

THE THREAD | A PEOPLE RISE. A PEOPLE FALL.

Lesson 8: The Divided Kingdom

Dear Parents,

Hello again! Our group is still marching through our 13 lessons looking at the story of Israel seeking to establish itself as a nation. This was the eighth lesson out of 13 and entitled "The Divided Kingdom." A heavy yoke is something that no person wants to bear. Jesus' yoke is one of grace and love rather than hardness and oppression. Jesus has come to set people free. As we follow Jesus, He leads us to rest and true life. Jesus is the ultimate leader, yet unlike Rehoboam, He leads His children to rest. He leads His children to peace. He leads His children to experience their greatest good in His great plan for them.

Lesson Overview: We're continuing the big-picture story of the Bible this week with another look at the prophets. The prophets were sent by God to warn Israel of what would happen if they continued to turn from Him. After Solomon died, Israel was split in two, resulting in a Northern Kingdom and a Southern Kingdom, each with their own king. This was not God's vision of how His people would live. And so, He sent the prophets to convict them to turn from their rebellious ways. If you could go back to the moment the Israelites entered the Promised Land and could tell them how the future would wind up, there's no way they would feel OK about that. Sin wrecks our lives. The Israelites' sin drove them away from God. That's the beauty of Jesus' offer in Matthew 11. Jesus says that when we are dragged down by sin and worn out from running from God, we can turn to Him for rest. He promises to take our burdens and lead us toward spiritual freedom.

What We Want Your Teenager To Learn: See that because of sin and pride, God's chosen people created a devastating rift among themselves and learn that submitting to Jesus brings freedom, not oppression.

What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They've Learned: Define what it practically looks like to bring their burdens to Jesus and to live under His yoke.

Scripture Passages We Studied: 2 Chronicles 9:29-10:19; Matthew 11:28-30

Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.

NEXT STEPS...

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- In this week's lesson, your teenager learned about bad leadership and its effects on people. Please spend some time sharing with your student an experience you had with bad leadership and how it affected you.
- In our study, your teenager learned about the importance of seeking advice from others. Spend some time sharing with him or her how you have sought advice from others and how it has helped you.
- In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus speaks of rest and true life that are found in Him. Spend some time praying with your teenager that both of you would find rest from your burdens and struggles in Jesus.

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I'm praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don't hesitate to let me know.