



## LESSON 22

*God makes a covenant with David*

2 SAMUEL 7:1-29



**God's promises are gracious and unchanging.**



***"And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever" (2 Sam 7:16).***

## Supporting Truths

1. God's promises are gracious.
2. God's promises are unchanging.
3. God's plan is best.
4. God's promises are the basis of our praises and requests.
5. Jesus fulfills the Davidic Covenant as the Son of David.

## Objectives

1. List the things God had done and promised to do for David and Israel.
2. Count how many times God says His promise is "forever."
3. Explain why God's promises far exceeded David's desire.
4. Identify the basis of David's praises and requests.
5. Explain how Jesus fulfills the Davidic covenant.

# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God makes a covenant with David • 2 Samuel 7:1–29



## Lesson Summary

Out of gratitude for what God had done, David wanted to build a house (temple) for God. But God had something much greater in mind. He would build a house (dynasty) for David. David's descendants would be kings after him, and his kingdom would never end. By this promise God would provide a ruler to bring peace to Israel. David responded with prayer, expressing humility, wonder, praise for God's unchanging grace, and faith in asking God to do as He had promised.

## Spotlight on the Gospel

God's covenant with David comes true in Jesus. He is the Son of God, and His reign will last forever. Israel rejected Him, but their rejection led to His death and the forgiveness of sins to all who believe. His reign as the Son of David will occur when He returns to rule over Israel with righteousness and peace. Those who make Him their King now will reign with Him without sin when Christ returns to reign upon and over the earth (Rev 20:4–6).

LAST WEEK



God makes David king  
2 Samuel 1:1–2:7

THIS WEEK



God makes a covenant  
with David  
2 Samuel 7:1–29

NEXT WEEK



God forgives David  
2 Samuel 11:1–12:25

UNITED KINGDOM



## Lesson Commentary

*God's promises are gracious and unchanging.*

The Bible is about God's glory, especially His glory in rescuing sinners and making a people for Himself. This rescue plan began when God promised that Eve's descendant would crush Satan (Gen 3:15). Then it focused on Abraham and God's promise of a nation (12:2–3). Now it focuses even more, this time to David and God's promise of a ruler for His nation. Through this ruler—King Jesus—God will fulfill His promises to Israel and also bless people from all nations. This is the climax of 1–2 Samuel, since the entire book has been about God's grace in giving His people a righteous ruler. In doing so, God is glorified as we see that His promises are wise, gracious, and faithful.

### David wanted to build a house for God (7:1–7)

David had been very patient, waiting for God to give him the kingdom. And the wait was worth it. God not only made David king (2 Sam 5:3), but also gave him victory and success. David conquered Jerusalem, which had resisted capture since the days of Joshua (5:6–10). He also defeated the Philistines (5:17–25) and built his palace in Jerusalem (5:11), thus returning the ark to the nation's capital (2 Sam 6). How was

David able to accomplish so much? The LORD was with him (5:10), and David knew it (5:12). By His presence, the LORD gave David and the people of Israel rest from all their enemies (7:1).

Yet David was troubled. How could he, the LORD's servant, live in a nicer house than the LORD (2 Sam 7:2)? Nathan affirmed David's desire to build God a temple (7:3), but neither Nathan nor David had bothered to check with God first. There would be a temple, but not now and not built by David (1 Chr 22:8). God decides how and when His people worship Him. Only God is perfectly *wise, understanding what*

*is best*. So we must be careful to live according to His word (Ps 119:6).

God reminded David through Nathan that He had not lived in a house since the day He rescued the people of Israel from the land of Egypt. Nor did God ever tell any of Israel's leaders to build Him a temple (2 Sam 7:6–7). In all their trouble, in all their sin, in all their wandering, God remained in the midst of His people. God was willing to dwell with His people in a humble, lowly way. Is it any surprise, then, that God became flesh and dwelt among us (Phil 2:5–8)?

### The LORD promised to build a house for David (7:8–17)

God had already poured out His grace upon David, demonstrating His kindness, mercy, and undeserved favor by promoting David from lowly shepherd to victorious king (2 Sam 7:8–9), but God was not finished blessing David. First, the LORD promised to make David's name great (7:9), a special promise He had not made to anyone except Abraham (Gen 12:2). Second, the LORD promised a place and peace to His people Israel (2 Sam 7:10–11). This promise will be finally realized when Jesus, the Son of David, returns to reign on earth (Jer 23:6; 33:16–26; Rev 20:4). Third, the LORD promised to build for David a house, a *dynasty, a line of kings from the same family* (2 Sam 7:11).

Not only was God gracious in His promise, He was also *faithful, constant and unchanging*. God's *covenant* is unbreakable. His *promise* of a throne to David is unchanging. It cannot be broken by David's death, for his descendants will reign after him (7:12). It cannot be broken by time, for his dynasty will last forever (7:13, 16). It cannot be broken even by sin. God knows that David's descendants will sin, and He will punish them for their sin (7:14–15). But He will do so as a Father who patiently loves his children. Though any individual king in David's line may be removed for his sin, God will never destroy the line of David. Three times the word “forever” emphasizes



#### THINK ABOUT IT

God's presence is our greatest delight (Ps 27:4; Matt 28:20).



#### THINK ABOUT IT

David wanted to build a house for God, but God would build a house for David.

# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

## God makes a covenant with David • 2 Samuel 7:1–29



God's unbreakable covenant (7:13, 16). Even after tremendous sin, the destruction of the temple, and exile, David's line lived on (2 Kgs 25:27; 2 Chr 21:7). Even when the Son of David died and hope seemed lost, Jesus rose again, defeated death, and will never die again (Rom 6:9).

The covenant was immediately realized in part in David's son Solomon. Solomon built the temple, was like a son to God, and had a lasting dynasty (1 Chr 22:7–10). Solomon also sinned and was disciplined, but he was not forsaken (1 Kgs 11:11–13). Ultimately, however, God's covenant with David comes true in the Messiah, the Son of David. The prophets looked forward to His eternal, righteous reign (Isa 9:6–7), and Gabriel told Mary that Jesus would fulfill the Davidic Covenant (Luke 1:32–33). Jesus is the Son of the Most High (Heb 1:5), He will sit on David's throne and reign over Israel (Luke 1:32), and His kingdom will never end (Luke 1:33). Israel rejected their Messiah, delaying Christ's earthly reign over His people (Matt 23:39). But one day Jesus will return to begin His Davidic reign over Israel and over all the earth, exactly as God promised (Isa 24:23; Ezek 37:24–25; Zech 14; Matt 25:31; Rev 19).

### David praised God and prayed that God's promise would come true (7:18–29)

When David heard God's promises, he was overwhelmed with wonder and gratitude (2 Sam 7:18). God had already done so much for him: (1) God chose him when he was nobody; (2) God saved him from Goliath, from Saul, and from countless Philistine attacks; and (3) God made him a great king. But now God promised

to do much more. David recognized that God's promises would bless not just him or even his nation (7:19), but that through David's line God planned to bless the entire world (Gen 49:10; Num 24:17).

Yet David also recognized God's special blessing on the nation of Israel, rehearsing Israel's unique place as the people of God (2 Sam 7:22–24). Israel was a special nation, chosen and redeemed to be God's people (Exod 19:4–5). Just as God's covenant with David was permanent, so God's commitment to the nation of Israel is permanent (2 Sam 7:24; Lev 26:44–45; Deut 30:1–6; Rom 11:26–28). God established Israel to be His people forever.

After praising God, David prayed for the fulfillment of God's promises (2 Sam 7:25–29). He prayed with faith, asking for the very same things that God had just promised. His prayer is a model for us. David prayed: (1) According to God's purpose and kingdom (7:25); (2) for God to be glorified (7:26); and (3) on the basis of God's merit (7:27). May we also pray with the same confidence and fervency, asking for all things in the name of Jesus (John 14:13).

God's promise to David is the fourth of five unbreakable covenants from God. This covenant, along with the previous three—Noahic (Gen 9:8–17), Abrahamic (Gen 15:12–21), and Levitic (Num 3:1–18; 18:1–20; 25:10–13)—reveals God's gracious and faithful nature (2 Sam 7:26–28). These four covenants would come true through the fifth one, the New Covenant (Jer 31:31–34). This fifth and final covenant provides forgiveness of sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Son of David promised in 2 Samuel 7 (Matt 26:28).



#### THINK ABOUT IT

God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (Eph 3:20).

# Lesson Outline

*God's promises are gracious and unchanging.*

## AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



1. David wanted to build a house for God (7:1–7).
2. The LORD promised that David's kingdom would last forever (7:8–17).
3. David was amazed, thanked God, and trusted God's promise (7:18–29).

## AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. David wanted to build a house for God (7:1–7).
  - God gave David rest from all his enemies (7:1).
  - The ark of God was still in a tent (7:2).
  - Nathan said David could build a house for God (7:3).
  - The LORD corrected Nathan: He had not asked for a house (7:4–7).
2. The LORD promised to build a house for David (7:8–17).
  - For David: The LORD promised a great name and rest from enemies (7:8–9, 11).
  - For Israel: The LORD promised to give Israel land and peace (7:10–11).
  - For David's son: The LORD would allow him to build a temple for God (7:13).
  - For David's son: The LORD promised to be a loving father (7:14–15).
  - For David's descendants: The LORD promised David's dynasty would last forever (7:16).
3. David praised God and prayed that God's promise would come true (7:18–29).
  - David said he had done nothing to deserve the LORD's blessing (7:18–21).
  - David praised the LORD for making Israel His people forever (7:22–24).
  - David prayed that the LORD would do what He had promised (7:25–29).



# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

*God makes a covenant with David • 2 Samuel 7:1–29*



## Lesson Questions

*Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.*



### Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

1. **What did David want to build for God?**  
A house (temple).
2. **What did God promise to build for David?**  
A house (dynasty); a line of kings from David's family forever.
3. **Who is the eternal king from David's line?**  
Jesus is the eternal king. He will come again to reign forever.
4. **What did David do when he heard God's promise?**  
David prayed. He praised God for His grace and asked that God's promise would come true.



### Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

1. **How was David able to become king and have victory and peace?**  
God was present with him.
2. **Why did David want to build a house for God?**  
David didn't think it was right for him to live in a nice house while the ark of God was still in a tent. He wanted to honor God.
3. **Did God need David to build Him a house?**  
No. God needs nothing from man.
4. **What did God promise for David?**  
God promised to make his name great in all the earth.
5. **What did God promise for Israel?**  
God promised that through the Davidic reign Israel would live in their land in peace.
6. **What did God promise about David's descendants?**  
David's son would build a temple for God and be like a son to God. David's dynasty—a line of kings from his family—would last forever.
7. **How would God keep His promise about David's dynasty?**  
God kept His promise through Jesus, the Son of David, whose reign will last forever.
8. **What motivated David to pray?**  
God's promises motivated David. David praised God for His unchanging promises and prayed on the basis of God's promises.

# Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

## TABERNACLE VERSUS TEMPLE

In today's lesson David wants to build a special building for God. David realized that God had blessed him greatly, and he wanted to build a beautiful temple for Him. What are the differences between a tabernacle and a temple? Show the children pictures of tents and houses to help illustrate the differences. Talk about the different materials needed to build each structure, the costs of each structure, the strength of each structure, and the beauty of each structure.

## DYNASTY

A dynasty is a house, family line, or reign over a kingdom. This concept can be illustrated by giving each child either a red or blue piece of yarn. Choose one child to be the leader for each color. Help each child, in turn, join his yarn to the line of the appropriate color. Use this to explain to the children that a dynasty is a line of descendants. The more people, the longer the line gets. God promised David that he would be the first in a long line of kings who would come from His descendants. Ultimately, even Jesus would come through David's line.



ILLUSTRATE

## UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT

A covenant is a very special promise from God. Tell the children that some covenants are unconditional while others are conditional. This means that some covenants are dependent on God (unconditional) and others are dependent on man (conditional). Illustrate the difference with a bird house. Ask a child to hold the bird house above his head. Explain that a bird will only come to the bird house if it remains above the child's head. Then hold the bird house above the child's head for him. The promise is no longer dependent on the child's obedience.

## GENERATION

To help younger children understand the concept of a generation, ask a few of them to give the names of their grandparents and parents. Draw a family chart on the board, and explain how God had promised David that even his children's children would rule over Israel.



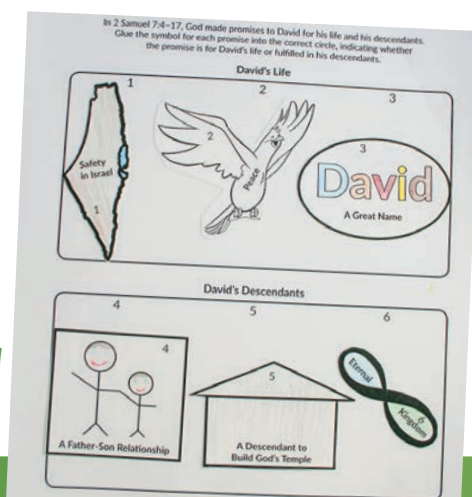
APPLY

## GOD'S PROMISES TO DAVID

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.

**Materials:** Craft Sheets, scissors, glue, and crayons.

**Directions:** Pre-cut all pieces from craft sheet. Have the children color the pieces. Glue the pieces to the appropriate locations onto the second craft sheet.



*God's Promises to David*  
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1



# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God makes a covenant with David • 2 Samuel 7:1–29



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

## CLASS COVENANT

Illustrate the difference between unconditional and conditional covenants by making a covenant with the class. Some examples of unconditional promises include: (1) “I will teach you God’s Word”; (2) “I will discipline you when you break the rules;” and (3) “I will give you a snack at break.” Some examples of conditional promises include: (1) “If I have to tell no one to be quiet in class today, I will send home a piece of candy with each child” or (2) “If half the class learns their Bible verse next week, I will have a special surprise for the whole class.”

## PROMISE KEEPER

Show the class a picture of a rainbow. Or, using a prism, create a miniature rainbow. Ask the children why God told Noah He would set a rainbow in the sky. Review God’s covenant with creation after the flood (Gen 9:11–17) and ask the children if God has kept His promise. Tell the children that today we’re going to learn about another one of God’s promises: His covenant with David.



ILLUSTRATE

## GOD’S GIFT TO US

The lesson teaches not only about David’s desire to build a house for God and God’s promise to David, but also about how that gift to David was also a gift to us. Discuss the ramifications of David’s family being blessed with the coming of Christ and how Christ’s work and reign is a gift to each of us. To illustrate this point, bring in a wrapped gift. The gift can contain various visual aids to help illustrate the following gifts: David’s gift to God, God’s gift to David, God’s gift to David’s family, and God’s gift to us.

## GOD’S UNBREAKABLE PROMISE

Bring in a number of materials, such as thread, yarn, and rope. Select a few children to try to break each material. Some will break and some will not. Ask the children if they ever have broken a promise or had someone break a promise to them. A promise is only as strong as the person who makes it. That’s why God’s promises can never be broken. In today’s lesson, we will learn about the special promise God made with King David. This promise would last for years and years.



APPLY

## AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM

*See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1.*

**Materials:** Craft sheets, paper plates, scissors, tape, and crayons.

**Directions:** Have children color and cut out the map and the chair template from the craft sheets. Tape the map to the bottom of the paper plate. Fold the chair template into a chair. Cut a slit in the top of the paper plate large enough to the chair to sit in and tape the chair to that spot. Explain that the chair is a throne and that this craft represents the Messiah’s eternal reign over the entire world.

*An Everlasting Kingdom  
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 1*



AGES 9–11



## INTRODUCE

**I HAVE A PLAN**

Ask the children whether they have ever done anything that required a plan. Ask them how they executed the plan. Ask them whether their plans included a time in which they prayed and asked God for His guidance. Talk about how important it is to consider how our plans measure up to Scripture and what we know God requires of us. Tell the children about David's plan to build a temple and what God said in response. In the upcoming lesson, the children will learn about David's plan and his reaction when God told him not to build the temple.

**I WANT TO BUY YOU A MANSION!**

Pretend you are a real estate agent. Tell the children that an extremely wealthy friend has offered to purchase each of them a home as a token of their friendship. Show the children pictures of large houses and ask them which ones are their favorites. Use this activity to introduce today's lesson, where David desires to build God a temple in which He can dwell (2 Sam 7:1–3).



## ILLUSTRATE

**"DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO TELL THE TRUTH?"**

Repeat the following to the class: "Do you solemnly swear that you will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?" Explain that this is an oath used in court to ensure that witnesses tell the truth. However, it's important to tell the truth at all times. Making a promise is not something that should be taken lightly. We should be gracious and thankful to have a God who is not like us but always keeps His promises.

**"BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!"**

It's common for salesmen on television to end their sales pitch by exclaiming, "But wait, there's more!" These salesmen hope the inclusion of additional products or services will entice buyers to order whatever product they're promoting. Sadly, these additional items rarely add any real value. However, it is not this way with God. When David heard God's promises, he was overwhelmed with wonder and gratitude (2 Sam 7:18). God had already done so much to bless him, but now God promised to do so much more. God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (Eph 3:20).



## APPLY

**GOD'S DESIRE IN YOUR LIFE**

After looking at what God did in David's life by graciously blessing him, talk to the children about what God desires in their lives. First, ask them whether it is possible to know what God desires in their lives, and if so, how? Help them to start thinking about how God worked through David's life because David desired to do God's will. David did not live a perfect life, just as we cannot live a perfect life. Talk to the children about how reading Scripture and praying allows us to know what God desires in our lives. Also, talk about how God's desire may not always be easy and may not always be what we desire to do, but obedience is what God expects from us.