

## Forty-fifth Street Baptist Church Life-Groups



Today in *The Story* we will approach Chapter 14 as we would a movie, considering six categories of review.

### I. Setting: I Kings 12

- A. Solomon's heart is divided and he is ruling unwisely by overtaxing the people and forcing them into hard labor. I Kings 12
- B. Solomon dies and his son, Rehoboam, takes over the throne.

### II. The Characters

- A. Rehoboam, Solomon's son, who is from the tribe of Judah and Jeroboam who is from the tribe of Ephraim.
- B. In 1 Kings 11, a prophet tells Jeroboam that he will become king, but he must wait. Jeroboam refuses to wait and rebels against Solomon.

### III. The Point of View

- A. As we've noted, there is an upper story point of view. This point of view shows us God's perspective as he goes about fulfilling his purpose.
- B. There is a lower story point of view giving the daily details of everyday life and in this lower story we see the life of Rehoboam unfold.

### IV. The Plot

- A. In every good story or movie there is a plot with conflict.
- B. The plot with conflict is recorded in 1 Kings 12:1-14 [read from *The Story*]. We read of Rehoboam's unwise decision to ignore the counsel of his advisors.

### V. The Resolution

- A. The resolution is seen in 1 Kings 12:16-17 and 1 Kings 20:20.
- B. The resolution: the nation is divided into two kingdoms.
  - a. The Northern Kingdom is made up of 10 tribes, is called Israel and is ruled by Jeroboam.
  - b. The Southern Kingdom is two tribes—Judah and Benjamin—and is ruled by Rehoboam. [*see map in The Story*]

### VI. The Theme(s)

- A. The upper story theme: God has a plan to get us back and God keeps his promises (*to Abraham, to Moses, and to David*).
- B. The lower story theme (seen in Jeroboam): "The ripple effects of our decisions." Solomon's decisions affected Jeroboam and Jeroboam's decisions led to a split in the nation.

#### Application

- Just as decisions can have a negative impact, so they can have a positive impact.
- Consider how your decisions impact your family, your business, your money, your neighborhood. Think in terms of generations. What will your great grandchildren say of you? What do you want them to say? Consider the ripple effect of your decisions.
- God has a plan and God can enter into your life and turn it into a story of great positive impact on others.
- Perhaps you need to ask God to help you start a new story today.