**Chapter 14: a kingdom torn in two**

**Icebreaker Question**: What’s the best advice you ever received? What was the worst? Did you follow the advice?

1. Rehoboam sought counsel to make an important decision (p. 194) and so did Jeroboam (p. 196). What criteria did each seem to use in evaluating the counsel of others? What makes for wise counsel? What kind of counsel does or should your life group provide for each other?

2. Jeroboam “counterfeited worship” by redirecting Israel’s attention away from the temple in Judah to local idols. What did he gain from this?

3. The split of Israel and Judah led to continual warfare for hundreds of years. What issues divide God’s people today? Share with your group practical ways to promote unity at our church and unity with believers from other churches.

4. Does the prophecy from the man of God, the sign of the altar, and the leprous hand represent acts of grace or acts of judgment toward Jeroboam (p. 196-197)? What should Jeroboam’s response have been?

5. Jeroboam recognized that Ahijah spoke the truth, even when he did not like it. How do you respond when you hear a truth you do not like? How can you be different from Jeroboam and use these as opportunities to change?

6. Have you had an occasion when someone asked you for advice and counsel because he or she respected your integrity and truthfulness? What happened?

7. Under King Rehoboam, the people of Judah “*engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites*.” The idolatry in the culture had become the idolatry of God’s people. In what ways are God’s people today similar to the non-Christian culture all around us? How are we different?

8. Why did the sons of Hiel die during the rebuilding of Jericho? Consult p. 93 of *The Story* or Joshua 6:26. What does this incident teach you about the character of God?

9. Why would God allow such evil kings to rule over His people? How do the tragedies in this chapter fit into God’s Upper Story?

10. What is the standard used in this chapter for a good king? What kind of standards are you setting for the generations that will follow you?

In the time remaining ask your group members to share any of their personal reflection insights from their journal entries.