



WEEK 1: REHOBOAM
1 KINGS 12 (ESV)
ROYAL ROUNDUP
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WEEK 1: REHOBAM 1 KINGS 12 (ESV) OVERVIEW

Main Idea: We should listen to good advice. In this lesson, kids will be able to tell what kind of counsel Rehoboam took and compare his life choices to Psalm 1:1.

Memory Verse: (ESV) *Psalm 1:1a Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked.*

Suggested Schedule:

- Introduction (LG - 10 minutes)
- Worship (LG - 5 minutes)
- Story (LG - 15 minutes)
- Verse Game: Lose a Word (SG - 10 minutes)
- Game: Exercise Game (SG - 5-10 minutes)
- Activity: Verse Cards (SG - 15 minutes)
- Extra time filler activity: Rehoboam, May I Game (SG - 5-10 minutes)

Total Time: ~60 minutes

Note: If you're using a large group/small group format, Large Group Activities are noted with an (LG), and small group activities are noted with an (SG).

Supplies:

- Paper (multiple for each child)
- Markers or crayons
- Black sharpie
- Pencil/pen
- 3 pieces of paper cut into 4ths (or double that number if you have more than 9 children in a small group)
- Worship songs/videos
- Crown for king to wear

WEEK 1: REHOBOAM 1 KINGS 12 (ESV) DETAILS

INTRODUCTION – 10 MINUTES

Description: Lead a discussion with the children to introduce the lesson.

Supplies: Bible, paper, coloring utensils

Details:

Content Graphic: Unit Title Slide

Begin with your regular opening procedures (collecting offering, celebrating birthdays, prayer, worship, etc.).

Say: **Welcome to (ministry name)! I'm so glad to see all of you here today! Today we are starting a new series called Royal Roundup, and we'll be learning all about some of the kings from the Old Testament! Each week, we'll also work together to memorize Psalm 1. It's going to be a blast!**

I have a few questions for you as we get started...

- **Can you think of a time when you needed someone to help you know what to do? Tell me about it.** (let children respond)
- **What was the problem you needed advice for?** (let children respond)
- **Who did you go to for advice?** (let children respond)
- **Did you get good advice or bad advice?** (let children respond)

Say: **Everyone has times when they need advice so that they will know what to do. Even grown-ups have to get advice from other people. One place to go for advice is the Bible.** (hold up the Bible) **But the Bible tells us we can also ask others. We need to make sure that we ask people who have wisdom. That means we need to ask someone who can think about the problem like God would think about it. Take a few minutes now to draw about the time you needed advice or a time when someone asked you for advice.**

Give each child a piece of paper and some markers or crayons. As children work, you and your volunteers can walk around and talk with the kids about what they are drawing.

After they have had some time to draw, say: **You worked so hard on your drawings! Great job! Let's put our drawings away, and I need your help to tell the story of the first king we will learn about.**

WORSHIP - 5 MINUTES

Description: Sing songs of praise and worship to God.

Supplies: worship songs, videos, etc.

Details:

Lead the group in singing 1-2 songs of praise to God. Below are suggested worship songs.

- Let Him Ask God (James 1:5) (Rehoboam Lesson 1 and Jehoshaphat Lesson 8) [Let Him Ask God Hand Motions \(James 1:5\) | Seeds Family Worship | Song Tracks | WorshipHouse Kids](#)
- Hope and a Future (Josiah and Asa Lesson 2 and 3) [Hope And A Future | Doorpost Songs | Song Tracks | WorshipHouse Kids](#)
- All Day (David Lesson 4) [All Day | Doorpost Songs | Song Tracks | WorshipHouse Kids](#)
- Trust (David and Hezekiah Lesson 4 and 6) [Trust | Shout Praises Kids | Song Tracks | WorshipHouse Kids](#)
- There is Someone (Hezekiah Lesson 6) [There Is Someone | God's Kids Worship | Song Tracks | WorshipHouse Kids](#)
- God is Able (David Lesson 4 and Ahab Lesson 7) [God Is Able | God's Kids Worship | Song Tracks | WorshipHouse Kids](#)

BIBLE STORY – 15 MINUTES

Description: Teach an interactive lesson about 1 Kings 12 and connect it to Psalm 1:1.

Supplies: Bible(s), optional: crown for king to wear

Details:

Find Psalm 1:1 in the Bible and show it to the children. You can also help them find it in their own Bibles.

Say: **Our verse today says, 'Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked.' What do you think that means?** (allow kids to respond)

What does counsel mean? (Allow kids to respond with their ideas of what the word means.)

Say: **Counsel means advice. So the verse says that it is good for a person to not listen to the advice of wicked people. Wicked people are people who are not thinking about how to solve the problem like God would.**

We need to be careful what advice we listen to and what we do. This verse says we should not listen to wicked people or do what they say. Today's story is about a man who had a choice to make. He listened to different people and then made a decision about what to do.

Before telling the story, divide the children into three groups and select one child to be king.

We have many stories in the Bible about kings who ruled God's people and led them. When we read about the kings in the Bible, we can learn how to make good choices from their examples. But even more importantly, we learn how important it is to follow God and obey him. When we obey him, he blesses us. When we disobey him, bad things happen.

CG: L1 Rehoboam Slide

Today we are going to talk about a king named Rehoboam. (invite kids to repeat the name 'Rehoboam') **His story comes from 1 Kings 12 in the Old Testament. Rehoboam's father was Solomon. Solomon was the wisest king ever and very prosperous. He had fancy palaces, great equipment for his army, and was very rich. When he died, the people of Israel wanted to talk to King Rehoboam. A man named Jeroboam** (invite kids to say 'Jeroboam') **was their leader. They went to Rehoboam and said, 'Your father made our burdens heavy. Will you lighten the hard service your father made us do? If you do, we will serve and follow you.' They had worked really hard for King Solomon and they were worn out. They didn't think they could keep doing it and wanted to not work as hard. Rehoboam said he would think about it and told them to come back in three days. After three days, they would come back and he would give them an answer.**

(Turn to the first section of students that you divided out before the story. Tell them that they will play the part of the people. Lead them in repeating after you.) **The people said, 'Make our work easier please.'** (Students repeat the phrase while looking at the king you chose at the beginning of the story.) Tell the king to say, "Let me think about it. Come back in three days."

Rehoboam knew he needed some advice to make this decision. He went to the older, wise men who had given his father King Solomon advice. He asked them what they thought he should do and how he should answer the people.

(This is going to be your second group of students. Tell them they are going to be the older men who had helped Solomon.) Tell the king to say, "What should I do?" to the second group, and invite the second group of students to guess how they think the older men responded.

The Bible tells us the old men said, 'If you will be a servant to the people today and serve them and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.' Basically, what they were saying was to grant them their request and lighten their heavy work burden. They thought that if Rehoboam acted kindly and helped them, then they would follow him and be happy he was their king.

Tell the king to say, "What should I do?" to the second group, then tell the 'older men' section of students to say, "Do what they ask and they will serve you happily."

After talking to these men, Rehoboam went and asked his buddies what they would do. He told them about what the people had asked and asked what they would do.

(The third group of students are the younger men. Tell the king to say, "What should I do?" while facing the third group of students and invite that group to say what they think the young men said.)

The Bible tells us that the young men who had grown up with him said, 'Tell them they haven't seen anything yet! If they thought it was bad before, it's going to be even worse! Tell them: 'You thought you had a heavy burden of work to do under King Solomon but I will make it even worse. The stuff King Solomon made you do will seem so small compared to what I will require. Not only will I make you do even more hard things, but I will punish you hard if you do not do it.'

Tell the king to say, "What should I do?" while facing the third group of students. Tell the group of students to say, "Make it harder with even worse punishment!"

So the people (point to group 1) **made a request of King Rehoboam** (point to the king). **Rehoboam asked for advice from his father's wise counselors** (point to second group) **and he asked for advice from his friends** (point to third group).

Let's vote: Whose advice do you think Rehoboam should take? (let children share which advice Rehoboam should take and why, invite all answers)

OK, let's see what the Bible says about Rehoboam's choice...

In 1 Kings 12 it tells us that King Rehoboam liked the advice of the young men. He decided to reject what the wise, older men had said and do what the young men said.

When the people came back after three days, Rehoboam told them his decision and how he was going to make their lives even harder. When the people heard

his decision, they said they would not be part of his kingdom anymore. They felt like he did not care about them so why should they follow him.

Lead the group of students that are representing the people to say, "Why should we follow him? We are done with him!"

King Rehoboam sent a task master to them to make them work hard but instead, the people killed him. Rehoboam realized then that they had rebelled and were not going to be part of his kingdom anymore. They chose to make Jeroboam their king instead. Only a very small part of the kingdom kept following Rehoboam.

Wow, so Rehoboam didn't listen to the wise counsel, did he? He chose to listen to his friends, and things didn't work out very well for him. When we ask others for advice, even our friends, we should always think about how God would solve the problem.

Life Applications:

- **Who can you ask advice from?** (let children respond) **Our Bible verse says that we will be happy, or blessed, if we ask advice from people who are not wicked. The opposite of wicked is wise and righteous people. Rehoboam chose to walk in the counsel of the wicked instead of the wise. Because he walked in the counsel of the wicked, he was not blessed and he lost part of his kingdom.**
- **We learn from our story today that we should listen to good advice. If we don't, it will not go very well for us.**
- **It is good to ask advice from people who love God and know his word.**

Before moving on, ask questions to review the story. Optional: have the 3 groups of students you divided for the storytelling compete as different teams in a trivia quiz game show for review time.

Review Questions:

- **What was the name of the king in the story?** (Rehoboam)
- **What did he need advice about?** (Whether or not to lessen the workload for the people)
- **Who did he ask for advice?** (His father's old counselors and his friends)
- **What advice did he choose to listen to?** (His friends' advice to make the people work harder)
- **Why do you think he took the young men's advice?** (Answers will vary)
- **What do you think would have happened if he had taken the older men's advice?** (Answers will vary)
- **What happened because Rehoboam took the young men's advice?** (The people chose not to follow him anymore, and his kingdom fell)

VERSE GAME: LOSE A WORD – 10 MINUTES

Description: Play “Lose a Word” as a verse activity to help kids learn Psalm 1:1.

Supplies: Bible(s), paper, pen/pencil, black sharpie

Details:

Read Psalm 1:1 again to the students, and/or invite them to find it in their Bibles. Break it into phrases and have the students repeat it after you to gain familiarity with the verse. After saying it three times together, see if any of them think they can say it without your help.

Say: **I am going to write the verse on a piece of paper. What are the first words I need to write?** If the children are unsure, prompt them to use their Bibles to find the first few words of the verse. Write them on the piece of paper while saying them aloud. Continue with a phrase at a time until you have written the whole verse and reference on the paper.

After you have the verse written on the paper, have the children say it with you while you point to each word. After reading it, use a black sharpie to scribble out 2 of the words so that the students cannot see them anymore. Tell the students, **“This time, when we get to the scribbled out word, I won’t say it, you will.”** (Start out saying the verse with the students but when you get to a scribbled out word, allow the students to say it without you.)

Now scribble out another word or two and lead the students in saying the verse again just like before.

Continue this pattern until all the words have been scribbled out and the children can say the verse from memory.

*Option: You can also write the verse on a dry erase board and just erase the words as you go.

GAME: EXERCISE GAME – 5-10 MINUTES

Description: Play a game to remind children of the story about Rehoboam.

Supplies: none

Details:

Say: **Let’s play a game to remind us of our story about Rehoboam.**

The people in our story felt like they were not being treated very well. Rehoboam chose to make life even harder for them. We are going to do some hard labor. Sounds fun, right?

I will call out an exercise and you will see how many times you can do it. (During the exercising, when they decide to stop, urge them to do two more.)
Exercise examples: Jumping jacks, crunches, squats, push-ups, hopping in place, running in place, lunges, leg lifts, sitting on a wall, toe touches, lifting arms above heads

Optional: Invite children to offer exercises for the group to do.

After calling out exercises, ask students: **How did you feel when I required more of you after you had decided you were tired and worn out? That's exactly how the people felt too. It is discouraging, frustrating, and sometimes even makes us angry. The people decided they would not follow King Rehoboam because of this. If Rehoboam had taken the advice of the wise, older men how do you think the people would have felt?** (let children respond)

ACTIVITY: VERSE CARDS – 15 MINUTES

Description: Complete a hands-on activity with Psalm 1:1 to help children gain familiarity with the verse.

Supplies: paper cut into fourths, coloring utensils

Details:

Say: **We want to remember the Bible verse because God's word has a lot of wisdom in it. Our verse today tells us to be careful who we ask for advice.**

Cut three pieces of paper into fourths. (You will have three fourths leftover that you will not need.) Pass out the fourths to the students. Depending on your group size, some students may have more than one. If you have a group larger than 9, double the number of fourths and make two verse sets.)

Tell the students to write the following portions of the verse on their cards. (Phrases are numbered. Have the first student write the number one words and continue in order with the rest of the students.)

1. Psalm 1:1a
4. who walks
7. counsel

2. Blessed
5. not
8. of the

3. is the man
6. in the
9. wicked.

After writing the words, encourage the students to add some decorations to their piece of paper.

After they have had a little bit of time to decorate, gather all the pieces up and mix them together. Have each student draw a card or two until all have been drawn. Have students work together to see how fast they can put the verse cards in order. Do this multiple times and time them to see how fast they can do it. Then have each individual child do it on their own.

(If you are playing with two sets of verse cards, tell them they will be building two sets of the verse.)

Allow each child the opportunity to see if they can say the verse from memory.

REHOBAMOAH, MAY I GAME – ANY EXTRA TIME

Description: Play a version of Mother May I to remind kids about the day's story.

Supplies: none

Details:

Play a version of "Mother May I" but instead of saying "mother," kids say "King Rehoboam, may I".

To Play:

1. Choose one child to be the "king/mother" and stand on one side of your space.
2. Line up the other children on the other side of your space, shoulder to shoulder.
3. King Rehoboam then calls on a child by name and gives them instructions so they can move forward. For instance, "Emma, take 2 GIANT steps forward."
4. The child who is called on must then say, "King Rehoboam, may I?"
5. King Rehoboam then responds either "Yes", and the child can take the steps forward, or "No" and the child must comply.
6. If a child makes a move and forgets to ask, "King Rehoboam, may I?" then that child must go back to the starting line.
7. If another child takes the steps out of turn, they must also go back to the starting line.
8. The first child to reach the king wins!
9. Optional: Instead of simple steps, invite kids to add some fun twists like waddle, bunny hop, jump, or scoot. Some steps may be backward too.

After playing, say: **Just like in Mother May I, the people asked Rehoboam for permission to be lightened from what they were required to do. Unlike Mother May I, king Rehoboam said no.**

End the lesson with prayer and dismiss using your regular dismissal procedures.