

REHOBOAM



1 KINGS 12:1-19

We've heard some of the epic stories about the kings in the Old Testament. Last week we talked about King Saul and King David, and the violence surrounding their rise to power. David's son, Solomon, becomes the next king. All of the kings had moments when they did what all human beings do: they forgot that they were called to serve God and God's people, and ended up serving themselves instead.

Now Solomon's son, Rehoboam, has become king. But what kind of king will he be? Should he be a king who serves God and God's people, or a king who serves himself?

Rehoboam seeks advice. First he consults the wise elders who had served his father. They advise him to serve the people. Rehoboam doesn't like that advice, so he looks to his friends for a second opinion. They encourage him to show the people who is boss, to lead with cruelty and punishment. That makes Rehoboam feel powerful, so he does it. His actions plunge the nation into division and violence. Rehoboam listens to the wrong people and follows the wrong advice, and the consequences are devastating.

TALK ABOUT THIS ...

With all the messages that bombard us every day, from television and commercials to social media and text messaging to advertising and billboards to real-life family and friends, our lives are filled with all kinds of noise. Which voices do you trust? Where do you get advice? How do you listen for God's voice in the middle of all of that?

THIS WEEK'S THEMES:



WONDER:
How do you make difficult decisions?
Who do you talk to when you have a difficult decision to make?



PROGRESS:
Why does Rehoboam choose the selfish thing instead of the life-giving, joyful thing?
Do you ever do that? Why?



RELATIONSHIP:
Do we have a calling to care for others in our community? Do our choices reflect our calling?

FAITH⁵ ... A BEDTIME ROUTINE FOR FAMILIES

SHARE your highs and lows from the day. READ the Bible story. TALK about how the Bible story relates to your highs and lows. PRAY for one another's highs and lows, and BLESS one another.

MORE INFORMATION: faith5.org