

Lesson #3-7

God's Promise to David

2 Samuel 7:1-17

3rd -6th

Key Verse:

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

2 Samuel 7:16

The Point:

We can never out-give God, no matter how hard we try.

Making Connections:

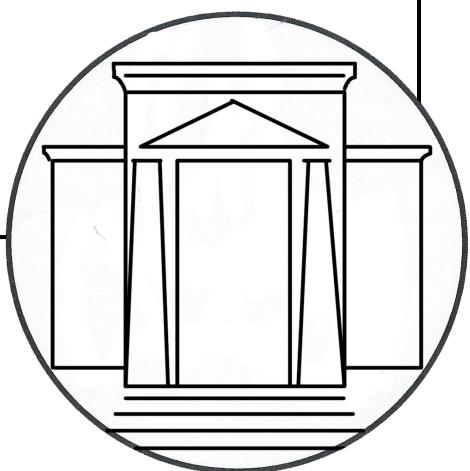
Promises Made, Promises Broken

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Bible Citations

Spiritual Practice:

Worship



Activities a la Carte

Activities

Into the Story

Where We Live

Discussion about places people stay.

Supplies

10 min.

† Activity Sheet #3-7.A

Bible Nuts & Bolts

Bible Citations

Compare physical addresses with Bible citations.

15 min.

† Bibles
 † Envelopes
 † Canceled stamps
 † Glue
 † Pen
 † White board and markers
 † Optional: paper, pens or pencils

Learning the Story

God's Promise to David

A surprising twist to a housewarming party.

15 min.

† Bibles
 † Activity Sheet #3-7.B
 † Pens or pencils
 † Optional: white board and markers

Living the Story

The House of God

Participate in a mini worship service.

10 min.

† Activity Sheet #3-7.C

Activities a la Carte

Additional Activities

“Gingerbread House” Church

Build (and eat) a church-shaped treat.

15 min.

- † Graham crackers
- † Frosting (or soft cream cheese)
- † Spoons and knives
- † Paper towels
- † Small paper plates
- † Optional: candies (or raisins)

Something More

Participate in a relay where more and more is given.

15 min.

- † Ping-pong balls
- † Optional: balls of various sizes

Design a Church

A church is designed for students to worship God.

15 min.

- † Activity Sheet #3-7.D
- † Graph paper
- † Rulers
- † Scissors
- † Pens or pencils

Bible Book

Optional ongoing activity.

5 min.

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Sending the Story

5 min.

- † None

Background for Teachers

Making Connections

Hannah kept her promise to God and dedicated her son Samuel to the LORD's service. As a prophet, Samuel followed God's leading. When the Israelites demanded a king—rejecting God's promise to be their King—Samuel warned them of what this could mean. Then, he anointed Saul as king over Israel. After Saul broke his promise and disobeyed God, Samuel anointed David as king. Today we will hear a promise that God made to King David.

Story Summary:

God's Promise to David

When the Israelites were traveling for many years, they carried a tent as God's dwelling place. They set it up and took it down over and over. Now that they were in one place they were still using the tent to honor God. King David was concerned that he lived in a nice house of wood, but that the people continued to use a tent where God's Spirit could dwell. David wanted to make something nicer; a real house and more permanent place to glorify God. God sent a message to David through the prophet Nathan: the tent is fine. A house of wood is not necessary for God to be present or to be glorified. Instead, God promised to make a house (dynasty) for David. His family will always be rulers over Israel, and in them God would be glorified. This promise reminds us of the promise to Abram, and is fulfilled when we see that David is a part of Jesus' family tree. God also said that David's son would build a temple for God someday, which is what King Solomon did years later.

The Point

We can never out-give God, no matter how hard we try. In Isaiah 55:9, we read that God's ways are higher than ours. God knows the big picture and the best thing to do. God knows that we can bless others with the blessings we are given, and God can be glorified through what God does for us. We can never out-give God, no matter how hard we try.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

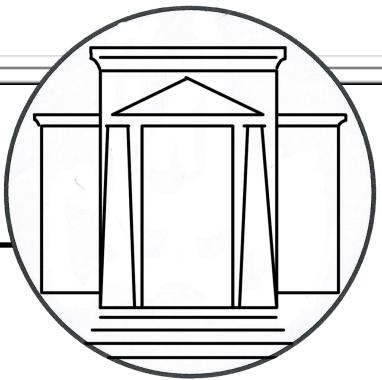
Bible Citations

Imagine what it would be like to try to find something in the Bible if it was not labeled with book chapters and verse numbers. We would have to read every page to find what we need each time we need it. This would be time consuming and frustrating. When the Scripture was first written, it consisted of text without chapters or verse numbers. The chapters and verses were added later to help us locate particular passages. Modern scholars do not always agree on where the verse numbers are placed, but overall, Bible citations are useful to anyone who studies or reads the Bible.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

Worship is any way that we show God our love. This might be singing, giving, praying, dancing, or some other creative form. We read in the Psalms that David danced unto God. Some congregations practice liturgical dance as part of the worship service. Dance freely as a way to worship. Dance for the Lord today.

Lesson Plan



Into the Story (10 minutes)

Where We Live

Discussion about places people stay.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #3-7.A
- † Scissors

Before class:

1. Cut out the names of places on Activity Sheet #3-7.A and fold each strip of paper.
2. Housing and family situations can be sensitive subjects for students in difficult situations (homelessness, unsafe housing, foster care, etc.) or different cultural backgrounds. Do your best to ensure that this activity remains respectful.

During class:

1. The topic for this activity is where people live. Take a folded strip of paper. Read it, but do not share it with anyone else. When it is your turn, you will give us verbal or pantomime hints, so we can guess the place. Do not use the word on the slip of paper. Keep playing within your time constraints.
2. Regardless of where we live, that place is important to us because it is a place where our family is, even if it is temporary or in an unpleasant area. It is a place where people can find us. It is a place where we say we live.
3. What do you like the most about the place where you live? *[Answers will vary.]*
4. Let us say a prayer for those who do not have a place or who are in an unpleasant place.
5. God, thank you that your Spirit is present everywhere, in the shelter and in the big mansion behind locked gates. Please make yourself known to people who live in all places. We ask especially for you to comfort and strengthen those who do not have a permanent place or who are in an unpleasant area. Amen.

Bible Nuts and Bolts (15 minutes)

Bible Citations

Compare physical addresses with Bible citations.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Envelopes
- † Canceled stamps
- † Glue
- † Pen
- † White board and markers
- † Optional: paper, pens or pencils

Before class:

1. Print the church's name and address on the front of a few #10 business envelopes, as is proper for your postal system. If you have a large group of students, you may want to use more envelopes. (Students should be able to pass them around to show and share them during class.) Glue a canceled stamp in the upper right corner of each envelope.

During class:

1. Pass the envelopes around the room.
2. **What is at the top of the name and address section on the envelope?** *[Name of the church.]* Write the name of the church on the white board.
3. **What comes next?** *[Your church's street address.]* Write the street address on the white board beneath the church's name. Continue recording the address as students answer the following questions.
4. **What is beneath that?** *[Your church's town or city and state/province.]*
5. **What is beneath that?** *[ZIP Code or postal code.]*
6. Optional: give the students blank envelopes and ask them to write their name, street address, town, state/province, and ZIP Code/postal code.
7. **We read the envelope from top to bottom, but when the post office reads the envelope, it is read from bottom to top!** Point to the ZIP Code/postal code on the white board. **The ZIP Code (postal code) narrows the location to a part of the country.** Point to the state/province. **The state (province) identifies which part of the country.** Point to the town or

city. **The town identifies which part of the state.** Point to the street address. **The street address identifies the part of the town.** Point to the church's name. **And now, we know who the mail should be delivered to.**

8. Write the citation 2 Samuel 7:1 on the whiteboard.
9. **Just as we use addresses to locate people, starting with the general area and narrowing it down until we get to the person or church's name, we use what are called citations to locate verses in the Bible. Let us all say citations [Citations.]**
10. **The Bible citation (point to what you wrote) starts out with the name of the book in the Bible.** Point to 2 Samuel. Have students find the book using the table of contents in the Bibles.
11. **Next comes the chapter in the book.** Point to the seven. **Once we have located the book, we turn to the chapter.** Have students find the chapter.
12. **So we know when the chapter number in the citation ends and the verse number starts, we write a colon after the chapter number.** Point to the colon.
13. **The last part of the citation is the verse number. It is very much like finding the location of a person who lives at a specific street address.**
14. If students are understanding this, you can add an explanation and example of a range of verses using today's Bible passage: 2 Samuel 7:1-17.
15. Optional: practice writing and looking up citations. Call out each of these and ask the students to write them. Then write them on the board and allow time for the students to check their own answers: John 3:16, Luke 18:16, Acts 2:4.

Learning the Story (15 minutes)

God's Promise to David

A surprising twist to a housewarming party.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-7.B
- † Pens or pencils
- † Optional: white board and markers

During class:

1. Imagine that your friend is moving into a new house, and you are going to have a party for them. We call it a housewarming party when we celebrate that someone has a new place to live.
2. What kinds of gifts should we bring? *[Answers will vary but should have something to do with items that belong in a house.]*
3. What kinds of food should we serve? *[Answers will vary.]*
4. Who and how many people should we invite? *[Answers will vary.]*
5. What kinds of games or activities should we play? *[Answers will vary.]*
6. This sounds like it is going to be a fun party. Imagine making all of these plans for this fun party, being excited to do something special for your friend, looking forward to seeing their smiling faces, and then finding out an even bigger surprise. The party you are planning turns out to be for you and not your friend! You are the one who is getting a new house and a housewarming party! How would you respond? *[Answers will vary.]*
7. Distribute Activity Sheet #3-7.B and pens or pencils.
8. Optional: Draw the two houses on the board to match the Activity Sheet. Fill in the houses on the board as the students fill in the Activity Sheet.
9. **Find 2 Samuel 7 in your Bibles.**
10. Read or ask a volunteer to read 2 Samuel 7:1-3.
11. **The king is King David. Where was the king living? *[In his house.]* What was King David's house made of? *[Cedar, wood.]* Where did he say God or God's glory was? *[In a tent.]***

12. If you lived in a nice house and thought that God lived or dwelled in a tent, what would you want to do? *[Give God the house, find a better house for God, etc.]* Nathan advised David to do as his heart led him. What do you think was in David's heart to do for God? *[Build God a house.]* On your Activity Sheet, in the house above David's plans, write "build God a house."
13. Read or ask a volunteer to read 2 Samuel 7:8-11.
14. What did God plan to do for David? *[Make a place for the Israelites; make a house for David.]* On your Activity Sheet, in the house above God's plans, write "build David a house."
15. Read or ask a volunteer to read 2 Samuel 7:16.
16. This house for David would be much bigger than a physical house. It would be a kingdom, a large area filled with people. David would rule over his kingdom and always be remembered. David had plans to make God a house for now. God had plans to establish a kingdom forever. On your Activity Sheet, in the house above David's plans, write "for now." In the house above God's plans, write "forever."
17. Read or ask a volunteer to read 2 Samuel 7:12-13.
18. God had plans for David's son to build a temple later. For now, God's presence was going to bless David and be with him, his family, the generations that followed, and his kingdom. God did not need a permanent place to do God's wonders. God did not need a house of wood to show God's glory. God's actions did that. God had a bigger plan at this time. You see, God's promise to David had a lot to do with Jesus coming to earth many years later. Jesus is a descendant of, or in the same family tree, as David. God was in the process of blessing David's family by someday sending Jesus through them to live on the earth.
19. David wanted to build a house for God out of his love for God. God wanted to build a house for David out of God's love for all of humanity. On your Activity Sheet, in the house above David's plans, write "love for God." In the house above God's plans, write "love for all."
20. Circle the house on your Activity Sheet where the plans were greater *[God's plans.]* Even though David meant well with his plans and his heart was true, God had something much better planned all along.
21. Sometimes when our well-meant plans do not work out or fall through, it is because God has better plans in store for us and others, too.

Living the Story (10 minutes)

The House of God

Participate in a mini worship service.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #3-7.C

During class:

1. **We often refer to the church as God's house. We come to God's house to worship God. But it is more important to focus on worshipping God from our hearts than where we go to worship.**
2. Use Activity Sheet #3-7.C to explain to the students their words and motions before beginning, and to guide you through the worship.

Additional Activities

“Gingerbread House” Church (15 minutes)

Build (and eat) a church-shaped treat.

You will need:

- † Graham crackers
- † Frosting (or soft cream cheese)
- † Spoons and knives
- † Paper towels
- † Small paper plates
- † Optional: candies (or raisins)

Before class:

1. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

During class:

1. The idea of this activity is that the students are building this large “gingerbread church” together as a project to display in the classroom, but then at some point in the process you will surprise them and announce that this is really going to be for them to enjoy as a treat. Since the students will be working with food, make sure hands are washed before this activity begins.
2. Put the paper plates down on the table, and keep the paper towels.
3. **We are going to make a large gingerbread church using graham crackers, frosting, and candies. This can be displayed in our room when it is completed.**
4. **Each of you will make one room or portion of the house, and then we can combine them all to make the huge church.**
5. Demonstrate how to connect the graham crackers with frosting (or cream cheese).
6. **While you work, give us your ideas for how you imagine the room or portion of the church you are building will look on the inside.**
7. After it looks like the rooms are coming along nicely, interrupt the work.
8. **These rooms sure look yummy. Instead of making these rooms and putting them on display, I have another plan. You may eat them or eat some now and take some home to your families.**
9. **What does this surprise remind you of? [David wanted to build something big for God, but God had a bigger surprise for David.]**
10. **As you snack on your rooms, remember that God has big plans for you, bigger and maybe even different from what you may imagine.**

Something More (15 minutes)

Participate in a relay where more and more is given.

You will need:

- † Ping-pong balls
- † Optional: balls of various sizes

Note: If you have a lot of space and have access to balls from ping-pong size through beach ball, this can be played by exchanging the smaller ball for a larger one each time the instructions add a ping-pong ball to the game. Instead of holding the ball, it can be rolled back and forth from one hand to the other as the player (in somewhat of a duck walk) works the way across the room.

During class:

1. Divide the class into teams so that each team has an even number of players if possible. Split each team, so half of each team stands on opposite sides of the room, facing the rest of the teammates. Each half of the team should be given three ping-pong balls.
2. **One team member from each team will race to deliver a ping-pong ball gift to the rest of the team on the other side of the room. Upon arriving, the team member will say, “I have something special for you.” That team member will stay there. The teammate receiving the ping-pong ball will say, “I have even more planned for you.” That player will then take the ping-pong ball plus another ball and deliver both to the rest of the team on the other side of the room. This will repeat, back and forth, adding one ping pong ball each time, until the there are six balls being delivered.**
3. The challenge is that the ping pong balls have to be held in one hand, with an open (not fully cupped) palm. If the ball or balls fall to the ground, the player has to either return to the side of the room and start again, or choose to let another player give it a try. The first team to deliver six balls wins.
4. After the game say: Each time there was a special gift being delivered, it turned out that the recipient had even more for the one who wanted to give the original special gift. This was just a game, but it reminds us of how we can have the best intentions in mind, but God always does greater things for us than we can do for God. God’s plans are always greater, and the blessings are so much more than anything we could every give to or do for God.

Design a Church (15 minutes)

A church is designed for students to worship God.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #3-7.D
- † Graph paper
- † Rulers
- † Scissors
- † Pens or pencils

Before class:

1. Make copies of Activity Sheet #3-7.D.

During class:

1. Distribute copies of Activity Sheet #3-7.D, graph paper, and other supplies.
2. **You are going to design a sanctuary or house of worship just for kids to worship God. What would you put in it? Where would you put each item?**
3. **You do not need to be an artist to do this. You can trace shapes and label each shape with a word like “chair” or “couch”. Cut out the shapes that you want to trace.**
4. After the sanctuaries or houses of worship are designed, ask the students: **Please share your design with us and explain why you put certain things where you did.**
5. After the sharing is done, say: **You have come up with some amazing plans. Imagine how much greater the blessing and plans are that God has for us. God wants to dwell in our hearts. It is nice that we honor God with a special place, but it is even nicer that God gives us so much more by being with us all the time and not just in a church building.**

Note: if you enjoy using technology, this activity can be modified by dividing the class into groups and using an online tool.

Bible Book (5 minutes)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Before class:

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on cardstock or copy paper for each student.

During class:

1. Hand out Bible Book pages.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?**
[Answers will vary.]
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of the important things you've learned. Don't forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages, and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. If you wish, you can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

Sending the Story (5 minutes)

Even when we have the best intentions in mind, God always does greater things for us than we can do for God.

What greater plans did God have for David when David wanted to build a house for God? [Build a “house” for David, make David an important part in the family of God that led to Jesus’ birth.]

Prayer

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

Kneel at the altar or a make-shift altar and use the chorus (sing or listen) ‘Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary’ as the prayer.

If you do not know the chorus and have Internet access, you can find a video or recording of the song to become familiar with it.

If you do not know the song and do not have Internet access, use this closing prayer:
Thank you, God, that we have a place to worship you. Thank you for making a place in our hearts. Amen.

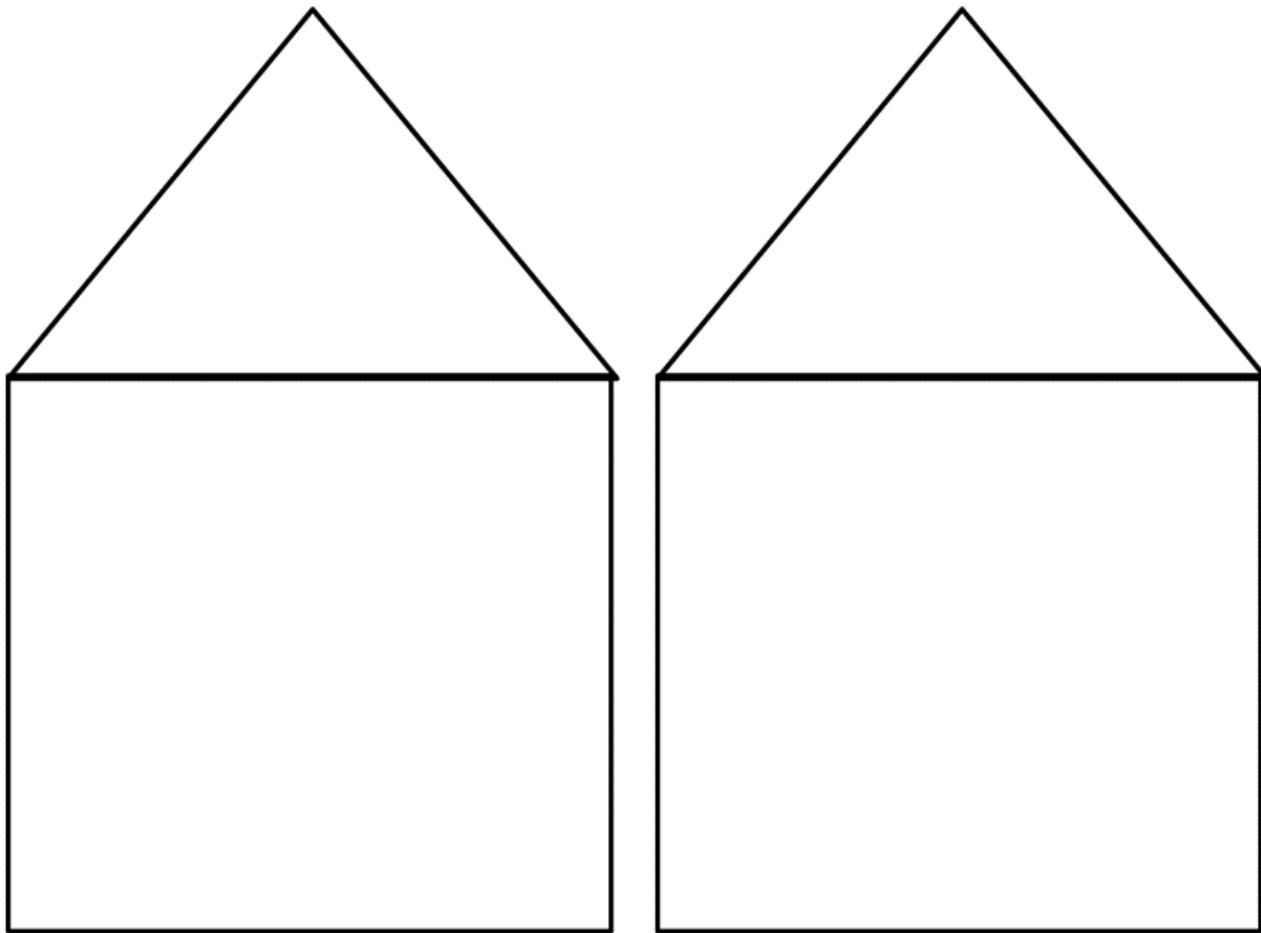
Where We Live

Discussion about places people stay.

House	Apartment
Condo	Shelter
Street	Car
Prison	Igloo
Hut	Duplex
Cabin	Motel
Cottage	Mansion
Townhouse	Hospital

God's Promise to David

A surprising twist to the housewarming party.



David's Plans

God's Plans

The House of God

Participate in a mini worship service.

Sit on the floor in the shape of a big heart. Help the students with this. Form a circle first and then shift around to taper into a heart. **Focus on God as we worship. After I say my line, you will cross your hands over your heart and then open them up and out and say, "Our hearts are yours, God."** Practice this.

Worship Script:

Teacher: **We come to this house of worship to give God the glory and praise.**

Students: Our hearts are yours, God. (Cross hands over heart and then open them up and out.)

Teacher: **You are our God.**

Students: Our hearts are yours, God. (Cross hands over heart and then open them up and out.)

Teacher: **Our bodies are your temple.**

Students: Our hearts are yours, God. (Cross hands over heart and then open them up and out.)

Teacher: **Your plans are higher than our plans.**

Students: Our hearts are yours, God. (Cross hands over heart and then open them up and out.)

Teacher: **Your kingdom will reign forever and ever.**

Students: Our hearts are yours, God. (Cross hands over heart and then open them up and out.)

Teacher: **This time, close your eyes when I say my lines, then open them as you stand and say your lines. Sit back down when you are done.**

Teacher: **We come to this house of worship to give God the glory and praise.**

Students: Our hearts are yours, God. (Open eyes, stand, cross hands over heart and then open them up and out. Sit.)

Teacher: **You are our God.**

Students: Our hearts are yours, God. (Open eyes, stand, cross hands over heart and then open them up and out. Sit.)

Teacher: **Our bodies are your temple.**

Students: Our hearts are yours, God. (Open eyes, stand, cross hands over heart and then open them up and out. Sit.)

Teacher: **Your plans are higher than our plans.**

Students: Our hearts are yours, God. (Open eyes, stand, cross hands over heart and then open them up and out. Sit.)

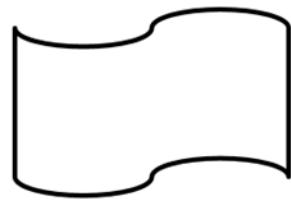
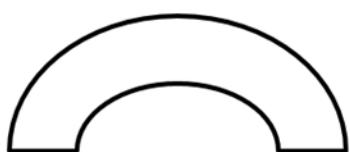
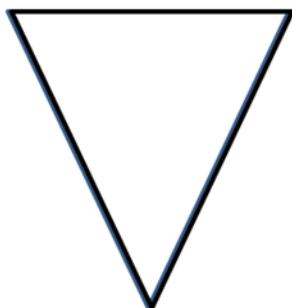
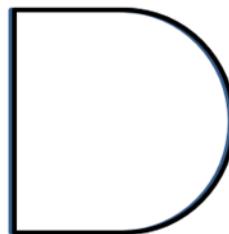
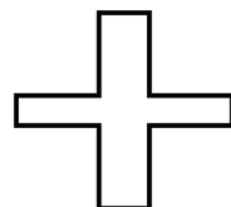
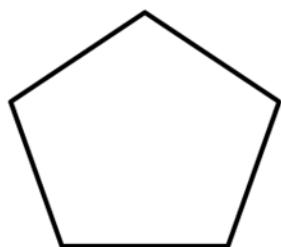
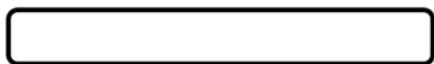
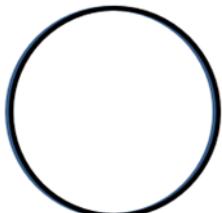
Teacher: **Your kingdom will reign forever and ever.**

Students: Our hearts are yours, God. (Open eyes, stand, cross hands over heart and then open them up and out. Sit.)

Teacher: **Our hearts are yours, God. Dwell in us.**

Design a Church

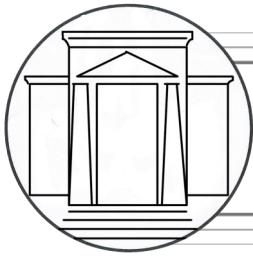
A church is designed for students to worship God.



God's Promise to David

2 Samuel 7:1-17

I Learned:



The Story@Home

3rd-6th

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2020-2021)

Lesson #3-7

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Last Week

A woman named Hannah did not have children, but God promised to give her a son. That son, Samuel grows up to become a great leader (1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10).

This Week

Samuel becomes a great leader and anoints David as king of Israel. David does many great things. But, when he wants to build a house for God, God promises that David's house would rule Israel forever (2 Samuel 7:1-17).

The Point

We can never out-give God, no matter how hard we try.

Story Summary

God's Promise to David

Before the Israelites had a permanent home, they carried a tent as God's dwelling place. Now that the people were settled, they were still using the tent. King David lived in a nice house of wood, so he wanted to make a more permanent house for God. God sent a message to David: the tent is fine. God does not need a house of wood. Instead, God promised to make a house (dynasty) for David. His family will always be rulers over Israel. This promise reminds us of the promise to Abram, and is fulfilled when we see that David is a part of Jesus' family tree. God also said that David's son would build a temple for God someday, which is what King Solomon did years later.

Bible Nuts & Bolts

Bible Citations

Imagine what it would be like to try to find something in the Bible if it was not labeled with book chapters and verse numbers (Example: 2 Samuel 7:16). We would have to read every page to find what we need each time we need it. This would be time-consuming and frustrating. When Scripture was first written, there were no chapters or verse numbers. The chapters and verses were added later to help us locate particular passages. Bible citations are useful to anyone who studies or reads the Bible.

Practice: Worship

Worship is any way that we show God our love. This might be singing, giving, praying, dancing, or some other creative form. We read in the Psalms that David danced unto God. Join hands as a family and dance for the Lord. Release hands and dance individually. End the worship by joining hands and dancing together again.

Next Week

After David's son, Solomon, died, the kingdom split in two: Israel to the north and Judah to the south. Elijah lived in the north and performed a miracle for a widow in the town of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24]).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ What is your favorite verse in today's reading?
- ✚ What kind of house would you build for God?
- ✚ In what other place besides a church can we worship God?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17

God made a promise that David's kingdom would last forever. Unwind a skein of yarn and roll it into a ball. It may feel like it takes forever to do, but it is a short time compared to forever. Or suck on a piece of candy without chewing it. It may last longer, but not forever.

Monday—Read 2 Samuel 12:1-13

Nathan told David a story about a rich man who took what belonged to a poor man. He did this to make David admit his own sin. Tell stories about things each family member has done, but use different names. Can you guess who the stories were about? (Use positive stories.)

Tuesday—Read 1 Kings 1:32-40

When King David sent Nathan and Zadok the priest to anoint David's son Solomon as king, the people rejoiced. As each family member shares something they feel good about having done, the rest of the family will clap.

Wednesday—Read 1 Kings 3:3-14

Rather than asking for things for himself, Solomon asked God for wisdom and understanding. Pray as a family and ask God to show you how you can serve God better by understanding and serving others.

Thursday—Read 1 Kings 6:1; 8:14-21

Just as God promised, David's son Solomon built God's temple. It was big and beautiful. Use a deck of cards, building blocks, or cushions and pillows to build a structure. Arrange some jewelry around it. Take a photo of the family with the structure.

Friday—Read 1 Kings 12:1-15

After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam reigned. Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders. Parents will share a time when they were young and rejected the advice of their parents and tell of the lessons that they learned from that.

Saturday—Read 1 Kings 12:16-24

The ten tribes of Israel revolted against the king. Join hands tightly in a circle. Choose two family members to unclasp hands and break the circle, each one walking in a different direction.