

God's Covenant With David

2 Samuel 7:1-17

MEMORY VERSE

2 SAMUEL 7:16

“And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Pencils and paper (or 3 x 5 index cards).

As many photocopies (onto cardstock) of the “Faithfulness Mobile” template as the number of children in your class, scissors, rulers, markers or crayons, string or yarn and a hole punch.

Two flashlights, green and red cellophane, rubber bands and masking tape.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Bible Charades

This game is to review the main characters in David’s life with the children. Older children will be able to identify more characters than the younger.

You will need pencils and paper (or 3” x 5” index cards). Before class, make out some cards and write some hints of what a person did or said. Review the example below. Whoever has the card is the person who will ask the questions and/or act out a character. After you have shown them how to play the game, pass out cards to various children and have them stand at the front of the room. The children will ask the questions and/or act out their character while the other children guess who they are. Younger children may need coaching on what to say. Keep it simple enough for the class to guess.

Example: Who am I?

I'm the baby of the family.

I'm the second king of Israel.

I star symbol displayed by my people was
named after me!

Who am I?

Answer: King David

Who am I?

I'm the first king of Israel.

I was jealous of David.

I did not obey God very well.

Who am I?

Answer: King Saul

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever wanted to do something very special for God? Perhaps, it was something that you thought would make Him happy; but perhaps, God's answer was not what you expected to hear.

If you have ever experienced this, you are in very good company. For King David, a "man after God's own heart," wanted to do something very special for the Lord, but God told him "no." We will see that although God told David "no," He had a much better plan for David. **When God tells us "no," His plan is better.**

2 SAMUEL 7:1-3

Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around,

that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains."

Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

David was now living in his own house. We probably should not call it a house, because it was really more like a palace--a very nice place. God has also given him rest from all of his enemies. The nation had entered into a time of rest and peace.

It was during this time that he said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, and the ark of God dwells within the curtains." David was settled in Jerusalem and was enjoying great blessings from the Lord. He began to look at the present circumstances. How could it be right that he dwell in a palace while the ark of God dwelt in a tent? Note: The Ark of the Covenant was housed in a special place called the tabernacle—a structure made out of tents. (*Teacher note:* you may want to review what the Ark of Covenant is and what it represents with the children.) David desired to build a house for the Lord, a more permanent structure (a temple) in which the Lord could dwell with His people.

David shared his idea with Nathan, the prophet. Nathan was a godly man and certainly would give him good advice. Nathan said, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you." However, Nathan spoke hastily; he spoke from his own feelings, not pursuing divine revelation from the Lord. In fact, there is no mention of Nathan *or* David seeking the Lord for His direction or will concerning the matter.

Yet, David's desire would appear a good thing. He wanted to build a beautiful building for the Lord. He felt that God deserved a beautiful temple in which to dwell. As we continue, we will see that even the good things we want to do for the Lord are not necessarily His will for us. How important to seek the Lord! **When God tells us "no," His plan is better.**

2 SAMUEL 7:4-10

But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,

"Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?"

"For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.

"Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"

"Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.

"And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.

"Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously,

The Lord knew all about the conversation that David and Nathan had. God had other ideas. It was not His will or desire for David to build a house for Him. So, God spoke to Nathan and instructed Him to communicate His words to David.

The Lord asked a question, "Shall you build a house for me to dwell in?" God continued, "I have not dwelt in a house from the day of the bringing up of Israel out of Egypt even to this day, but I was wandering about in a tent and in a dwelling."

Even though David's heart was in the right place, building a house for God was not what God had asked or called him to do. Basically, God was telling David, "I never asked for a house to be built for me." The Lord had established how he was to be worshipped among His people. He had instructed them to construct the tabernacle and gave them specific plans.

God reminded David of where He came from and what he was called to be. David was once a shepherd of sheep, but God appointed him as a shepherd of His people. God reminds David of His faithfulness and consistency to lead David and fulfill His plan. **When God tells us "no," His plan is better.**

God told Nathan to remind David that He was with him wherever he went and that He had cut off all of David's enemies. In verse 7, the Lord reminds, "Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel,..." As Christians, we are comforted to know that God is always with us. He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

God made David's name great in the earth, and God gathered Israel to Himself and planned to establish them securely in their own land.

Faithfulness Mobile

God always kept His promises to David. God has been faithful to us in every area of our lives! When God spoke to Nathan, He listed some of the ways He had been faithful to David. What are some ways that God has been faithful to you? Think of some things that God has provided or done in your life to show His faithfulness. Use this craft as a reminder of God's faithfulness in our lives.

Photocopy onto cardstock enough of the "Faithfulness Mobile" templates as the number of children in your class. Cut out the large scroll and the three smaller scrolls. On the large scroll, write in big letters "God's Faithfulness." Tell each child to write down on each of the three small scrolls, in a few words, a way that God has been faithful to them. Using a hole punch, make holes in each of the areas marked. With string, tie the three smaller scrolls to the larger scroll attaching at the marked holes. Because of the size of scrolls, you will have to stagger the length of string you use. In other words, you might want to have the two outer scrolls four inches from the larger scroll and the middle scroll, two inches. Be creative. Allow the children to color or decorate their craft.

2 SAMUEL 7:11-17

"since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

"He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

"I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.

"But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

"And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."

According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

In 1 Chronicles 28:3, David says, "God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for my name, because you are a man of wars, and have shed blood.'" David was a man of war; God planned, instead, to use Solomon, David's son. David, the man of war, was not to build the temple; it would be reserved for his son, Solomon, the man of peace.

David may have been very disappointed to learn that he could not build a house for the Lord; but in verse 11, God reveals his plan and purpose: God would build a house for David! It would be a royal house. It would start with David and would have no end!

In Acts 2:30, Peter comments on this passage. David realized that God was promising to raise up the Messiah from His lineage (descendants) to sit upon the throne. What an awesome promise. From David's seed, the Messiah would come! This promise to David extends to the future kingdom of Christ. David's house and throne has been established forever through Jesus Christ. **When God tells us "no," His plan is better.**

In these verses, a deep intimacy between father and son is depicted. In John 3:35, we read, “The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.”

These verses have dual application, applying to Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, who would be the offspring of David, as well as all the other descendants of David. While God promises blessing if they follow His ways, He also warns of consequences if they turn aside from His ways. As long as Solomon walked in the ways of the Lord, he ruled over all the kingdoms from the river Euphrates to the border of Egypt (1 Kings 5:1). But, his heart turned away from the Lord; and after his death, adversaries rose up against him and took the greater part of the kingdom from his son.

The descendants of David were chastised for their sins. They were taken into captivity in Babylon, but the Lord did not let His mercy depart from His people. When the house of David had fallen into decay, Jesus Christ was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, to raise up the throne of His father David again, to reign forever as king over the house of Jacob (Luke 1:32,33), and to establish the house and kingdom of David forever.

David, overwhelmed by God’s goodness and blessing, responded in praise and thanksgiving (2 Samuel 7:18-29). David had no doubt that God’s plan was so much better. God is so good to us! Let’s give Him all of the praise and glory no matter what His answer is to our plans. **When God tells us “no,” His plan is better.**

Red Light, Green Light

It was very important for King David to listen to God’s instructions. Let’s play a game that will show us how important it is to listen to instructions and to obey.

You will need 2 flashlights, green and red cellophane paper, and rubber bands. Cover the flashlights, one with red cellophane and the other with green cellophane. Hold the cellophane in place with rubber bands. Using masking tape, indicate a starting line.

Have all the kids stand on the starting line. Stand on the opposite side of the room with the flashlights. Turn off the lights (open door if any children are scared of the dark). Have them take large hops toward you when you flash the green light only. If you flash the red light, they must freeze and remain frozen until they see another green light. Anyone caught running, walking, or hopping when they are not allowed will need to sit down.

After you play, gather the children into a circle and talk about the importance of listening to God and obeying Him.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust in the Lord no matter what His answers are to us (yes or no). God always has our best in mind, and we can always trust in Him. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

Template - Faithfulness Mobile

