaziah	1 Kings 22:51-53	
Joram	2 Kings 3:1-3	
Jehu	2 Kings 10:28-31	
Jehoahaz	2 Kings 13:1-2	
Jehoash	2 Kings 13:10-11	
Jeroboam II	2 Kings 14:23-24	
Zechariah	2 Kings 15:8-9	
Shallum	2 Kings 15:13-15	
Menahem	2 Kings 15:17-18	
Pekahiah	2 Kings 15:23-24	
Pekah	2 Kings 15:27-28	
Hoshea	2 Kings 17:1-2	

Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Who wrote the book of 1 Kings?
2. Why was the book written?
3. Whom did God choose to be the next king of Israel after King David?
4. Who took Solomon's place on the throne of Israel?
5. What foolish choice did Rehoboam make?
6. How was the nation of Israel divided?
7. Who became the first king of Israel?
8. What sinful choices did both kings make?

*What wise advice are you being given
that you may be tempted to ignore?
Ask God to help you to follow
the wise, godly counsel that is given to you.*



"I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like My servant david, who kept My commands and followed Me with all his heart, doing only what was right in My eyes." 1 Kings 14:8

What type of disaster was to come upon the house of Jeroboam because of his evil? 14:10-11

Tell what was going to happen to Jeroboam's son, Abijah, and why this was going to happen. 14:12-13

Whose ways do you want to follow?

Passage Review Questions

I Kings 12:1 - 16:28

Where did Rehoboam go to to be made king? 12:1

Who heard that Rehoboam was about to become king? Where was he at the time? 12:2

Did someone send for him? 12:3

The people had worked hard for 20 years building the temple and the palace. They went to Rehoboam to ask him to lighten their load because they needed to rest. What did Rehoboam tell them to do? 12:5

When Rehoboam talked to the elders and got their advice, what did he do? 12:8a

Who did Rehoboam then consult? 12:8b

Whose advice did Rehoboam follow and what did he do? 12:14

This turn of events was from the Lord. What did the people do when the king refused to listen? 12:16

What was done to Adoniram, who was in charge of the forced labor, when he was sent by Rehoboam to the people? Who managed to escape the mob? 12:18

The Israelites were in _____ against the house of David. 12:19

When the Israelites heard that Jeroboam had returned to Israel, what did the Israelites do? 12:20

When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem after the attack on Adoniram and himself, what did he do? 12:21

What did God tell a man named Shemaiah to tell the Israelites? Why? 12:24

Shechem, in the hill country of Ephraim, was fortified. Who lived there? 12:25

Jeroboam thought that if the people went up to the temple in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices, they would go back to Rehoboam and follow him. What did Jeroboam do so that the people did not have to worship at Jerusalem? 12:27-28

Where were these evil shrines set up, and what were in these shrines? 12:29-32

A man of God from Judah went to Bethel to see Jeroboam and cried out against the altar and made Jeroboam extremely angry. What happened when Jeroboam stretched out his hand? 13:4

What happened to the altar? 13:5

What did King Jeroboam ask of the man of God? 13:6

Jeroboam wanted the man to go to his home and to eat with him. What words did the man use in his rejection of this request? 13:8-9

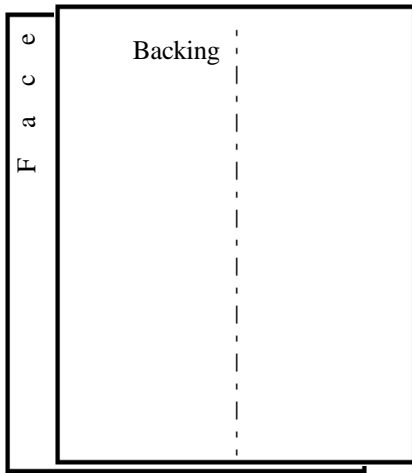
What did Ahijah prophecy against Jeroboam? 14:8-11

I'll Keep My Eyes on God

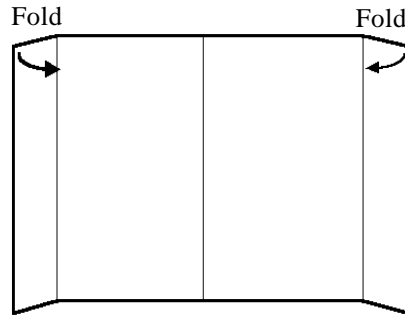
Instructions

Cut out the eyes and word boxes on the face. Cut slit in backing, and glue or staple backing and face together around the top and sides.

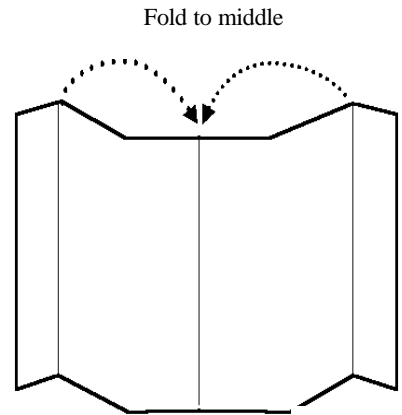
Assemble face insert as shown in steps 2 through 4.



1

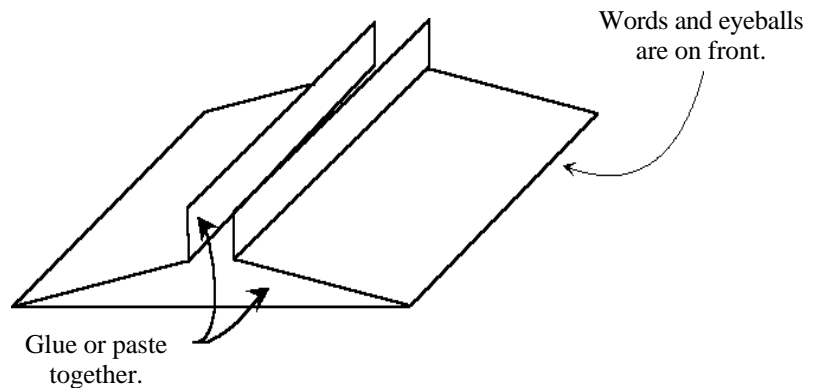


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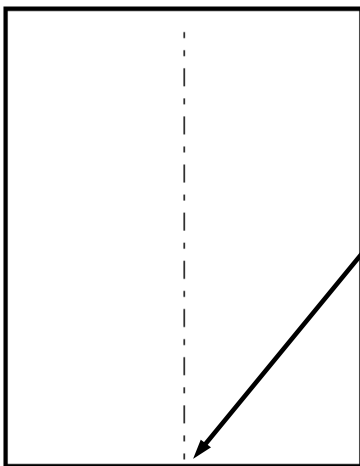


3

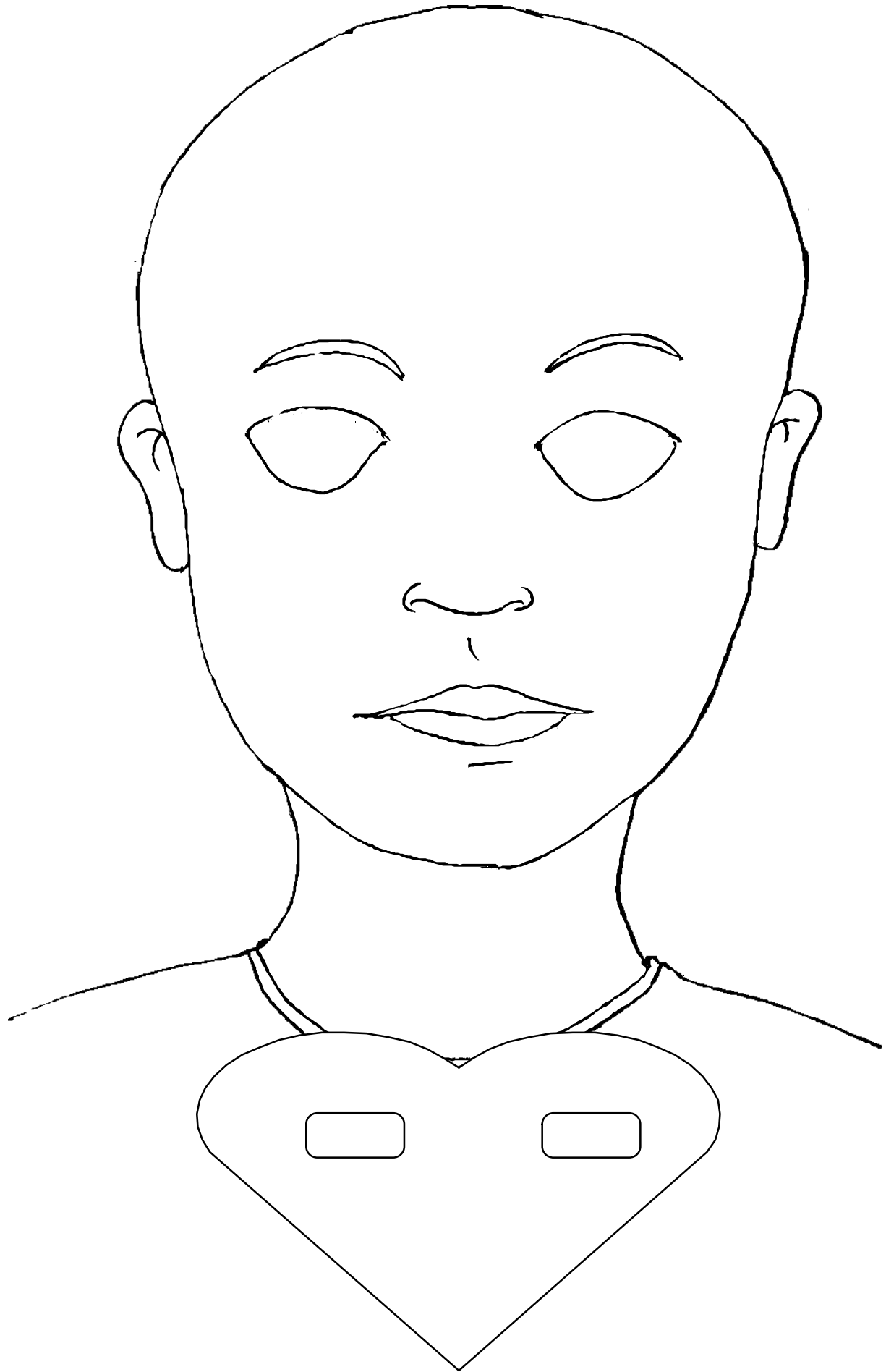
Put face insert between face and backing with tab extending through envelope slit. Use the tab as a slider to change the face.



4



5



Backing



Cut line

Face Insert

Fold Line

ME

GOD

ME



Middle

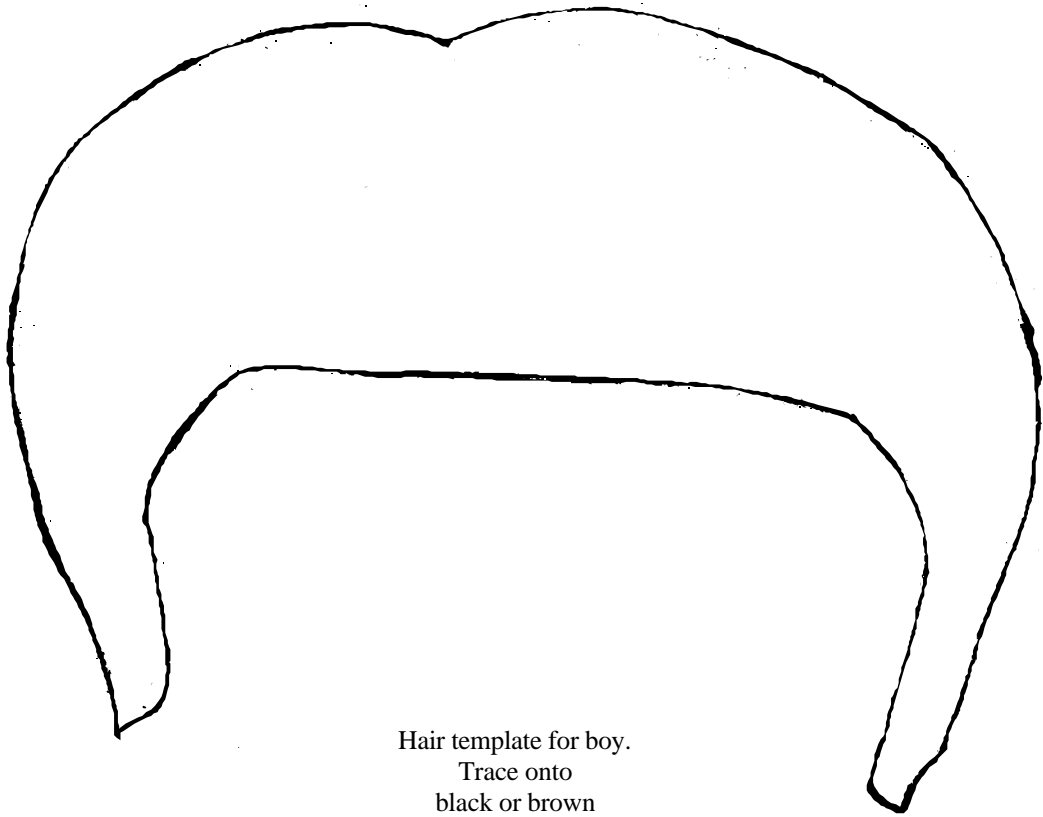
GOD

GOD

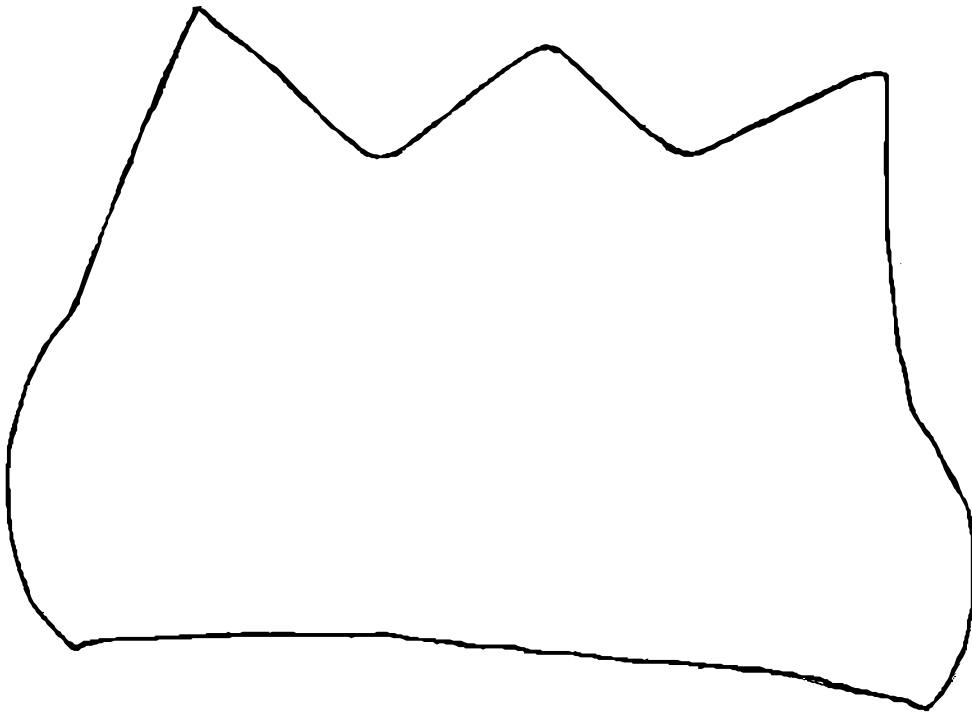
ME



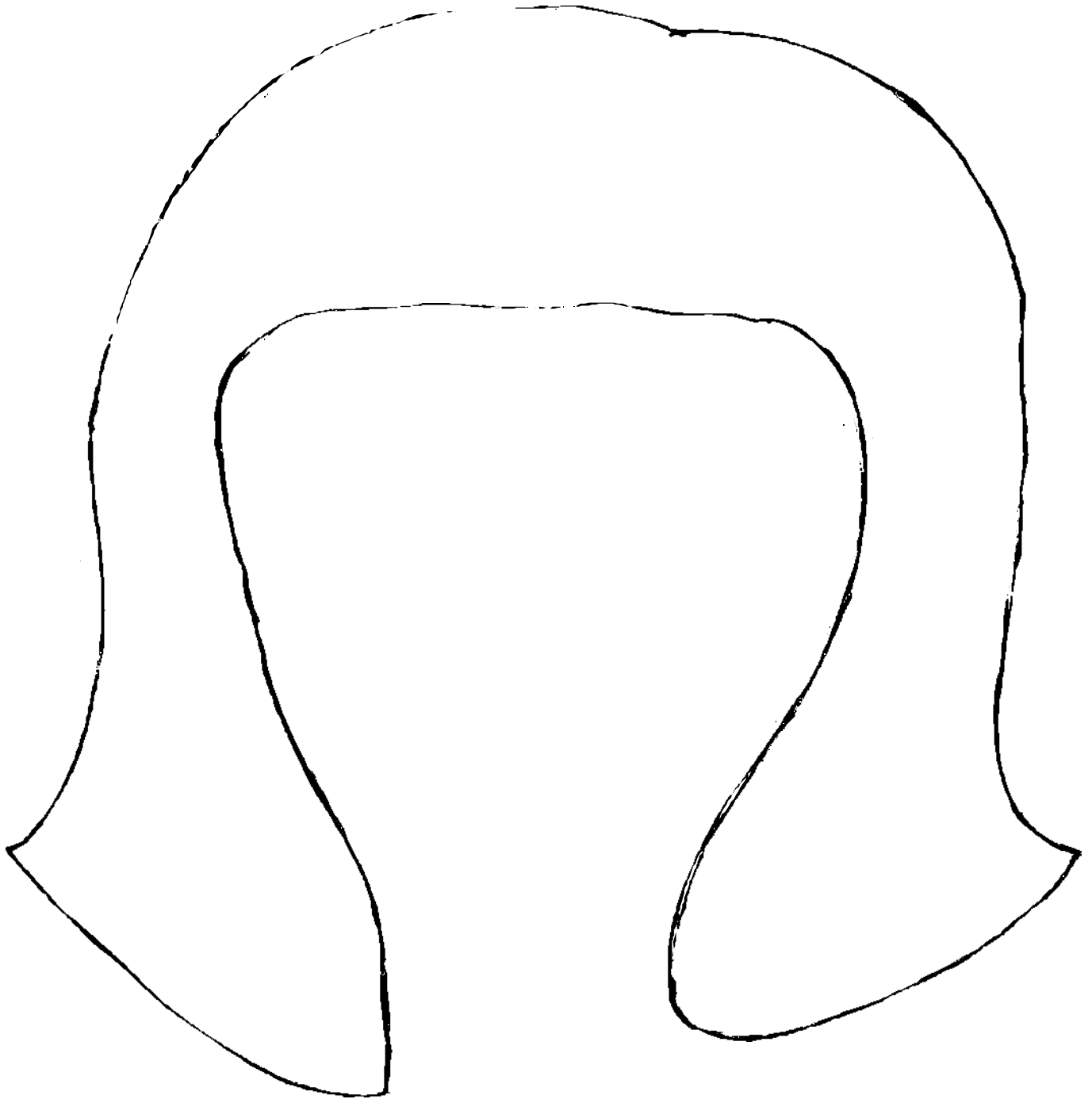
Fold Line



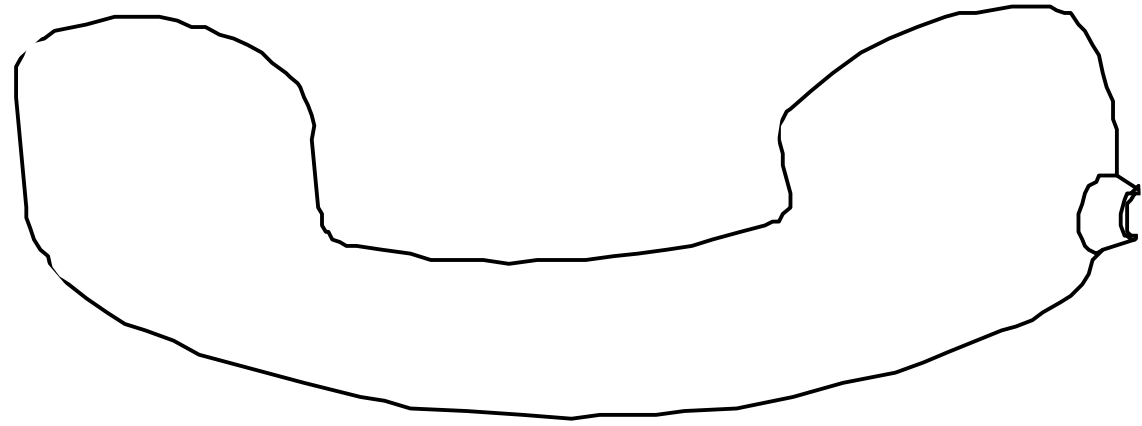
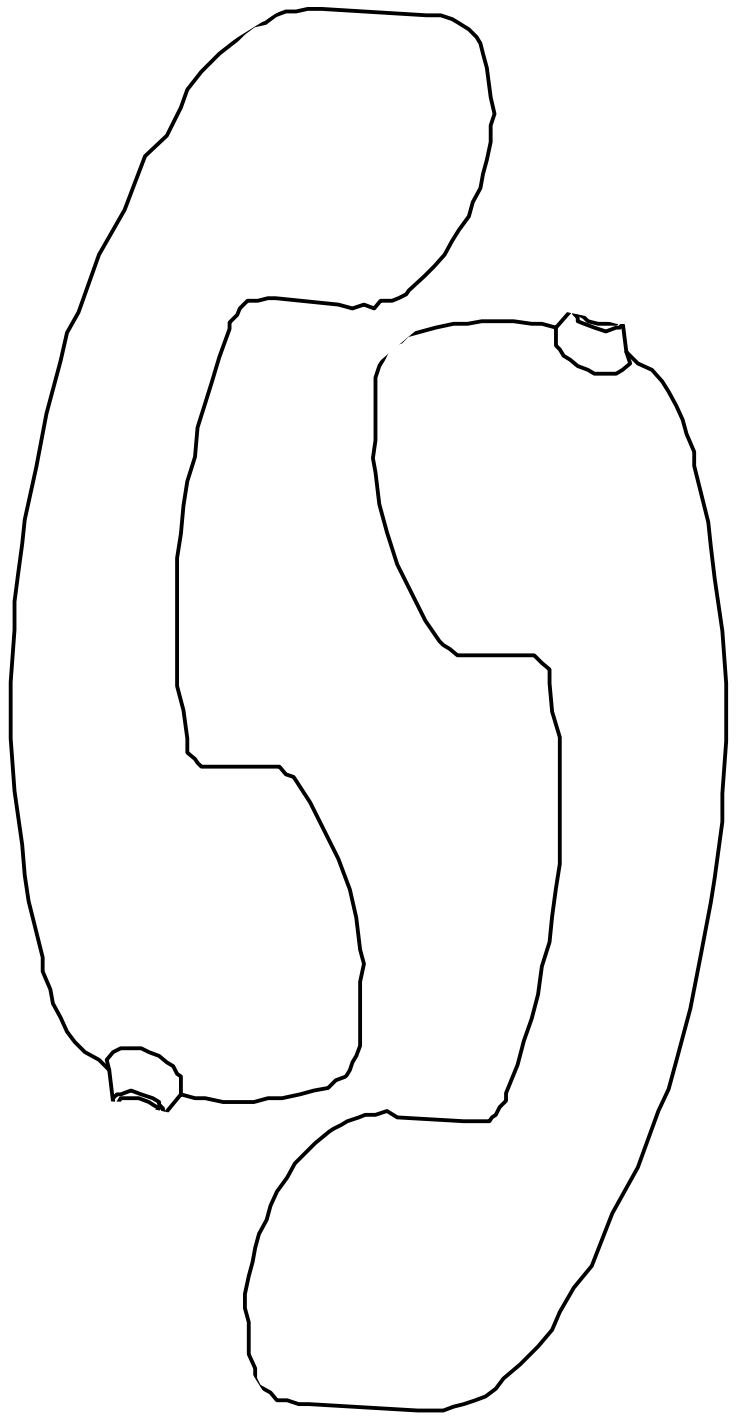
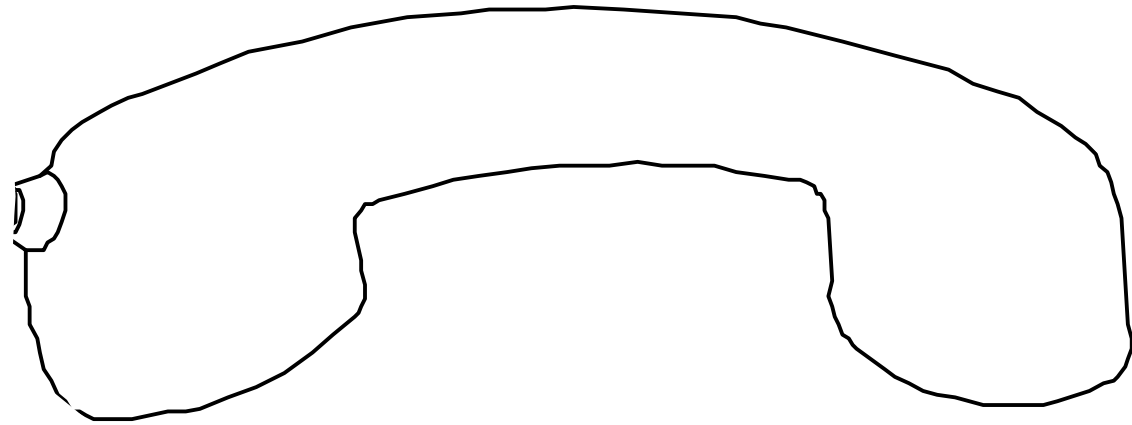
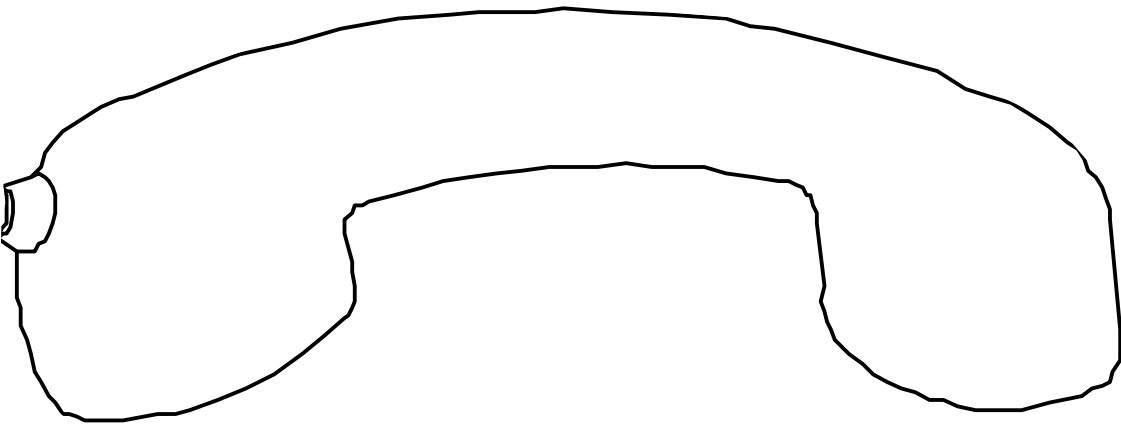
Hair template for boy.
Trace onto
black or brown
cardstock.



Crown template for king.
Trace onto
gold or orange cardstock.



Hair template for girl.
Trace onto
black or brown
cardstock.



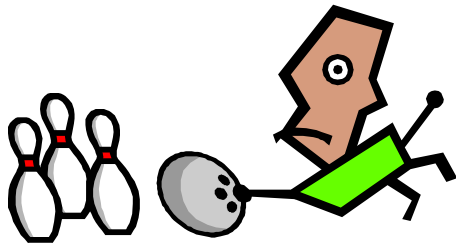
Who are you going to call?

**Listen
to Wise Advice**



Bowling for Idols

Take 6-10 plastic drinking cups and set them up like bowling pins at the end of a hallway. Place them upside down and put something on top of them that could represent idols. Play three or four frames and score it like bowling. Explain to your children that God wanted a king who would follow Him and not idols.



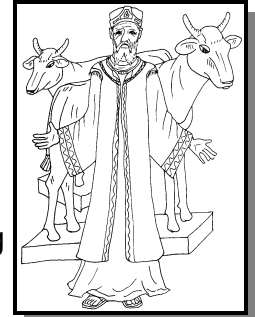
FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

02/11/2001

FAMILY FUN SHEET

This is what we learned today:

- Passage** ~ 1 Kings 12:1-16:28
- Memory Verse** ~ "I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commands and followed Me with all his heart, doing only what was right in My eyes."
1 Kings 14:8



Application Points ~

- ◆ Don't allow your heart to turn from the Lord.
- ◆ Sin always has consequences.
- ◆ Seek wise, Biblical wisdom.

Get to know your child's teachers

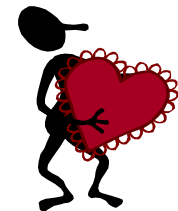
The desire of Children's Ministry is to support you in raising your children to follow the Lord. We exist to serve you. Get to know the teachers—they are a great asset. Here are a few things you can do:

- ◆ Attend a Bible School class with your children. Your kids will love it, and you will see them in a new light.
- ◆ Talk to the teachers either before or after class about how your children are doing in class.
- ◆ Take them to lunch or have them over for dinner.
- ◆ Volunteer to help in their class regularly.



I'll Obey

I'll obey and serve You,
I'll obey to show I love You,
I'll obey; my life is in Your hands.
For it's the way I prove my love,
When feelings go away.
And if it costs me everything, I'll obey.



PASSAGE

- Daily Bible Reading:** There are many, many characters in these chapters. Select just a few kings for each day. Make the contrast between good kings and bad kings. How did God evaluate a king?

Day 1: Chapter 12

Day 2: Chapter 13

Day 3: Chapter 14

Day 4: Chapter 15

Day 5: Chapter 16

- Family Bible Night: 1 Kings 12**

Under Solomon's reign, the nation reached the heights of peace and prosperity. But as soon as he died, the kingdom fell into the hands of his immature son, Rehoboam. Solomon had worked the people hard during his kingship. After so many years of labor, they wanted a break, and when Rehoboam became king, they asked him for rest. Rehoboam first counseled with the older elders of Israel, and they wisely told him to give the people what they wanted. Then Rehoboam took counsel with his young peers, and they foolishly told him to make their work even harder from that of his father. Rehoboam chose to heed the foolish advice of his young friends and decreed that Israel's labor would be more severe and difficult than before.

The nation of Israel had had enough! The leaders of the ten northern tribes returned to their tents upset and ready to revolt. They wanted no part in Rehoboam's kingdom. Only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to Rehoboam. Rehoboam realized that he was in trouble and quickly left for Jerusalem. Israel quickly summoned a man by the name of Jeroboam to lead them. He was a mighty warrior and had served in Solomon's court. At one time, Solomon wanted him killed, so he fled to Egypt for safety. Now the time had come for him to return and become Israel's king.

Therefore, the nation of Israel had officially divided into two separate nations. King Jeroboam led the ten northern tribes now called "Israel," while King Rehoboam led the two southern tribes now called "Judah" (Judah and Benjamin).

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Rehoboam's Foolish Choice

Rehoboam made a foolish, proud mistake. Instead of heeding the wise counsel of the elders of Israel, he listened to the foolish counsel of his friends to continue the forced labor on Israel. As a result of this choice, he divided the kingdom of Israel. We can learn from his mistake by listening to the counsel of godly, wise men. Proverbs 12:15 says, "The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice." Rehoboam did what was right to him, but it was the wrong choice. This is why we need to listen to the advice of others. We often cannot see the "blindspots" that others can see. A wise person will listen to the Biblical counsel of a parent, teacher, or friend.

Application Questions:

- ◆ Why did the kingdom split in two?
- ◆ What should Rehoboam have done?
- ◆ How can you make wise choices? *(Pray, read the Bible, ask advice of parents and godly leaders.)*

PRAYER

Praying for Wisdom

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." James 1:5

We all frequently come across situations that are difficult. Whenever we make major decisions, and even small ones, we should make it a habit of praying for wisdom. What decisions are you or your children facing? Be wise and look to God first.

Pray tonight for wisdom in some specific areas of life that you and your family are facing.