

# 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**

The purpose of this game is to review all the people in David’s life with the children. For older kids you may want to add even more characters studied over the past several weeks.

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. Allow them to ask the questions and/or act it out. Allow the other children to guess who they are. For younger children you may have to talk to each of them individually to coach them on what to say, keep it simple so that the rest of the class can get them.

Example: Who am I?

I'm the baby of the family.  
I'm the second king of Israel.  
I have a star named after me!  
Who am I?

King David

Who am I?  
I'm the first king of Israel.  
I was jealous of David.  
I didn't obey God very well.  
Who am I?

King Saul

## LESSON TIME!

Have you ever wanted to do something very special for God? Maybe it was something that you are sure would make Him very happy, but perhaps God's answer was not what you expected to hear. Maybe God said "no" to you. How did you react when He said that? Sometimes we might be a little disappointed. We especially might be disappointed when we think that our plans are exactly what the Lord would want us to do.

If you have ever experienced this, you are in very good company. The same thing happened to King David, a "man after God's own heart." David wanted to do something very special for the Lord, but God told him "no." David was disappointed, but through it all, he shows us how to handle the disappointments of life. We will see that although God told David "no", He had a much better plan all along. What God taught David in this valuable lesson and will teach us is that **God sometimes tells us "no" but His plan is always 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."

We find David now living in his own house. We probably shouldn't call it a house because it was really more like a palace. It was 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 had a great house to live in, but now his heart turned to something very special. He desired to build a house for the Lord, a more permanent structure (a temple) in which the Lord could dwell with His people.

The Ark of the Covenant was housed in a special place called the tabernacle. (Note to teacher – you may want to review what the Ark of Covenant is and what it represents with the children.) The tabernacle was made out of tents and wasn't a permanent structure. As he compared the tent that God dwelled in to his great palace he began to feel bad living in such a nice place when the Lord dwelt in such a "plain" place. He wanted to build something splendid and wonderful for the Lord.

He shared his idea with Nathan, the prophet. David did the right thing to go and get advice on this venture. 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." Nathan went on his own feelings, not necessarily by divine revelation from the Lord. There is no mention of Nathan or David seeking the Lord for His direction or will concerning the matter.

But we can look at David's desire and see that it was 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. Yet as we go on, we will see that even the good things we want to do for the Lord are not necessarily His will for us. **God sometimes tells us "no" but His plan is always 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,

In verse 4 we see the Lord speaking to Nathan the prophet. The Lord knew all about the conversation that David and Nathan had. God had other ideas so He speaks to Nathan. The Lord explains to Nathan that it is not His will or desire for David to build a house for Him. He instructs Nathan to go and tell this to David.

In what God says to Nathan we find out what God has to say about all of this. The Lord asks a question here, "Shall you build a house for me to dwell in?" God then gives the reason for His "no" answer. "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."

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 instructed them to construct the tabernacle and gave them specific plans. The Lord had a purpose for how He instructed His people. Even though David's heart was in the right place, it wasn't what God had asked or called him to do.

God called David to be a shepherd over His people. He was once a shepherd of sheep, but now was to be a shepherd of God's people. God is telling David to remember where He has brought him from and what He has brought David to. God wanted David to

remember that He has always been faithful to him and will continue to do so. **God sometimes tells us “no” but His plan is always better.**

In verse 7, the Lord tells him, “In all the places in which I have walked with all the children of Israel.” Everywhere the children of Israel walked, God was there, walking with them. He never leaves us nor forgets about us (Hebrews 13:5). We see again God’s faithfulness in verse 9. God tells Nathan to remind David that He was with him wherever he went, and that it was God who cut off all of David’s enemies. Our God is always with us and He is always caring for us.

Because David was obedient to God, He made him to be one of the greatest men on earth. God had also gathered Israel to Himself and would plant them securely in their own land. God was the only one who could do this.

It is important to note that in verse 10 that God promises peace to His people. God is the only one who can ever give peace to anyone. He freely offers us His peace, as we trust in His Son Jesus Christ for our salvation. It seems that the Lord wants David to remember that He is the source for everything and that we can’t really provide anything for ourselves. So certainly David couldn’t really provide an adequate dwelling place for the Lord. God would have to be the one to provide a dwelling place for Himself.

## **Faithfulness Mobile**

God always kept His promises to David. David loved the Lord very much and desired to do wonderful things for Him. God has also 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 (provided with your curriculum). 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 4" from the larger scroll and the middle scroll 2". You can be creative with how you want to do that. 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.

David now realizes that God does not want him to build a house for the Lord. David may have been very disappointed at this, but God saw David's heart. What David wanted to do was not a bad thing. In fact it really was a wonderful thing to do for the Lord, but it was not God's will for David. **God sometimes tells us "no" but His plan is always better.**

But in verse 11, God gives to David a glorious promise! Instead of David building a house for God, God would build a house for David! It would be a royal house and it would start with David and would have no end! God was talking about establishing his lineage or descendants. God would build David a house, and then his seed (or son) should build the house of the Lord.

Now, we might ask why David could not build the temple for the Lord. 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, and the wars were proof that David's kingdom and government were not yet established, and therefore the time for the building of the temple had not yet come.

The temple, as the symbolic representation of the kingdom of God, was also to correspond to the nature of that kingdom. For this reason, David, the man of war, was not to build the temple; but that was to be reserved for his son Solomon, the man of peace. God

must first of all build a man's house, before the man can build God's house.

There is an intimacy stated in verse 14 of a father and a son. In the Old Testament the relationship between father and son speaks of the deepest intimacy of love. In the New Testament we see in John 3:35 that "the Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand." As this applies to Jesus, the only-begotten Son of God, it also applies to the seed of David as long as they walked in God's ways.

And there was a severe warning if they did not walk uprightly. 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 when his heart turned away from the Lord, adversaries rose up against him and after his death the greater part of the kingdom was taken 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, and to reign forever as king over the house of Jacob (Luke 1:32,33) and to establish the house and kingdom of David forever.

This is what is known as the Davidic Covenant (verses 8-17). This promise to David extends to the future kingdom of Christ. David's house, kingdom and throne has been established forever through Jesus Christ. Jesus, who has come from the line of David has fulfilled this promise. God promised David that the Messiah would come from him. What a house to have the Lord build!

What a glorious promise God had given David. David could have been upset about God denying his desire, but he wasn't. David knew God loved him, and he put his trust in the Lord just as we

must also do. So if God says no to something “good” you want to do, just trust Him, as David did, for He may have wonderful things in store for you! **God sometimes tells us “no” but His plan is always better.**

The very next thing that we see David doing is praising the Lord. If you would like to see David’s response, just read verses 18-29 of 2 Samuel 7. David knew 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.

## **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 supposed to 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. Whether He tells us “yes” or “no” He 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 to do so.

Template - Faithfulness Mobile

