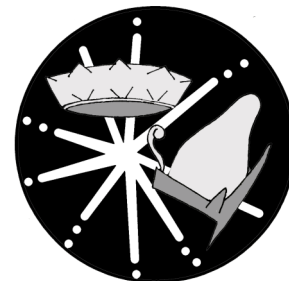


Lesson #2-8***The Kingdom Divided***

1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29

**Key Verse:**

[The elders] answered him, “If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them...then they will be your servants forever.”

1 Kings 12:7

The Point:

We lead best when we listen to and serve others.

Unit Theme (October 20—November 3)

God's Way of Leading

Generation Celebration

Celebrate the wisdom of other generations.

You will need:

- † Cardstock
- † Markers
- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

Preparation:

1. You will divide people into small groups based on their age. These divisions can be based on defined “generations” (Baby Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, etc.) or every 10 or 20 years. If you do not have enough people to make up six small groups, combine or divide age groups. The youngest group will need at least one adult to assist.
2. Write the age groups on the table tents and place on the tables.
3. Each group is going to write a list of the great things about and unique experiences of a different age group. The items on these lists will be used to consider the unique wisdom of each age group, what they can teach people in other generations. You might want to do a little research and create a list of a few accomplishments of each age group. For example, “The generation those born before 1946 were the ones who first flew into outer space.” Or something more personalized: “The today's teenagers are very intuitive with technology and are willing to teach their elders.”
4. Decide ahead of time which group will be assigned to compliment which other age group.

Generation Celebration

Celebrate the wisdom of other generations.

Instructions:

1. **Welcome! Please find a seat at the table marked with your age group. Introduce yourself to anyone you do not know yet. If someone is sitting alone, please introduce yourself and invite them to join you. Young children who are not comfortable leaving their families should sit at a table with someone in their family, and at least one adult should assist with the youngest age group.**
2. **Discuss the following question with the group at your table. Remember to listen to everyone and give everyone a chance to tell their story.**
 - **Who do you ask for advice? Why?**
3. **Give each group paper and pencils. Now, as a group, you are going to write a list of as many experiences your age group has had that have taught you something valuable. Please focus on experiences that are true for a majority of people in your age group.**
4. **Pick up the table tents and lists and re-distribute them to different groups. The table tent and list that I just gave you is the age group about which you will write a list of compliments from their list or your personal knowledge. For example, I could say “The people under ten years old are great because they have very vivid, creative imaginations.” You have five minutes to come up with as many compliments as you can.**
5. **After five minutes, have each group read off their compliments to each other.**
6. **Now, in your group, look at these compliments you wrote and discuss how those qualities and experiences give people in that age group something that you can learn from them, some special wisdom that they can share with you.**
7. **Our story today is about a king who made some bad decisions. He listened to bad advice, did not respect the wisdom of his elders, and he lost his kingdom because of it. This led to his kingdom being divided, or split, in two.**

Notes:

- If group size is very unbalanced, in that you have few or no people in that age group, or you have a much larger group of a certain age group, divide everyone so that you have six groups. Extra groups should represent those with few or no members. For example, if you have many 60-70 year olds but no 30-40 year olds, split the older group and one would be assigned to represent the 30-40 year old generation.
- It is important that the discussion remain positive. It is common for people of one generation to criticize another, but that undermines the purpose of this activity.
- Anytime we describe characteristics of a large group of people, we are making generalizations that do not fit each member of that group. This activity should be entered into with this understanding in mind.