

# ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CHARACTER TRAIT: DISCERNMENT

## DEFINITION:

Seeking God's direction before acting

## MEMORY VERSE:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." PROVERBS 3:5-6 NLT

## FINISH LINE:

Ask and listen when you don't know what to do

## READ: 1 KINGS 12:1-17

### WHAT DOES IT SAY? (OBSERVATION)

1. What did the people of Israel ask Rehoboam? (*To take fewer taxes and lighten the hard labor his father, Solomon, made them do*)
2. Rehoboam first asked advice from his father's advisors. Look at verse 7. What did they tell him? (*They told him to do what the people asked. If he was a humble servant-leader now, they would follow him as their king.*)
3. Then Rehoboam asked for advice from his young friends. Look at verse 11. What did his friends tell him to do? (*Be even meaner than his father.*)
4. Who did Rehoboam listen to? (*His friends*) What did he tell the Israelites? (*He was going to be worse than his father.*)
5. How did the people respond to Rehoboam? (*They rejected him as their king.*)

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN? (INTERPRETATION)

1. Did Rehoboam depend on his own understanding or did he seek God's will? (*He depended on himself and never sought God's direction. He went to others but did not stop and pray before he acted.*)
2. Were there consequences for his lack of discernment? (*Yes, because Rehoboam was prideful and did not listen to God the people rejected him, and he lost most of his kingdom.*)

### WHY DOES IT MATTER? (APPLICATION)

1. Why is it so important to be careful who you ask and listen to when you are trying to figure out what to do?
2. Who are some wise people in your life you can ask and listen to when you need direction? Why do you think they are wise? How do their words line up with God's word?
3. Before you ask anyone else, who is the very first person you can always ask when you do not know what to do? (*God*) Why? How do you know He can always be trusted to take you down the right path? (*Answers may vary. Examples: He is all-knowing so knows the best way to go. He loves you. He is good and kind.*)