

# INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... AT SCHOOL

**I KINGS 12-22**  
**II KINGS 1-6**  
**II CHRONICLES 10-20**

**4TH GRADE**  
BIBLE CURRICULUM  
UNIT 2





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**II KINGS 1-6**  
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ESV Text Edition: 2007

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Printed in the United States of America



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DEDICATED TO THE STUDENTS OF **CHRIST COVENANT SCHOOL**

# USING THIS TEACHER'S GUIDE

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## OVERVIEW

*Investigating God's Word...At School* is a Bible curriculum designed for Christian schools, grades 1st-5th. Each unit provides material for 9 weeks, divided into four lessons each week. More specifically, each lesson is designed to be taught over two days, in 30-40 minute teaching blocks. This Bible curriculum also includes Scripture memory.

## DISTINCTIVES

This Bible curriculum is unique in the following ways:

- (1) It teaches the entirety of God's Word, from Genesis to Revelation, over the course of five years.
- (2) It teaches the students how to study God's Word for themselves.
- (3) It includes daily quizzes in order to help the students build their Bible knowledge.
- (4) It teaches the students a Word of the Week each lesson to build their vocabularies.
- (5) Each lesson puts the texts of Scripture in historical context, teaching the children that the Bible is real history.
- (6) It trains the students to apply God's Word to their lives.
- (7) It systematically inculcates a Biblical worldview, training children to think Biblically.
- (8) It gives the students tools to defend their faith in Christ.

## COMPONENTS—DAY ONE

Each 2-day lesson begins with a lesson overview to give you the "big picture" of the Scripture being studied. It also includes a brief preparation section and a teaching encouragement to help get you started.

**Introduction.** Each "Day One" starts with an introduction to the lesson. Younger children will be asked a question to provoke their thinking. Older

children will be taught a Psalm or Proverb of the day to "call" them to study.

**Quiz Time.** Next, the students are quizzed in order to train them to remember what they have learned. These quizzes will often cover what they learned the day before, but sometimes will cover material elsewhere in God's Word that they should already know. Major knowledge areas like the Ten Commandments, Days of Creation, etc., may be quizzed more often. **It is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

**W.O.W!** The W.O.W! is the Word of the Week. Each lesson will introduce the students to a vital Biblical vocabulary word. These words are either found in the Scripture text itself, or they are important theological words that the children need to learn. The W.O.W! often provides the theme for the entire lesson.

**Historical Context.** Each lesson, the Scripture text is placed in historical context by use of a timeline. It is essential that the children learn how the story of redemptive history fits together. Bible stories must not be viewed as detached scenes—they are to be shown as a part of a much bigger picture. The timeline is a useful tool toward that end.

**Bible Investigation.** The Bible Investigation time is the heart and soul of each day's lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story. All Scripture texts included in the curriculum are from the English Standard Version (ESV). The Bible reading is taken in short sections, separated by times of discussion, questions, and application points. This format allows ample opportunities to stop, think about and discuss what is being read.

**Scripture Memory.** At the end of each Day One of the two-day lesson, the students will be taught a Scripture memory verse. These memory texts will be connected to what was studied that day. And, since you will cover two lessons each week, the students will be memorizing two passages a week—twice as much as most memory programs.

## COMPONENTS—DAY TWO

Day Two components include several Day One components, and add two very exciting sections to the study.

**Quiz Time.** Day Two begins with a quiz. These quizzes are most often an intensive review of Day One material. **Again, it is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

**Historical Context.** As you prepare to read the Scripture, you will again have the opportunity to put it in historical context for the students. The timeline will visually demonstrate where you are in God’s Word.

**Bible Investigation.** Again, this is the heart and soul of each day’s Bible time. Your students will learn how to study God’s Word for themselves, as they read, answer questions, discuss, and apply the Bible to their lives.

**Worldview Builder.** This component is found only in Day Two of each lesson. It has been created because of the need for our children to develop Christian worldviews. Developing a Christian worldview is the task of learning to look at everything in life through the lens of Scripture. It is being trained by the Holy Spirit and the Bible to think Biblically for the glory of God.

The Worldview Builder section helps the students to connect what they are studying to a “pillar” of a Christian worldview. The four main pillars that are used in this study are: Creation, Providence, Rationality, and the Fear of God. After putting the

particular pillar on the board, the students will be asked to list things about that truth that they learned in the lesson.

**Defend the Faith.** A necessary component of a Bible curriculum is training our children how to defend the Christian faith. It is not good enough to give them Bible knowledge—they must learn how to answer questions about what they believe and why they believe it.

To that end, this section will present the students with a question that they will have to answer. You will also teach them the right answer after they have a chance to share their thoughts. This will begin the training of answering the skeptics and their attacks on Christianity.

**Scripture Memory.** The day’s lesson ends with a review of the Scripture memory passage. You may use any method to help the students put it to memory.

## AND FINALLY...

Teaching God’s Word is unlike any other subject that you teach in school. It is the only book that is inspired by God! It is the only text that truly changes lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit. So teach it with great passion and excitement, as well as great care. When you teach the Bible you are giving your students the greatest treasure they can ever possess!

# LESSON SEQUENCE

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# LESSON 1 // I KINGS 12, II CHRONICLES 10

## OVERVIEW

This unit begins with Rehoboam, son of King Solomon, ascending the throne of Israel. Almost immediately, the people ask Rehoboam to lessen the heavy yoke that Solomon put on them, promising allegiance if Rehoboam listened to them. Young King Rehoboam seeks the advice of the elders on the matter. They tell him to listen to the people, and they would serve him forever. More inclined to a tougher approach, Rehoboam rejects this advice and receives the counsel of his friends. After telling the people that he would make their lives even harder than his father did, they rebel and follow Jeroboam. Only the tribe of Judah remains subject to Rehoboam. All this happens just as the LORD said it would—as a consequence of the idolatry of Solomon.

King Jeroboam of Israel (the ten Northern tribes) now reigns as God as promised. Yet Jeroboam almost immediately begins to fear that the Israelites will once again serve Rehoboam when they return to Jerusalem to worship. So, out of fear, Jeroboam designs his own imitation religion, in order to keep his people home in Israel. This golden calf worship becomes a great rebellious sin in the eyes of the LORD.

## PREPARATION

Read and meditate on I Kings 12 and II Chronicles 10 this week. You may also want to obtain a map of the divided kingdom of Israel and Judah.

## TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

So much happens in these two parallel chapters, all surrounding the theme of REBELLION. Rehoboam rebels against the elders and does not heed their advice. Israel rebels against Rehoboam and follows their own king—Jeroboam. Jeroboam commits the ultimate rebellion by creating his own golden calf cult. All of this rebellion simply reminds us of our own—how we are rebels from birth against the God of the universe. Teach your children about their hearts of rebellion. Show them how easy it is to create our own religions in place of God. Help them to learn more about how God deals with His rebellious people: with discipline, love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ!

## LESSON SCHEDULE

### Day One

#### INTRODUCTION

*Proverbs 15:14*  
2-3 mins.

#### QUIZ TIME

*Solomon and Jeroboam*  
3-5 mins.

#### W.O.W!

*Rebellion*  
3-5 mins.

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

*Timeline*  
2-3 mins.

#### BIBLE INVESTIGATION

*I Kings 12:1-19*  
12-15 mins.

#### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

*Daniel 9:9-10*  
3-5 mins.

### Day Two

#### QUIZ TIME

*Rehoboam*  
3-5 mins.

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

*Timeline*  
3-5 mins.

#### BIBLE INVESTIGATION

*I Kings 12:20-33,  
II Chronicles 10*  
12-15 mins.

#### WORLDVIEW BUILDER

*Providence*  
5 mins.

#### DEFEND THE FAITH

*Division among people*  
5 mins.

#### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

*Daniel 9:9-10*  
3-5 mins.



## INTRODUCTION

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### Start by reading Proverbs 15:14.

<sup>14</sup> The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly.

**Say:** *This verse from Proverbs gives us quite a contrast between wise people and foolish people. Wise people seek to learn and gain more truth about God and His Word. Foolish people just love to feed on more foolishness. Which type of person are you? I hope you are someone who desires to learn more and more about God. That's why we're here today!*



## QUIZ TIME

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Now, let's move on to QUIZ TIME.

**Today's questions:** *Why did God take the kingdom away from King Solomon? Who did God choose to give most of Israel to? How many tribes was God going to give Jeroboam? Which tribe was going to stay in David's family?*

### Answers:

1. Because Solomon's heart had turned to the idols of his many wives. His heart turned away from God.
2. Jeroboam.
3. Ten tribes.
4. Judah.

**Say:** *So now the people of God, Israel, will be divided into two kingdoms—Israel and Judah. Isn't that sad? Solomon began to lead people away from God—to the worship of idols. God had to deal with this great sin of idolatry. Will Israel ever again be like it was under King David?*



## W.O.W!

Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) is **REBELLION**. Write it on the board. Who can tell me what it means? **Allow answers.**

*REBELLION is basically opposition to someone in authority. To REBEL means to fight against someone who is over you. For example, when your mom tells you not to do something, and you choose to do it anyway; that is REBELLION.*

*Sometimes, groups of people start a REBELLION. Long ago, the United States started as a REBELLION against England and its control. There are always REBELLIONS somewhere in our world, as people attempt to become free from the control of others.*

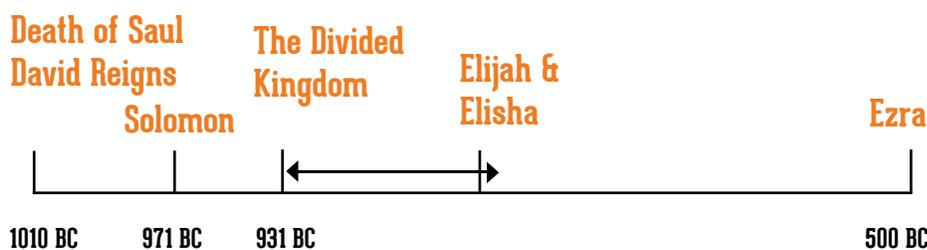
*The REBELLION that is most frequent is our REBELLION against God. God is the supreme authority over all His creation. He gives us a choice: Submit to His authority or REBEL against His authority. Because we have sinful hearts, our choice is always REBELLION! Only when God changes our hearts can we stop REBELLING against Him. Look for this word as we do our Bible Investigation this week!*



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

**Draw the following timeline on the board to give the students some historical context.**

### This Week's Timeline





## BIBLE INVESTIGATION

**Introduction:** *Solomon is now dead. His son is ready to take over the throne of Israel, just like any prince would be. But what about God's decree that Israel would now become a divided kingdom? We'll just have to investigate God's Word closely and see what happens!*

### **Read I Kings 12:1.**

<sup>1</sup> Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.

**Discussion:** *Just in case you haven't guessed, Rehoboam is Solomon's son, the prince of Israel. It seems like all of Israel is still united, doesn't it? "All" Israel is about to make Rehoboam king. But what about what God had said would happen?*

*Let's keep reading. **Read verse 2.***

<sup>2</sup> And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt.

**Discussion:** *There's Jeroboam! Do you think he is ready to take control of Israel now that Solomon has died? Remember, God has promised most of Israel to him!*

*Let's see what he does. **Read verses 3-5.***

<sup>3</sup> And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, <sup>4</sup> "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you." <sup>5</sup> He said to them, "Go away for three days, then come again to me." So the people went away.

**Discussion:** *What did Jeroboam and all Israel ask from the newly crowned King Rehoboam? [To lighten the harsh labor that Solomon had put on them.] Is Rehoboam willing to do this? What is Jeroboam planning to do?*

*Let's read on. **Read verses 6-11.***

<sup>6</sup> Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?" <sup>7</sup> And they said to him, "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever." <sup>8</sup> But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood



before him. <sup>9</sup> And he said to them, “What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us?’” <sup>10</sup> And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, “Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,’ thus shall you say to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s thighs. <sup>11</sup> And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’ ”

**Discussion:** *Two very different pieces of advice for Rehoboam! What did the older elders tell Rehoboam to do? [Listen to the people and make their load lighter.] What did Rehoboam’s young friends advise him to do? [Make the burden even heavier!] Which do you think is the best advice—if you were a young king? What will Rehoboam do?*

Let’s see. **Read verses 12-14.**

<sup>12</sup> So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, “Come to me again the third day.” <sup>13</sup> And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, <sup>14</sup> he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”

**Discussion:** *Just as we thought! Rehoboam rejected the wisdom of the elders and listened to the foolishness of his young friends. He chose to be even a harsher and meaner king than Solomon was.*

**Application:** *It is so tempting to only take advice that sounds good to us. Instead, God often gives wisdom to those older and wiser than we are—and we would do well to listen to it. Those older than we are can often lead us in the right path when our friends may take us down the wrong path.*

But let’s read one important verse now. **Read verse 15.**

<sup>15</sup> So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the LORD that he might fulfill his word, which the LORD spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

**Discussion:** *Do you get that? The REAL reason Rehoboam decided to take such foolish advice was to fulfill God’s plan for Jeroboam. God was going to give Jeroboam ten of the tribes of Israel. He used Rehoboam’s foolish choice to fulfill the promise he made to Jeroboam. Isn’t it great to see that God is in control?*



Let's see Israel's response now. **Read verses 16-19.**

<sup>16</sup> And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So Israel went to their tents. <sup>17</sup> But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah. <sup>18</sup> Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam hurried to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

**Conclusion:** *There's our Word of the Week! A REBELLION against Rehoboam broke out because of Rehoboam's decision. Only those living in the towns of Judah still followed Rehoboam. What happened when King Rehoboam tried to force the Israelites to follow him? [They stoned his chief advisor, Adoram.] King Rehoboam was very fortunate to have escaped. So, now that Israel is in REBELLION against Rehoboam, who will become their king? We'll find out next time...*



## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

**Read the Scripture Memory verse (Daniel 9:9-10) together.**

### **Daniel 9:9-10 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him <sup>10</sup> and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

**Say:** *We all start this life in REBELLION against God. As we put our faith in Christ, we can enjoy forgiveness for our REBELLION. Will Jeroboam turn from his REBELLION or continue in his idol worship? Will you turn from your REBELLION or keep on following after your idols?*

**Review the verse a couple of times. Close in prayer.**

# DAY TWO



## QUIZ TIME

Let's begin today with QUIZ TIME. Are you ready?

**Today's questions:** What is our most recent Word of the Week? What son of Solomon was to become the next king of Israel? What counsel did the old men give the new king? What counsel did the young men give the new king? Whose advice did the new king of Israel take?

**Answers:**

1. Rebellion.
2. Rehoboam.
3. Be a servant to the people and listen to them.
4. Make their yoke heavier! Be harder on the people!
5. The counsel of the young men.

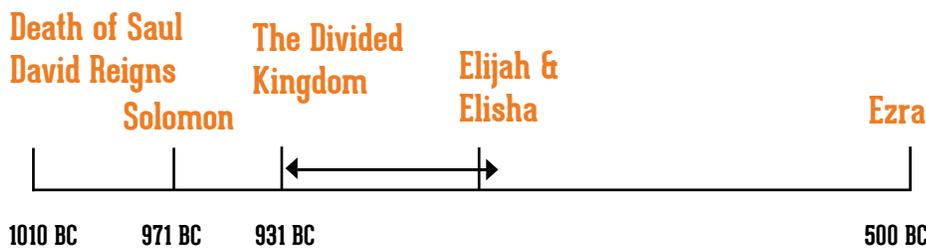
Did this work out well for King Rehoboam? No! God used his poor judgment to stir up a rebellion in Israel. God's people did not want to serve a tyrant!



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Draw the following timeline on the board to give the students some historical context.

### This Week's Timeline





## BIBLE INVESTIGATION

### Have your students open their Bibles to I Kings 12.

**Introduction:** *We left off with all Israel being in rebellion against the house of Rehoboam. What a sad state of affairs for God's people! How will God use this in His plan?*

*Let's find out. Read I Kings 12:20.*

<sup>20</sup> And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.

**Discussion:** *Why did Israel now make Jeroboam their king? [Because God had planned it this way.] Only Judah stayed with King Rehoboam. Yes, this was all according to God's plan.*

**Application:** *We have here yet another true story that shows us that God is totally sovereign and in control of the universe. The Israelites only chose Jeroboam over Rehoboam because God had chosen Jeroboam. We should always find comfort in the fact that God is in control of all the events and circumstances of our lives.*

*Let's continue. Read verses 21-24.*

<sup>21</sup> When Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. <sup>22</sup> But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God: <sup>23</sup> "Say to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, <sup>24</sup> 'Thus says the LORD, You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from me.' " So they listened to the word of the LORD and went home again, according to the word of the LORD.

**Discussion:** *Wow! Another instance of God showing His people that He is totally in control. What did Rehoboam want to do now that the people had REBELLED against him? [He wanted to make war against Israel so that they would follow him again.] This would have been a horrible civil war, don't you think? How did God stop Rehoboam and his army? [By sending a prophet to tell Rehoboam not to attack Israel.] Rehoboam obeyed the Word of the LORD!*



*That's good news, isn't it? God is in control of all things, even in the midst of our REBELLION.*

*Now, we will begin reading more about Jeroboam. Let's see what kind of king he becomes.*

**Read verses 25-27.**

<sup>25</sup> Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel. <sup>26</sup> And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. <sup>27</sup> If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah."

**Discussion:** *So now we have King Jeroboam ruling the Northern kingdom of Israel from Shechem and King Rehoboam ruling the Southern kingdom of Judah in Jerusalem. Does Jeroboam strike you as a confident king? [No!] What is he afraid of? [He's afraid that the people will worship in Jerusalem and then return to King Rehoboam.] How can he be afraid? Didn't God promise him that he would rule over Israel? Is Jeroboam trusting God? [No.]*

**Application:** *All too often, we are just like Jeroboam—we become afraid and forget the promises of God. God has promised the Christian amazing things, and yet we can act like God really isn't in control or that He really isn't looking out for us. Always remember God's promises when you start to be afraid!*

*Let's continue reading. **Read verses 28-29.***

<sup>28</sup> So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." <sup>29</sup> And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

**Discussion:** *Oh no! Because he was afraid of the people going to Jerusalem, what did Jeroboam do? [He built two golden calves for the people to worship.] Does this remind you of another story in the Bible? [The story of the golden calf.] Jeroboam is leading the people into idolatry out of fear that he may lose his kingdom. Why is he so quick to REBEL against God?*

*Let's read on. **Read verses 30-31.***

<sup>30</sup> Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to



be before one.<sup>31</sup> He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites.

**Discussion:** *Remember that only Levites could become priests, according to the law of God. But Jeroboam made all sorts of people into priests! These shrines on high places were simply more idols for the people to worship. Jeroboam was creating his own false religion.*

**Read verse 32.**

<sup>32</sup> And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made.

**Discussion:** *Do you see how Jeroboam is just imitating the true religion of the LORD—even making festivals and sacrifices that look like God’s ways. But are they according to God’s commands? No! This is just another man-made religion.*

*Let’s finish the chapter. Read verse 33.*

<sup>33</sup> He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.

**Discussion:** *Jeroboam was in total REBELLION against the LORD already. God had made him king, yet he refused to worship God in the right way. We will pick up this story here next time.*

**Conclusion:** *There are false religions all around us, boys and girls. They are just imitations of the one true religion—the worship of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All other religions are just REBELLIONS against God. You and I also must watch out for our own temptation to REBEL against God, since REBELLION comes up right out of our own hearts!*

**Note: II Chronicles 10 is a parallel passage to I Kings 12. Due to its repetitive nature, we will not read through it in this lesson.**



## WORLDVIEW BUILDER

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**Say:** Now, it's time to use what we have learned in God's Word this week to build our Christian minds. God has given us minds to think rightly and to believe the TRUTH. So, each week we will connect what we learn from God's Word to HOW we are to think about all of life!

**Draw the "Providence" pillar on the board.** We will be build on our "providence" pillar today. What is God's providence? **Allow answers.** God's providence is His perfect care and direction of this world. He is in total control of all things!

So, what did we learn about the providence of God in I Kings 12? **Help your students articulate the following truths (write them on the board next to the pillar):**

1. God planned to give the kingdom to Jeroboam.
2. Rehoboam didn't listen to wise counsel, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD.
3. God still rules over His people, even though the kingdom is now divided.
4. God prevented Judah from attacking Israel.
5. Jeroboam did not submit to God's providence.

We have the choice to serve God and obey Him, or serve ourselves and reject the LORD!



## DEFEND THE FAITH

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**Say:** Now we will take a moment to get our "defenses" up. You and I must always be prepared to defend and protect our faith in Jesus Christ. Just remember what the apostle Peter wrote:

### I Peter 3:15 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> ...Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...

Let's get more PREPARED to give answers about the hope we have in Jesus Christ! Let me ask another question and see how you do...

