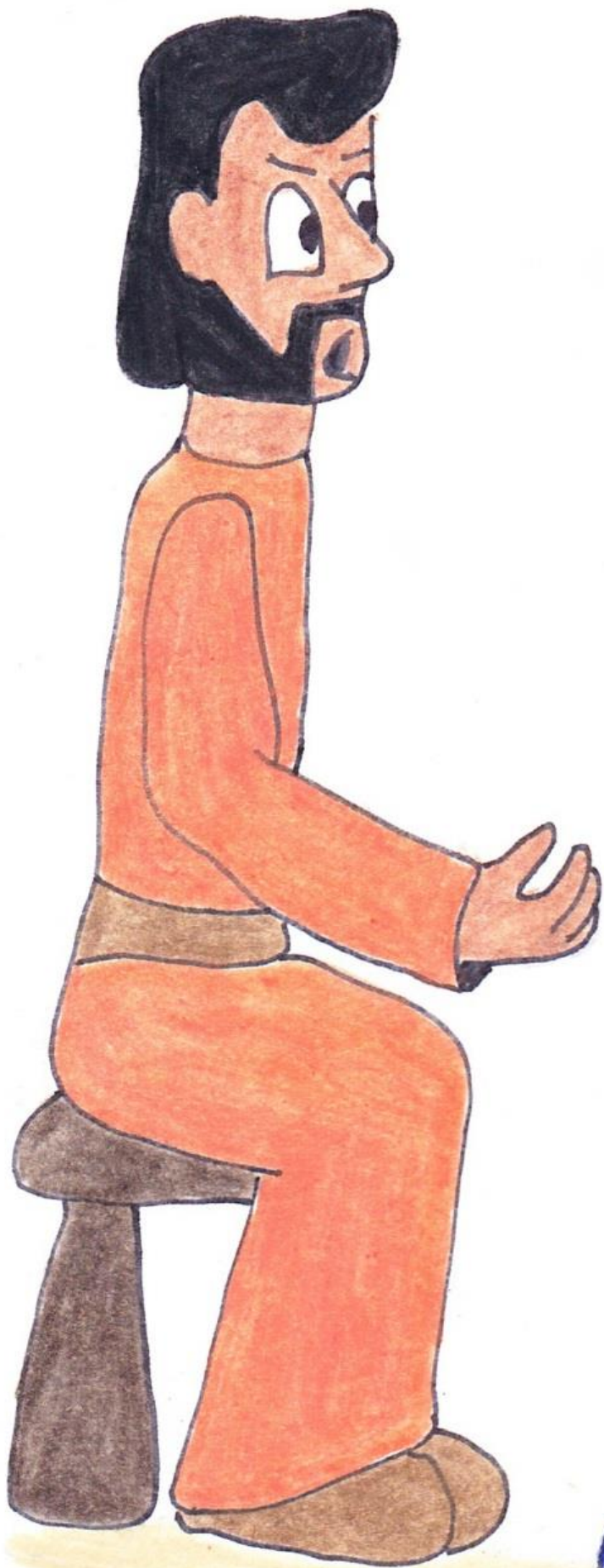


Rehoboam's Folly

1 Kings 12:1-14:31





Solomon lived a long life and died. His son Rehoboam was crowned king after him.

Jeroboam heard Solomon had died and traveled to see Rehoboam.

“While your father was alive, he worked us very hard. Our taxes were high and he expected much. If you would win our loyalty then lighten our load. If you do we will serve you.”

Rehoboam heard all of this and said, “I will give you my answer in 3 days’ time.”



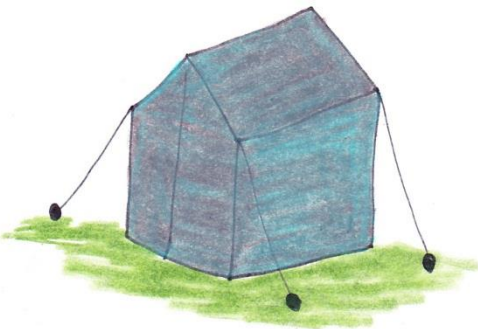
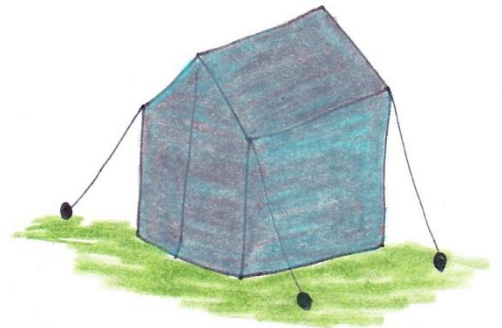
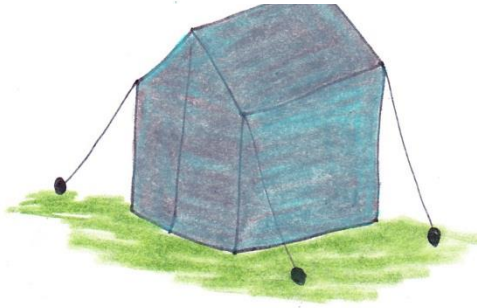
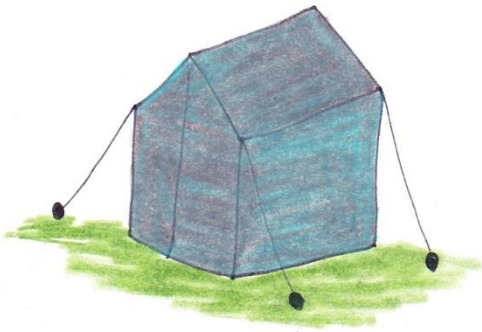
He went to his father's advisors and asked their advice.

“Your father did work them hard. Be a servant to them. Speak nicely to them, honor their hard work. They will be loyal forever.”

Rehoboam nodded politely, but didn't like that answer. So, he went to his friends for advice. He retold everything so far.

“Everyone will think you're weaker than your Father; no one will respect you. No, say to them, 'My father was nothing compared to me. He beat you with whips; I'll beat you with chains and scorpions.’”

Rehoboam liked this answer much better, so he called all the people together.



He said exactly what his friends told him to, but it didn't go like they thought.

All of Israel got together and said, "Why should we listen to this son of David?" And they all went back to their tents.

No one would work. No one would pay taxes.

Rehoboam tried to send people to get them to work again, but the Israelites killed the men.

Rehoboam gathered all the men of Judah and Benjamin who still followed him and prepared to attack.

But, God sent a prophet to stop him.



“This is all part of my plan, Rehoboam. Send your soldiers back home.”

Rehoboam listened to God and 10 tribes left and became their own country.

The Israelites chose Jeroboam to be their king, just as God had said. He built his own capital city and looked at his people.

“If I let them go down to Jerusalem to pray, they might leave me,” he mused.

“I know! I’ll build two golden calves and say those are God.”



He created these statues and presented them to the Israelites.

“Behold your god who brought you out of Egypt and rescued you.”

All of the Israelites sacrificed to these idols.

Then Jeroboam created his own priests and his own holidays and feasts.

God was not happy. He had promised Jeroboam a legacy if he would follow God, but he was not following God.

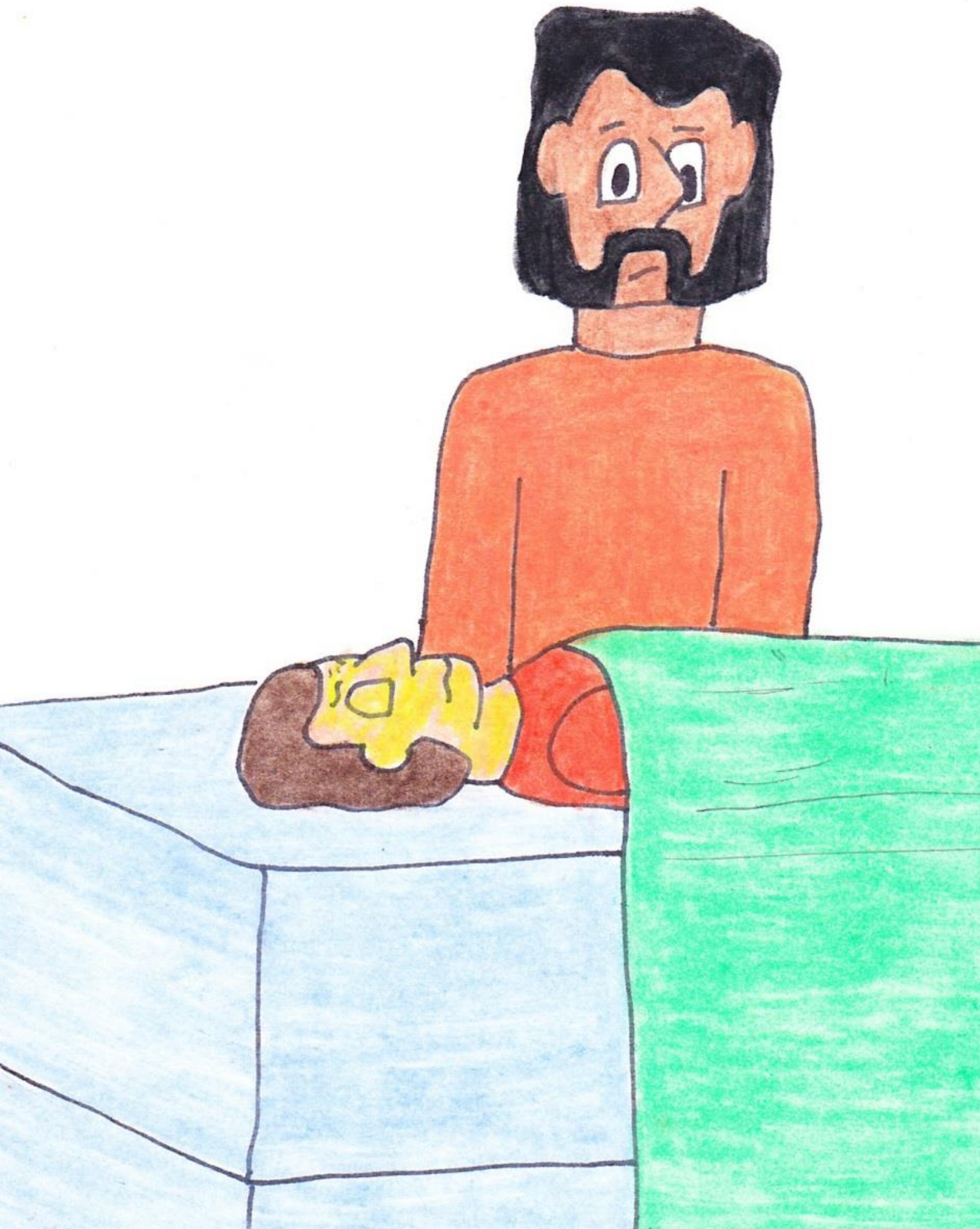


God's prophet showed up at the ceremony.

“Jeroboam, God sees all you are doing, and He is not happy. A son will be born to the House of David named Josiah. He will destroy your temple and all your priests. Today God will destroy your altar.”

Jeroboam reached out to stop the prophet, but God stopped him. Jeroboam's hand withered up and he begged for mercy.

God was lenient and the hand was healed, but the altar was destroyed.



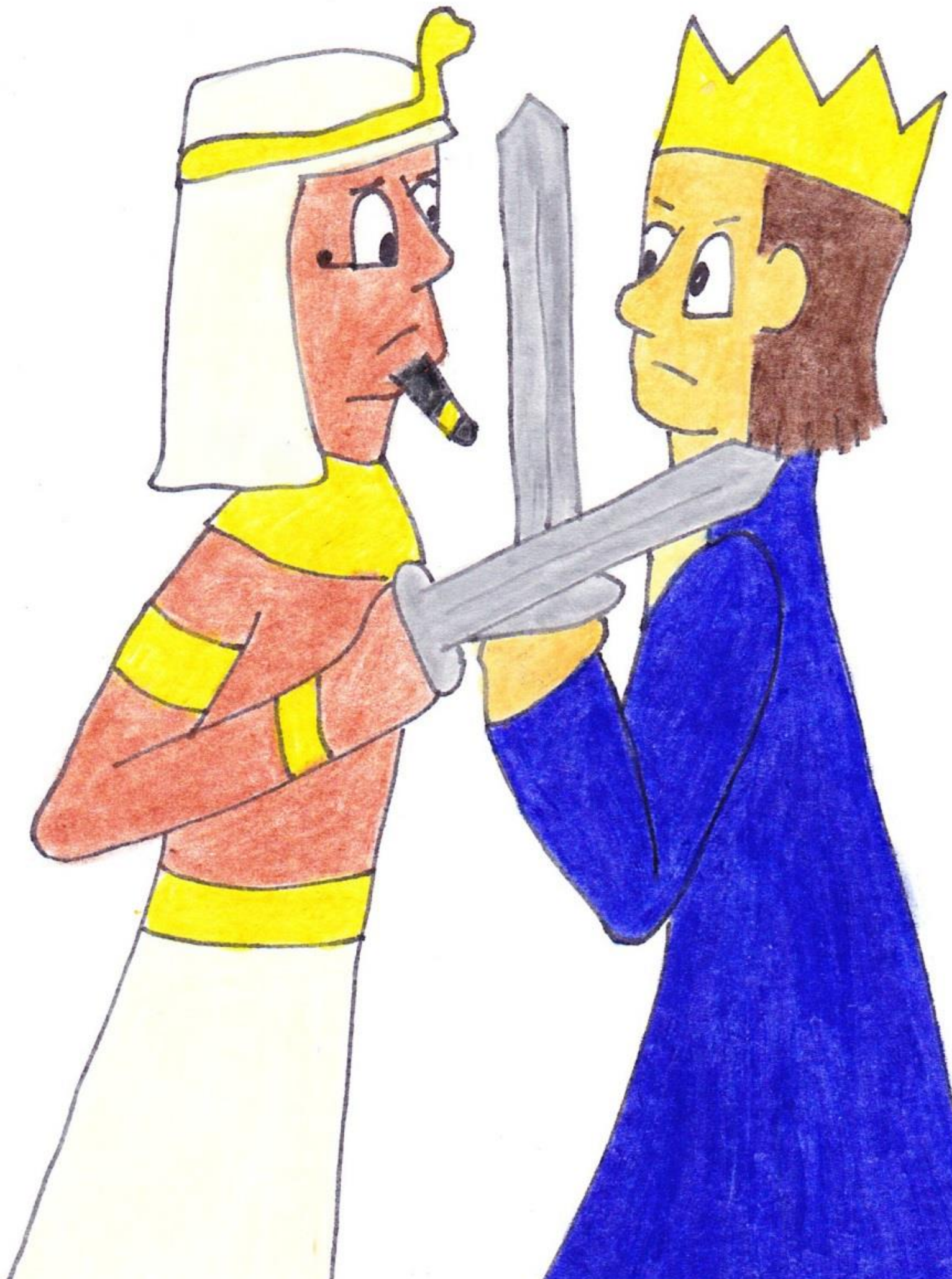
Jeroboam continued to disobey God and one day his son became ill. Worried, he asked his wife to talk to God's prophet.

"Take gifts for him, but disguise yourself. Find out what is going to happen."

She disguised herself, but God warned the prophet she was coming.

"Come in wife of Jeroboam, I have bad news for you." The prophet said, "Here is the word of the Lord, 'I chose you and made you king, but you did not follow Me. You have done evil and created new gods. You led MY people away from me. I will destroy your family. So that you know this is true, when you go home your son will die.'"

Jeroboam's wife left crying. When she got home everything happened just as the prophet had said.



Jeroboam reigned over the 10 tribes for 22 years. His son became king over Israel.

Rehoboam, Solomon's son, also had a troubled reign. He did not follow God as his grandfather David did. He worshipped idols.

In the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign, Egypt attacked Judah. They took God's treasures from the temple, and Rehoboam replaced the stolen treasures with bronze.

Throughout Rehoboam's reign, he fought with Israel over land. There was no peace in the land.

Questions

Younger Kids

1. Who did Rehoboam ask for advice? Why did he keep asking?
2. Who did Rehoboam listen to? Was that wise?
3. What mistakes did Jeroboam make?

Middle Kids

1. How did Jeroboam approach Rehoboam? Did he demand to be listened to? Read 1 Kings 12:2-3.
2. Did Rehoboam answer Israel's demands immediately? Read 1 Kings 12:5.
3. Who did Rehoboam ask for advice? Read 1 Kings 12:6-8. Did he listen to their advice?
4. What is the consequence of Rehoboam's sin? Read 1 Kings 14:25-26.
5. Why did Jeroboam build the calves? Who was he depending on? What other examples can you think of that show when someone is not relying on God?

Older Guys

1. Read 1 Kings 12:2-5. What wisdom do both Jeroboam and Rehoboam show?
2. Read 1 Kings 12:7. Can you think of a proverb/saying this verse embodies?
3. Read 1 Kings 13:1-3 and 2 Kings 23:15-17. How was this prophecy fulfilled?
4. Read 1 Kings 14:2. Can you fool God?

Activities

1. Part of Rehoboam's problems came because he listened to bad advice from friends. Brainstorm together ways to not take your friend's advice and still be friends with them.
2. The one thing Rehoboam did well was protect the cities of Judah (2 Chronicles 11:5-17). He fortified them. Gather some building materials and build fortified cities of your own.

Online

1. Rehoboam and Jeroboam lesson-
<http://ministry-to-children.com/rehoboam-and-jeroboam-reign-sunday-school-lesson/>
2. Putting your plans in the place of God's plans like Jeroboam did-
<http://www.whenyourise.com/2011/11/gods-big-picture-lesson-7-teaching-kids.html>