

The Divided Kingdom

Wednesday Plan

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 12

MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 16:18

Pride breaks what God built.

For the Teacher

Wednesday night reinforces what the kids learned on Sunday. Don't re-teach the whole lesson — they heard it. Your job tonight is to make it stick through review, movement, and prayer.

KEY TRUTH

Pride breaks what God built.

Same bottom line as Sunday, by design. Wednesday uses the exact same sentence the kids heard on Sunday. Repeat it. Have them say it back. Don't paraphrase or soften it — the repetition is the point. A kid who hears the same sentence twice in three days will remember it.

Tonight is kinetic. Sunday was reading and discussion. Wednesday is hands. The whole back half of class is a building game — the kids will physically build a tower together while listening to advice they have to choose between. Bring something stackable that won't hurt anyone when it falls. Cups, foam blocks, paper-towel rolls. Don't bring real wood blocks if you have wild kids.

What to skip. Don't re-read all of 1 Kings 12. The kids did that Sunday. Tonight you'll only re-read the two pieces of advice — the elders' words and the friends' words — and the memory verse. If a kid wasn't there Sunday, give them a one-sentence catch-up ("Solomon's son Rehoboam was the new king. He had to choose between wise advice and proud advice. He chose proud advice and broke the kingdom in half"), then move on.

Energy management. Wednesday is shorter than Sunday and built around a building game. Towers will fall. Some kids will cheer. That's fine — the falling is part of the point. Bring them back down for the closing prayer and take-home card.

MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Stackable items the kids can build with — paper or plastic cups, foam blocks, small boxes (enough for two teams to build)
- **Listen Up** prayer cards (printed in advance from this week's activities)
- Pencils

1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. Tell them:

SAY

On Sunday we learned one big idea, and we're going to learn it again tonight. I want you to say it with me: Pride breaks what God built.

Have them say it back. Then again, louder. Then in a whisper.

Write it on the board.

Tell them tonight is going to be different from Sunday — they're going to use their hands. They're going to build something. And they're going to learn what knocks it down.

2. The Story

Quick Review

ASK

Who can tell me what happened to the kingdom of Israel in our story this week?

Let two or three kids answer. Steer toward: Solomon died, Rehoboam became king, the people asked for a lighter load, Rehoboam followed the wrong advice, the kingdom split in half.

ASK

Rehoboam asked two groups of people for advice. Who were they?

The elders — the older, wiser men who advised his father. And his friends — the young guys he grew up with.

ASK

Whose advice did he take?

The friends. The proud advice. Not the wise advice.

The Two Voices

Have them open to 1 Kings 12. You're only going to read two short sections tonight — the two pieces of advice. Pick two confident readers, one for each.

1 Kings 12:6–7 (the elders)

1 Kings 12:10–11 (the friends)

ASK

Which advice was wise? Which advice was proud?

The elders were wise — be a servant, speak kindly. The friends were proud — flex on them, be harsher than your dad.

Say the bottom line again, with them: *Pride breaks what God built.*

3. The Work

The Tower Game

Split the kids into two teams. Give each team a stack of cups or blocks. Tell them: each team is going to build a tower. The team with the tallest standing tower at the end wins.

But here's the catch. Before each round of building, you'll read *two pieces of advice*. The team has to pick one. If they pick the wise advice, they get to add three pieces to their tower. If they pick the proud advice, they have to take two pieces *off*.

Run four rounds. After each round, check the towers.

Round 1.

- *Wise advice:* "Build a wide base first."
- *Proud advice:* "Just stack as fast as you can. Faster is better."

Round 2.

- *Wise advice:* "Listen to the youngest kid on your team. They might see something the older kids miss."
- *Proud advice:* "Only the loudest kid gets to decide where pieces go."

Round 3.

- *Wise advice*: “If a piece is wobbly, fix it before you keep going.”
- *Proud advice*: “Ignore the wobble. Keep stacking.”

Round 4.

- *Wise advice*: “Help the other team if their tower is falling.”
- *Proud advice*: “Knock the other team’s tower over so yours wins.”

After Round 4, look at both towers. Whichever team picked more wise advice will have the taller, stabler tower. Whichever team picked proud advice will have a shorter tower or a fallen one.

Bringing It Back

Gather the kids around the towers. Ask:

ASK

Which advice was harder to pick — the wise one or the proud one?

Let a few kids answer. The honest answer is usually the proud one *felt* better — flashier, faster, funnier. But it didn’t build a better tower.

SAY

Rehoboam had a kingdom to build. The elders gave him wise advice and his friends gave him proud advice — and he picked the one that felt better. The kingdom didn’t fall over because of bad luck. It fell over because of pride. Pride breaks what God built.

Knock down whichever tower is still standing. *On purpose. With one finger.* Let the kids gasp.

SAY

That fast.

4. The Point

Listen Up Prayer Card

Hand out the **Listen Up** prayer cards. Have each student fill in the prompt:

God, help me listen to wise advice when _____.

Tell them they can write or draw. They’ll take it home and put it somewhere they’ll see it during the week — by their bed, on the fridge, on a desk.

NOTE

While they fill out the cards, walk around. If a kid is stuck, ask them: “Who tells you the truth even when you don’t want to hear it? What do they tell you?” Help them turn it into a sentence.

Memory Verse and Closing

When they’re done, have everyone come back together and turn to Proverbs 16:18:

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Read it together once. Then say the bottom line one final time, with the kids:

SAY

Pride breaks what God built.

Close in prayer:

PRAY

God, you build good things — families, friendships, churches, our class. Help us not to be the kind of kids who break things you built. When wise people give us hard advice this week, help us listen. Help us be humble. Keep us from being like Rehoboam. Amen.