

Chapter 14 – A Kingdom Torn in Two Day One – Falling Away

Today's reading: Page 197 through top of page 199

This reading covers: 1 Kings 14

Summary: God's people turn away from him.

Do together: Have a scavenger hunt. You and the children go through your house and gather any items that are not honoring to God. You might find music or movies, games or toys, books or magazines.

Think about: Discuss the things you have gathered and decide as a family what you should get rid of. Why should these items not be in your home? Notice how easily we can turn away from God by some of the simple things we have.

Also read: Exodus 20:3

Prayer: Guide us, Lord, not only to clean our house, but also to clean our lives and our hearts. Help us to place nothing before you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 14 – A Kingdom Torn in Two Day Two – Good King

Today's reading: Page 199 through top of page 201

This reading covers: 1 Kings 15

Summary: King Asa committed his whole life to following God.

Do together: Pretend to make your child into a puppet. Take two 24-inch slats of wood, cross them at their centers and attach with staples. Then attach four 3-foot pieces of thin nylon cord to the end of each stick. Attach the four cords to the wrists and ankles of a child. Now make them move in particular directions wherever you want them to go, like puppets, and move their hands as you wish.

Think about: Discuss how you controlled the child to go where you wanted him/her to go and do what you wanted him/her to do. Tell them that God does not do that. He gave us free will and then watches to see if we make right choices in our actions and the places we go. Also talk about how we must choose what friends we hang out with and where we go with them.

Also read: Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Prayer: Lord, let my guide be your word and let my strength be you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 14 – A Kingdom Torn in Two
Day Three – Bad King

Today's reading: Top of page 201 through end of chapter

This reading covers: 1 Kings 16

Summary: King Ahab disobeyed God more than anyone had ever done.

Do together: Take the same slats of wood and cords and this time attach them to your own wrists and ankles. This time, let the children control your steps and actions.

Think about: Ask the children how it felt to be able to control a person. Does God control us that way? What does God do? What is our responsibility - to behave as puppets or to be sensible, functioning human beings who simply make right choices based on the word of God?

Also read: Psalm 119:9-11

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you did not create puppets. You created human beings with free wills. Let my will be in tune with yours. In Jesus' name, Amen.