

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: We Can Follow God

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 12

WORD OF WONDER: James 4:8a

Hello friends, my name is _____, and it's so good to see you today! Let's start by checking out our ping pong jar. What do we need to do to earn a ping pong ball?

Allow kids to answer: Bring a friend, say Word of Wonder, bring your Bible, bring an offering.

Great job! Now, why do we bring an offering?

Allow kids to answer.

That's right! Everything we have is a gift from God. When we give money, it helps us do special things on *Serve the City* days. We use the money to help people in our neighborhoods and to show them God's love.

Giving is one way we can help others and tell them about Jesus!

Thank you for giving! Let's have a fun time today!

Prayer of Invitation

God, we invite Your Holy Spirit to be with us today. Show us Your love. Show us Your wisdom. Help us to listen to Your voice as we make decisions. Show us people who know You to help us and lead us too. We trust You and love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Bible Time Rhyme

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about two kings named Rehoboam (rayoh-BOH-am) **and Jeroboam** (jer-roh-BOHM). Encourage the kids to say, "Rehoboam" and "Jeroboam."

Let's find out from the Bible what happened to them.

Rehoboam was the king of God's people, the Israelites. Choose one kid to be the pretend king and put a crown on his head.

He had a hard decision to make. He asked advice from other people. Some people gave him good advice and other people gave him bad advice. Tell the kid with the crown to make a thumbs up and then a thumbs down.

Do you think he took the good advice or bad advice? Allow the kids to respond.

He didn't follow the good advice. He followed the bad advice! He made his people work so hard, and they got upset. Tell all of the kids to pretend to be upset.

They got so upset that the whole kingdom split in two! Divide the group of kids in half and tell the halves to move apart.

Then there was another king. King Rehoboam was the king of the northern part, Israel. And Jeroboam became king of the southern part, Judah. Put the other crown on another kid.

King Jeroboam didn't listen to good advice either. He didn't follow God or worship God, and his people didn't worship God either.

Both kings made bad choices. Their wrong decisions led the Israelites away from God. They didn't follow God.

God wants us to follow Him. He knows what is best for us, and He is wise.

He can help us make good choices and He gives us wise leaders to follow. We can follow God!

Watch God's Big Story

Worship

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Our Wonder Truth today is **WE CAN FOLLOW GOD**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Even when the kingdom of Israel divided, God was faithful to His people and never stopped loving them. Sadly, the northern kingdom, Israel, had only ungodly kings. Judah in the south, however, had several kings who loved and followed God. The greatest king of all is Jesus—the everlasting King.

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**Come near to God, and he will come near
to you.**

—James 4:8a

Our Word of Wonder for the God Speaks series is **James 4:8a**. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **COME NEAR**—Use your hands to make the “waving someone over to you” motion.
- **TO GOD**,—Point up with both hands.
- **AND HE WILL**—Bring both arms down to your sides slowly.
- **COME NEAR**—Bring arms together around yourself (big hug).
- **TO YOU**.—Point out at others with both hands.
- **JAMES 4:8a**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

We can follow God and listen to Him. He will guide us on the right path and give us wisdom. Let's go down a path and remember that we can come to God any time and He is always with us. Our Word of Wonder says, “Come near to God, and he will come near to you.” God is with us! We can trust Him and follow Him.

Prayer Journal questions:

Is there anything you need God's help with right now?

How can you come nearer to God this week? (If kids need help, offer ideas such as: listening to someone read from the Bible, memorizing a verse, worshiping, praying.)

Watch the Word of Wonder Video

