



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 4: Divided

Suggested Week of Use: June 26, 2022

Core Passage: 1 Kings 12:6-19

News Story Summary

In an interview published last April, country music legend Dolly Parton talked about her successful career—including the worst advice she ever received and why she ignored it. Over the years, many people advised her to change her hair and her attire because they said no one would take her seriously with bouffant hair and “cheap” look. She said she ignored the advice because she thought her appearance was the “country girl’s idea of glam.” She pointed out that her outgoing personality needed a look to match. It’s hard to argue with Dolly’s strategy, as her career has been marked by multiple Grammy, Emmy and Tony Award nominations. She has sold more than 100 million albums, owns a theme park, and runs a charitable foundation. Dolly shared that prayer and her relationship with God help her maintain balance in life. She also refuses to take herself too seriously or dwell on past mistakes.

For more about this story, search the internet for “Dolly Parton worst career advice.”

Focus Attention

To supplement **FOCUS ATTENTION**, invite learners to share the best worst pieces of advice they’ve received. Ask: *Did you follow the advice? How did you decide what to accept and what to ignore?* Share the information about Dolly Parton and the advice she chose to ignore. Ask: *How might things be different for Dolly had she followed the advice?* Say: *Today, we are going to look at King Rehoboam and the advice he sought. He ignored some advice and accepted other advice, but his choices had consequences for himself and for the nation.*

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, ask, *Why do you think Rehoboam ignored wise counsel? Why do we ignore wise counsel?* Remind learners of Dolly Parton’s experience from the opening session. Ask: *What do you think gave Dolly the strength to ignore this counsel?* Read this quote from Dolly: “I always say when things are bad, I pray. When they get worse, I pray harder.” Ask: *How is this good advice for us when facing decisions and receiving conflicting pieces of advice? What can we learn from Rehoboam’s experiences to help us make wise decisions in the future?* Close with prayer, asking God to lead us to wise and godly counselors when we need advice.