

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

Scripture

1 Kings 11:1-13; 12:12-17

Session Summary

For David's sake, God didn't tear the kingdom away from Solomon even though Solomon turned his back on God. Instead, God would hand over the kingdom to Solomon's "servant" (1 Kings 11:11). But even in the midst of their extreme disobedience, God would remain faithful to His people. He would leave a remnant, one tribe, under the control of Solomon's son, Jeroboam. Still, Jeroboam refused to listen to the advice of the elders in favor of his friends' advice. He made their burdens even heavier and harsher than his father before him. So the kingdom split into Israel and Judah.

Conversation Questions

- What physical possessions would it be difficult for our family to give up?
- How can personal relationships sometimes distract our family from doing God's work?
- How has God prepared our family to successfully serve Him? How are we doing that now?
- Where have we seen our sins affect one another? How does it affect those outside our family?

Family Challenge

Consider taking a day to sift through physical possessions: things like old toys, clothing, and even kitchen items. Any items you don't regularly use, take to a homeless shelter or clothing donation station to help those in need with items you don't need. Resist the temptation to replace all of the donated items with new items. After you've gone through and donated items, talk about what that experience was like for each of you individually. Touch on which items were most difficult to give up and which were easiest. Also, talk about how it affected each of you to know those items would go to people who need them.