

Rehoboam's Conceit Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one of the most enjoyable things you have done this year?
2. Who is one person you find it really easy to talk to?

Read the following passage: 1 Kings 12:1-24

When Rehoboam became king in Israel, the people were hopeful that Israel's prosperity might continue, although with some important changes. They asked Rehoboam to lighten the "heavy yoke" that his father, Solomon, had put on them. The elders who had served with Solomon recognized that this was a very reasonable request and also saw that the people were ready to follow Rehoboam, if he would only show them kindness. But Rehoboam's pride got in the way. He consulted the young men who grew up with him and decided that the way forward was to rule the people even more harshly. Rehoboam's arrogance had disastrous consequences. The kingdom split into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. The two kingdoms never reunited.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Read 1 Kings 12:7. The elders who served with Solomon recognized that Rehoboam had the opportunity to initiate a self-reinforcing cycle that would lead to significant long-term positive outcomes. We might call this a "Victory Cycle." A "Doom Loop" is a similar self-reinforcing cycle with negative consequences. Do you see any Victory Cycles or Doom Loops operating in your life? Explain. What is one way you might initiate a Victory Cycle in your life right now?
2. Rehoboam had an incredible future of servant leadership staring him in the face, but he missed it because of his pride. What are some ways pride can shrink the possibilities in our lives?
3. Whether we think too highly of ourselves or too lowly of ourselves, an obsession with the self is a manifestation of pride. What can we do to escape our "universe of one" and live in the expansive universe that is God's world?
4. Rehoboam had access to wise counselors, but he ignored their advice. Are you seeking wise counsel on the most important and sensitive areas of your life? Explain. What qualities should we look for in potential counselors?
5. Read 1 Kings 12:10-11. Rehoboam's pride was connected to a comparison with his father. What are some healthy ways and what are some unhealthy ways other people play a role in our identity formation? How can a healthy identity keep us

from slipping into pride?

6. Rehoboam's pride fractured an entire nation. How can pride harm our relationships?
7. Read Matthew 5:23-24. Why is reconciling with other people so important?
8. In 1 Kings 12:15 we are told, "...this turn of events was from the LORD..." In other words, behind all the prideful posturing and human displays of power, God was working out his will. How can a firm recognition of God's sovereignty temper our pride and even help us overcome our fears? (See James 4:13-16 and 1 Peter 5:6-7.)

Pray