

ST PAUL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH



**THE STORY**  
OUR JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF GOD'S STORY

**SUNDAY, 25 AUGUST 2019**



## **A Key Thought:**

*When God is set  
aside, things  
which humans  
look to instead  
can easily fall  
apart.*



## **A KINGDOM TORN IN TWO (Chapter 14)**

During the reigns of King David and his son King Solomon it must have seemed that the nation of Israel would go on from strength to strength. But under the military might and impressive wealth of David and Solomon, dark clouds were gathering. Both David and Solomon fell prey to worldly temptations and slipped away from the Lord. While David turned back in repentance, Solomon did not, allowing the worship of false gods to take root in the land. God's response was to permit the united kingdom to divide into two after Solomon's death. Rehoboam ruled over two tribes (Judah), and Jeroboam ruled over the other ten (Israel). Sadly, they proved to be no better than Solomon. But despite their lack of faithfulness to God, God was faithful to the covenant made with David. David's royal line would continue, ultimately bringing the greatest of all hopes to the world.

Read today's Bible passage (1 Kings 11:41 – 13:6) on pages 193-196 of the *Storybook*.

Contact **Dennis Clark** on **0438 895 056** with enquiries or if you wish to join a group

## THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE



14

A Kingdom Torn in Two

## Read Reflect Relate to God and others

*The stories of Solomon, Rehoboam and Jeroboam illustrate how human pride and the lures of power and position can so easily pull people away from the ways and will of God. Each of these three men made decisions and choices which dishonored God, and suffered the consequences of their spiritual choices. Their lives are cautionary tales for us. We too are subject to many forces and temptations which can dampen, dull or even destroy our faith. We need to be on constant guard, lest we too slip and slide. Yet thankfully, when we do and turn back to the Lord, he is always will to receive us and restore us. The unfaithfulness of humans does not alter the faithfulness of God. It is best that we do not slip and slide. But when we inevitably do, it is a great comfort to find ourselves taken up safely in God's arms of mercy. How great and kind is our God!*

**READ** pages 193-202 of *The Story*.

**REFLECT** on these questions:



*Rehoboam sought counsel to make an important decision (The Story p. 194) and so did Jeroboam (The Story p. 196). What criteria did each seem to use in evaluating the counsel of others? What makes for wise counsel?*



*Jeroboam "counterfeited worship" to redirect Israel's attention away from the temple in Judah to local idols. What was God's response? What applications might there be for worship of God in our time?*

**RELATE –**

Make prayer for leaders – both in the church and wider society – a special focus this week. Write a letter or email of encouragement to a leader whom God places on your heart.



## FAITH ACTS IN THE HOME

25 – 31 AUGUST 2019

This week's theme:

*It is wise to seek out and listen to good advice.*

*Every night in  
every home ...*



### SHARE

highs and lows



### READ

a Bible verse or  
story



### TALK

about how the Bible  
might relate to your  
highs and lows



### PRAY

for one another's  
highs and lows



### BLESS

one another

### DAILY BIBLE VERSES

**Sunday — Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

**Monday — Proverbs 12:15**

Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.

**Tuesday — Proverbs 19:20**

Pay attention to advice and accept correction, so you can live sensibly.

**Wednesday — Proverbs 11:14**

Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers.

**Thursday — Ecclesiastes 4:13**

A poor but wise boy is better than a foolish but old king who doesn't listen to advice.

**Friday — Proverbs 13:20**

Wise friends make you wise, but you hurt yourself by going around with fools.

**Saturday — Hebrews 10:24-25**

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another

- What is a good decision you have made? What is a bad decision you have made? What advice does the Bible give to us about making decisions?
- Who do you seek advice from when making a big decision? How do you decide who to ask?
- All of us make bad decisions sometimes. What does God promise to do when we come to him to say sorry and ask for help?

talk



*Mealtime  
Prayer*

**GREAT IS GOD'S  
STEADFAST LOVE, AND  
GOD'S FAITHFULNESS  
GOES ON FOREVER. WE  
PRAISE YOU, GOD, FOR  
YOUR GIFTS. AMEN.**

## A BLESSING TO SHARE

***May God help you to make good and wise choices. May God's love and grace be your guiding light. Amen.***

