Kingdom Divided

“Abijah”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The Kingdom of Israel divided after Solomon’s death
* The story of Abijah
* The story of the Prophet Amos

Series Theme Verse: “Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” – Amos 5:23-24

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that civil war broke out between the northern and southern kingdoms and Abijah, from the line of David was one of the first victors.

Lesson Passage: 2 Chronicles 13

Materials Needed: Bibles, Coloring Map of Divided Kingdom for each student, Poster board, Colors or markers, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: 2 Chronicles 13

* Abijah came to power in the southern kingdom of Judah. How many years did he reign before war broke out between the two kingdoms? (3)
* Where did he reign? (Jerusalem)
* Who did he go to war with? (Jeroboam, king of the northern kingdom, Israel)
* How many troops were on each side? (Judah had 400,000 and Israel had 800,000)
* What was Abijah’s declaration against Jeroboam? (Jereboam stole the kingship and split the kingdom, everyone knows God wants the kings to come from David’s lineage)
* Why is Abijah sure he will win? (He and Judah still worship God, not golden calf gods)
* How did Jeroboam try to defeat Abijah? (Sneak attack from the rear)
* Did it work? (No, the troops of Judah saw the attack coming and God helped them route Israel’s armies)
* How many of Israel’s army were left? (300,000)
* What happened to Jeroboam after this loss? (He lost his position as king and he died)
* What happened to Abijah after his victory? (His reign was strengthened)

The Story Retold:

* Use the map to reinforce the concept of the division of the kingdom into two kingdoms, reminding students that the northern kingdom was Israel and the southern kingdom was Judah.
* One thing that the northern and southern kingdom struggled with was the idea of worshipping God at a certain place, i.e. the temple in Jerusalem. They did not understand that God is in and through all creation and worship was not based on a location.
* Dialogue with students about this trend in society today. Do people still struggle with understanding what it means to live a life of worship? Do people limit worship to Sundays and Wednesdays at Church? What does a lifestyle of worship look like? At Cherished Weekend, Kary Fry said that we can carry songs with us to worship during the week, but how else can we worship? (Thankfulness, generosity, etc) Be specific in answers. What are some things that keep us from worshipping throughout our week?

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* This verse says that true worship involves fighting for justice in our world. What does that look like at school or work?
* Say the verse one word at a time going around the table.

