It was an amazing achievement for Solomon to have built the temple. He was a great man, but as the years went on he got tempted away from his focus on God. He married hundreds of women, many of whom worshipped other gods. Gradually Solomon got drawn into worshipping other gods and idols. God had warned him when he gave him the gift of wisdom that he would only be successful if he stayed loyal to himself - the one true God. He didn't do that and there were bad consequences which affected the next generation. He also became cruel to his people. Let's see what happened:

Video: Divided Kingdom

We learnt in the story that the country was now divided into two parts. The country got divided because King Rehoboam, Solomon's son, wanted to carry on being cruel to the people and some people said they wouldn't put up with it, so they set up another Kingdom with a new King. Sadly, King Jeroboam soon forgot about God and led his people away from worshipping him.

God loves it when we live together in peace, but sometimes we say horrible things to people and maybe they stop speaking to us. We can lose friends that way. It's as if we are separated from them.

Ask the children (and adults!) if this has happened to any of them. Then pray, saying sorry for the times we have said horrible things and asking God to help us to be careful what we say to others.

We'll sing the song we sang last week. God is big, strong and mighty, but if we turn our backs on him and forget about him like Jeroboam, he lets us go our own way and we don't get his help. Sometimes that's how bad things happen.

Song: My God is so big and so strong and so mighty

Level 1
1. Create a storybook using the pictures provided.

Level 2, 3
1. Create a storybook following the instructions on each page

Level 4
1. Annotate the map of the Divided Kingdom
2. Answer questions about an episode in Jeroboam's life

NB PRINT BOOKLET 2-SIDED, TOP SHORT EDGE, then fix pages together using a long-arm stapler.