



God's Grand Story, Pt. 5: Divided Kingdom

For a brief moment in time, the nation of Israel had shown signs of their potential glory. But like Adam and Eve in the garden, they fell. And fell again. And again and again. Like the rest of us, they sought sustenance, significance, and meaning in life. But also like many of us, they sought it in the wrong places, straying from God until he gets our attention.

Bottom Line: Repentance honors God and invites his mercy and grace.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read 1 Kings 11:4-6 and 11:38.** God lifts up the flawed King David as the standard for a good king for others to follow. Who has been a good Christian standard (example) for you to follow? What about their life has impacted you most? What are some of the most important things you have learned from them?
2. **Read 1 Kings 11:29-38 and 12:25-31.** These passages detail the beginning - and the end - for Jeroboam. God had promised him an “enduring” dynasty. What caused Jeroboam to turn away from God (at the beginning of his reign as king) and led the people away from worshiping the Lord?
3. How has fear affected some of the important decisions you have made? Why do you think that the most repeated command in the Scripture is “do not be afraid”?
4. In 200+ years, the northern kingdom had 20 kings, none of whom followed God and all of whom led the nation away from God. In 345 years, the southern kingdom had 19 kings, only 8 of whom could be considered “good” kings because they followed God and led their people to do the same. What does this era of Israel’s history show us about the human heart? Why do you think we are so fickle with our loyalties, especially in our relationship with God?
5. What challenges might the “good” kings have faced in trying to reverse the trends of their culture? In what ways is God prompting you to go against the grain of culture?
6. **Read 2 Chronicles 16:7-10.** Do you think God always protects faithful people from difficult circumstances? Why or why not? What does it mean for him to “strengthen those” who are committed to him?
7. **Read Acts 3:17-26.** Why is repentance such a significant theme in the Scriptures?
8. ~What was the most challenging idea/thought to you from the message? ~What was the most helpful/encouraging thought or idea from the message this week? How did it help you? ~How can the group encourage you this week?

For resources that will help you better understand God's Grand Story, please visit this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PaziqjT1TQlpNQTL14EH2UUvzca0vM0OAdPs2DketA/edit?usp=sharing>

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.