

1 Kings 11-12

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him and I am helped ... the LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.

Psalm 28:7,8

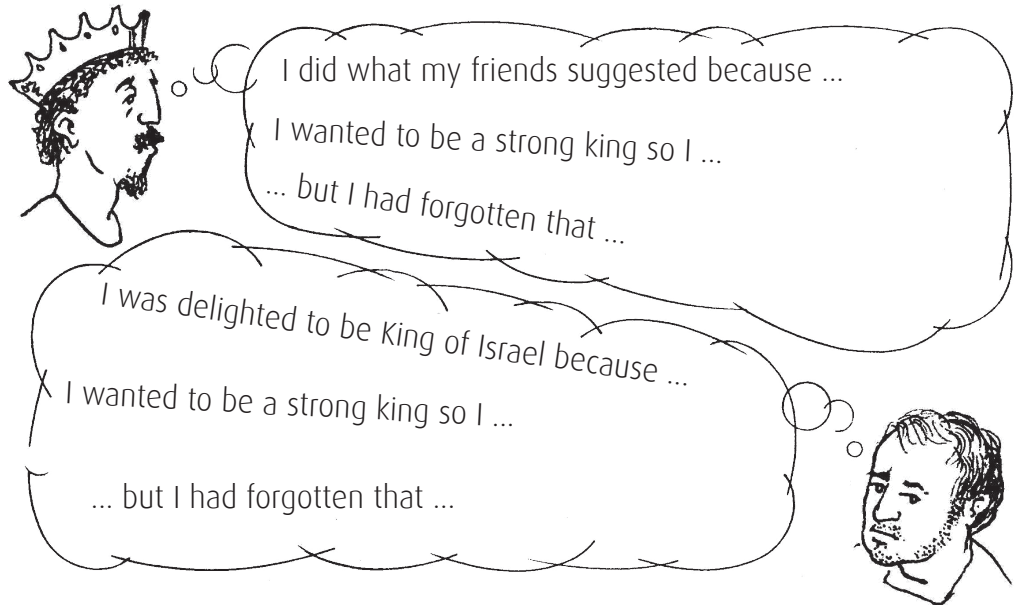
**Readings this week:**

- S 1 Kings 11:26-43
- M 1 Kings 12:1-24
- T 1 Kings 12:25-33
- W 1 Kings 14:21-31
- Th Psalm 21:1-7
- F Jeremiah 9:23-26
- S 1 Corinthians 1:18-31



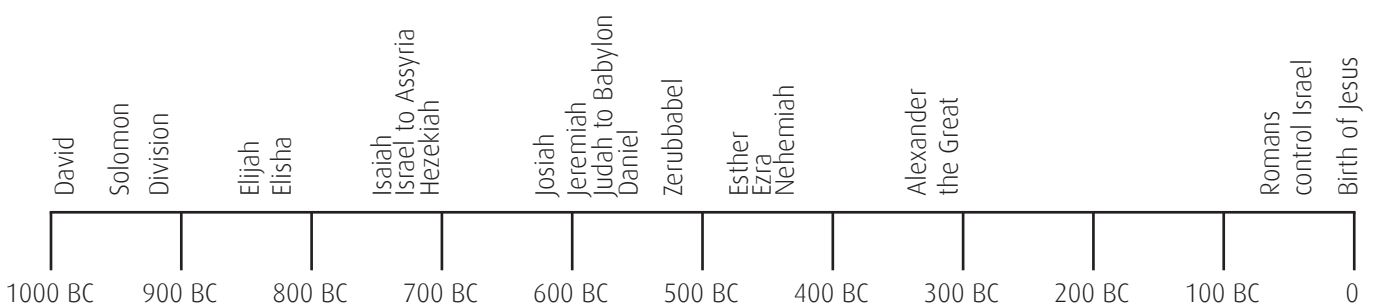
Sometimes the people around us influence the decisions we make because we think more about the way people think of our actions than we do about what God thinks of them. Here are two people who thought they were making good decisions but really they were just out to look good.

Read 1 Kings 12:1-20 to help you decide what Rehoboam was thinking about as he made his decisions.



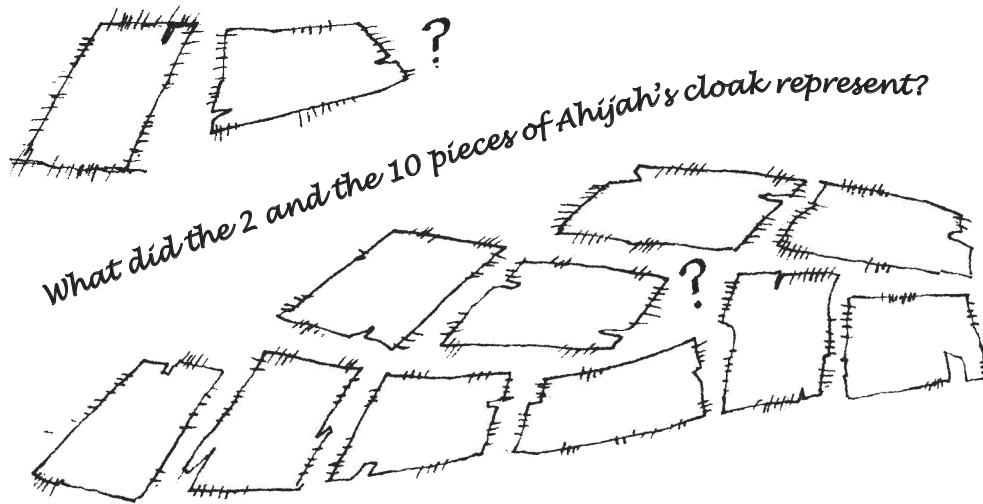
What is the difference between REAL strength and just LOOKING tough? Can you think of a way you can judge whether your decisions are really strong ones or whether they are just looking good for others? Discuss it with the people in your group.

Now look at 1 Kings 12:26-40 to see what Jeroboam thought.





Jeroboam made two gold calves. He put one in Dan, at the far north of his kingdom, and the other at Bethel, in the south. He wanted to stop people going to Jerusalem to worship. You can read about it in 1 Kings 12:25-30. These archaeological remains are at Dan, and they are believed to be at the place where Jeroboam placed the gold calf. Look at Exodus 32:4 to see someone else who made a gold calf, and who said the same thing about it.



The prophet Ahijah told Jeroboam a prophecy about the kingdom of Israel. He used his cloak to tell Jeroboam about what would happen to the different tribes. Use 1 Kings 12:23 and Numbers 34:13-29 to help you write on the pieces of cloak what they meant.

How do people you know try to look tough? Jesus gives us lessons about the strong way to be tough in Matthew 5: 39-48. He showed how to put it into practice when on trial for his life. Read the verses and think whether you can be really tough.

M	A	N	A	S	S	E	H	D	A	N	R	The names of the twelve tribes are in this wordsearch. Why isn't Levi included?
A	I	L	A	T	H	P	A	N	E	M	N	
S	J	F	P	N	E	B	U	E	R	S	O	
H	U	N	I	M	A	J	N	E	B	S	E	
E	D	E	F	N	U	L	U	B	E	Z	M	
R	A	H	C	A	S	S	I	D	A	G	I	
U	H	B	D	E	P	H	R	A	I	M	S	

## Digging Deeper

### Six Old Testament books

In an Authorised Version of the Bible look at the alternative titles for the books of Samuel and Kings. A quick look at 1 Samuel 8 and 2 Chronicles 36 will show why. (You might find this next bit easier in a Bible with headings that say what is in each chapter)

Remind yourself of the period of history each of the books covers. 1 Samuel 1 and 31, 2 Samuel 2 and 23, 1 Kings 2 and 2 Kings 25, 1 Chronicles 10 and 2 Chronicles 36 will help you.

Find these periods on the time chart at the start of the workbook.

Kings and Chronicles cover the same period. What is the difference?

Have another look at the names of the kings in these books to find out.

It is interesting to know why we have two accounts of this period in our Bibles.

Next time you read them try to think why it might be.

Can you say the names of the 6 Old Testament history books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles in order?

Pray that you will show God's strength, not man's