



God's Promise to David

2

Key Theme

- God is faithful to His promises.

Key Passages

- 2 Samuel 7:1–29; Isaiah 9:6–7; Luke 1:30–33

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how God delivered the message of promise to David.
- Connect the promise given to David to the kingship of Jesus.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

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Write on the board, "How faithful is God?"

Students will place a bookmark at 2 Samuel 7, Isaiah 9, and Luke 1.

Students will practice the memory verse by unscrambling the words on the activity sheet and then reciting the verse to each other or to the class.

- Memory Verse Unscramble Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student



Studying God's Word

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David received a promise from the Lord that his throne would be established through his seed forever. That promise pointed to the Messiah, Jesus Christ and David's heir, who would be its fulfillment.

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Read through 2 Samuel 7
- Go Before the Throne.



Activity: Scripture Interprets Scripture

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Students will use the cross-references in their Bibles to identify connections between the promises made to David and the eternal kingship of Jesus.

- Student Guides
- Pencils



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

Israel had been chosen by God to be a special nation for His glory. Despite Israel's constant complaining against Him, God fulfilled His promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:4–7), and after Moses's death, Joshua finally led the nation of Israel to inhabit the Promised Land (Joshua 3:17)—almost 500 years after God's promise to Abraham.

In their desire to be like the neighboring nations, the Israelites rejected God as King and demanded a man-king to rule them (1 Samuel 8:4–5). God gave them Saul to satisfy their lusts, but Saul failed to obey God. God then chose David to replace Saul as king. David waited for years to take the throne God had granted to him. The account of David and Goliath discussed last week occurred during this period of waiting (1 Samuel 17).

God granted David his kingship after King Saul died. The Lord directed David to take the kingship of Judah, the southern part of the Promised Land, and to establish his capital in Hebron (2 Samuel 2:1–4). This is where David was officially anointed king. However, one of Saul's sons, Ishbosheth, was set up by Abner, the commander of the army, as king over Israel. Because of this opposition, tension prevailed between Judah, under the leadership of David, and Israel, under the leadership of Ishbosheth (2 Samuel 2:8–11). This conflict ended when Ishbosheth was murdered (2 Samuel 4:6–7) and David became king over all of Israel (2 Samuel 5:1–5), just as God had promised to David when he was young (1 Samuel 16:1).

David eventually moved his capital to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:7). Through blessings and battles, "David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel" (2 Samuel 5:12). And soon David brought the Ark of God to Jerusalem with great jubilation (2 Samuel 6:2). All the people celebrated with dancing, singing, and offering sacrifices to God (2 Samuel 6:4–5, 6:13). God had proven faithful to His

promises, and David was firmly established as king in Israel where he ruled 40 years.

The Ark of God had been kept in the tent until this time, and David desired to honor God by building a house for the Ark (2 Samuel 7:1–3). While David planned this house for God, Nathan the prophet, who played an important role in David's life, received a vision from God. It was a message of hope for David and a source of encouragement for him. God reminded David of his humble beginnings as a shepherd and of God's sovereign choice to make him king over Israel.

Although David desired to build a house for God, it was God who promised to build a house for David. In His abundant goodness, God revealed to David that his heir would build the Temple and that David's throne would be established forever. This promise of an enduring throne for David is carried throughout the Old Testament and points, in an ultimate way, to the Savior who would come (2 Samuel 7:8–17).

This news humbled, overwhelmed, and prompted David to worship God before the Ark, extolling His attributes and offering thanks for His goodness (2 Samuel 7:18–19). We know that God was faithful to His promises to David. David's house would continue forever, just as God had spoken. That promise has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of David, our Lord and Savior, who still rules over God's people. We can be sure that this same God who was faithful to the promises made to David will be faithful to us as we put our trust in Him.

Another aspect we don't want to miss is that David is a type of Christ—his life looked forward to the life and person of Christ. We see certain similarities between David and Christ. David was a shepherd; Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). David was a king; Christ is the King of kings (Revelation 19:16). David subdued his enemies and consolidated a kingdom; Christ is also subduing His enemies and consolidating His Kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:24–26). David offered a sacrifice on Mount Moriah to save Israel, acting as a priest (1 Chronicles 21:18–30; 2 Chronicles 3:1); Jesus Christ, the perfect High Priest, offered Himself as a sacrifice on that same mount (Hebrews 7:27). David was also a

prophet (2 Samuel 23:2; Acts 2:29–31); Christ was the Prophet (Luke 13:33; Matthew 13:57). As David served as a prophet, priest, and king, Christ is our Prophet, Priest, and King.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Throughout the history of Israel, the Messiah was expected to come from the line of David and take his throne. Scripture revealed early on that the throne of David would one day be occupied by Jesus who would be crucified as the King of the Jews but rise again to be seated at the right hand of the Father.

In the book of Genesis, the blessing Jacob pronounced over Judah referred to the Messiah who would come through the tribe of Judah, from which David also descended (Genesis 49:10). Isaiah prophesied the same—the Messiah would come from the line of David.

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and
justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.
(Isaiah 9:6–9)

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce the coming of the Christ child, he repeated to her the promise given to David in 2 Samuel 7:12.

Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the

Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:30–33)

This truth is also verified in Scripture through the genealogy recorded in Matthew. Matthew begins his writing by identifying Jesus as “the Son of David, the Son of Abraham” (Matthew 1:1). He then shows the line from Abraham in three sets of 14 generations, from Abraham to David, from David to the captivity, and from the captivity to Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus (Matthew 1:1–17).

And in the Gospel of Luke, we see that through the line of His mother, Mary, Jesus is in the line of David (Luke 3:31).

Oh the wonders and the mysteries of our sovereign God who revealed in the book of Genesis that one from Judah’s line would reign forever, and later told David that his descendant would sit upon his throne forever. And God was faithful to fulfill that promise in the birth, life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus, the Son of David. We can’t help but marvel at God’s wisdom and control over the universe and the care that He took to leave us such a detailed record confirming Jesus as the ultimate Redeemer and King.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear God, I rejoice as I read this lesson and remember your faithfulness. You kept your promise to send the Messiah, my Lord, through the line of David. Please anoint me with wisdom and power to teach the truth of your faithfulness this week. As I wrap up this lesson with the plan of salvation, bless the students with understanding, so that they will hear your voice and respond to your call.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will mark their Bibles at 2 Samuel 7, Isaiah 9, and Luke 1 with strips of paper.
- They will unscramble the scrambled words on the memory verse sheet and practice reciting the verse to each other, together, and/or to the class.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. Students should unscramble the letters of the missing words and then recite the verse to you or another student. Each week the verse will get harder to unscramble. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



Review

The last lesson we shared, we dealt with the text describing David's battle with Goliath.

? **In what way is David an example for us to follow?** *David demonstrated true faith in God despite the odds of the battle, humanly speaking, being in Goliath's favor. David resisted the giant who blasphemed God and approached the battle fully relying on God and not in his weapons. He used a weapon, a simple sling and stone, but he knew that the battle was in God's hands.*

? **Why is it important that we not allow ideas from outside the Bible to influence our understanding of Scripture?** *Often, the ideas we have about a biblical event are shaped by popular culture, movies, songs, etc., and may contain ideas that are not consistent with what the Bible actually tells us. It's important to start with the Bible, and allow Scripture to shape the way we understand the world, not the other way around.*

Rather than looking at the account of David's defeat of Goliath as a challenge for us to face the "giants" in our own lives, there is a much deeper truth that helps us understand the gospel and the connection between the Old Testament and the New Testament. David is a reflection, though a dim one, of his future Son, Jesus.

? **In what ways do we see David's actions as a foreshadowing of what Jesus would later do?** *David was the shepherd of Israel and sought to protect it from the threat of evil, embodied by Goliath in the account, through the power of God. In the same way, Jesus is the Shepherd of the flock of God who would come to strike a final blow against evil, embodied by Satan, by the power of God. We must be careful in allegorizing the text, but there are some clear connections we can make.*





Studying God's Word

► Write on the board, "How faithful is God?"

READ THE WORD

In our lesson today, we will see more of those connections, but we first need to move forward a bit in history. We are going to jump from shortly after David's anointing as a youth to after his kingdom was established. The battle between David and Goliath happened around 1061 BC and Saul continued to rule until 1055 when he was killed in battle.

During those years, Saul tried to kill David and David lived as a fugitive with a band of men who followed him around the region. On two occasions, David had the opportunity to kill Saul, but he was not willing to take the kingdom by force and murder. This is another demonstration of David acting as a man after God's own heart.

After Saul's death, his son Ishbosheth was placed in power by Abner, Saul's commander. 2 Samuel 2 describes how David was set in power over Judah. Ishbosheth ruled over the northern tribes in peace for a few years, but war broke out within the nation and, after five years, Ishbosheth was murdered in 1048 BC. At that point David was made king over all the tribes of Israel and ruled until his death in 1015 BC.

David moved his capital from Hebron to Jerusalem after conquering the Jebusites. The fortified area where David built his home became known as the City of David (2 Samuel 5:9), not to be confused with Bethlehem, also called the City of David. David built a house there, and that brings us to our study today, so open your Bibles to 2 Samuel 7. I would, again, encourage you to read the remainder of 1 Samuel and up to where we pick up today. Because our goal is to teach through the big picture of biblical history in three years, we just don't have time to look at the details of every account in David's life. We'll have to settle for the highlight reel during class.

Let's read 2 Samuel 7:1–17 together. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

2 Samuel 7:1–17

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? What was the situation David found himself in? *He was dwelling in a house and there was peace in the land of Israel.*
- ? Who did David seek for counsel? *Nathan the prophet.*
- ? What was David's concern about the Ark of the Covenant? *It was in a simple tent while he dwelt in a magnificent house.*
- ? What was Nathan's counsel to David? *He told David to go and do as he pleased.*

? **How were God’s plans different than Nathan and David’s plans?** *God said that David would not build the house. Neither David nor Nathan had sought counsel from God on the matter, so Nathan’s answer appears to be presumptuous.*

? **What are some notable features of God’s instructions to David through Nathan?** *God asked two rhetorical questions of David; God recounted His provision and establishment of Israel as a nation; God gave David a promise of an everlasting kingdom.*

? **What euphemisms, or slang phrases, does God use to describe when this promise will be fulfilled (verse 12)?** *When his “days are fulfilled” and he “rests with his fathers” are phrases describing the period after David’s death.*

? **Looking at verses 12 to 16, how is David’s seed described?** *His kingdom will be established, he will build a house for God’s name, his kingdom will last forever, he will be a son to God, he will be chastened if he sins, and he will not be abandoned as Saul was.*

As you probably know (and we will study in lesson 5), David’s son Solomon would be the fulfillment of these promises as David’s throne passed to him and then on to his descendants over the next several hundred years. But, one of these promises can’t be simply referring to a mere mortal.

? **Which one of these promises could not be fulfilled by a man?** *A man cannot have a kingdom that lasts forever.*

? **Who knows the common name we apply to this specific set of promises to David?** *It is generally referred to as the Davidic Covenant.*

Discover the Truth

As God delivered this message to David through the prophet Nathan, whom we meet for the first time in this passage, he established a firm promise with David and his house (his descendants). The house of David would rule Israel forever. But within this promise we see the common feature of things that will be fulfilled in the near future and things that will be fulfilled in the far future.

Certain aspects of this prophetic covenant apply to the immediate kings who will come from David and other parts refer to a king who will reign forever.

? **What are some of the key principles of scriptural interpretation that we need to keep in mind as we sort out this covenant?** *Scripture interprets Scripture; context is important; we must draw ideas out of the text (exegesis) rather than bringing outside ideas into the text (eisegesis).*

To make sure that we are not corrupting the meaning of the text, let’s use Scripture to help us understand this passage better. We are very blessed to have Bibles that typically contain cross-references. It is important that you know how to use these tools in your Bible to help answer questions that aren’t directly obvious in the text at hand.





Scripture Interprets Scripture

MATERIALS

- Student Guides
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

? How many of you have ever read the introductory material in the front of your Bible? *The introduction will likely explain any extra features that are present in the Bible and how to use them, as well as any abbreviations that may be used.*

Use your Bible to show the students any study features it may contain. If you don't know what they are, find out.

Depending on your Bible's extra features, you may have study notes, cross-references, maps, and textual variants mentioned in your Bible. We are going to look at the cross-references that connect to verses 13 and 14.

I would like you to find three specific passages, but I am not going to tell you what they are. Actually, there are no wrong answers to the activity since different Bibles will have different cross-references, but I bet we will see these few passages in almost every group's answers.

It may be helpful to pair students together with someone who has cross-references and is familiar with them and someone who is not familiar.

In your Student Guides, you will find the activity Scripture Interprets Scripture. Follow the directions there and I will wander about the room and help you if you have any trouble.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Let's hear a list of the passages that several of you found as cross-references and see if we can pick up any common passages. *Have each group list their verses. You are going to discuss Isaiah 9:6–7, Hebrews 1:5, and Luke 1:30–33.*

? What connection do you find in Isaiah 9:6–7? *This passage speaks, in a future prophetic sense, of Jesus sitting upon the throne of David and ruling from it forever.*

? What is the connection in Hebrews 1:5? *The writer of Hebrews refers to the first part of verse 14 as a statement about Jesus. Interestingly, the second part of verse 14 could not refer to Jesus since He would never commit a sin and need to be chastened.*

? In what way does the announcement from Gabriel in Luke 1:30–33 connect to God's promise to David? *Gabriel tells Mary that the baby she would give birth to will be given the throne of David by God to reign over the house of Jacob with a never-ending kingdom.*

As time allows, discuss any of the other passages, especially the genealogy connections to David in Matthew 1 and Luke 3.

Scripture is truly amazing! The way that the truths interconnect throughout history should bring us to praise God for His wisdom. In fact, that is how David responded. Let's read about his response to God's covenant with him and his household.



READ THE WORD

I am going to read the rest of 2 Samuel 7 to you. Listen to David's response **before God**. *Read the passage with passion. Consider practicing reading the passage aloud before class, or using a pre-recorded dramatic reading.*

EXAMINE THE WORD**Observe the Text**

SOVEREIGN

- ? How does David acknowledge God's attributes of faithfulness and sovereignty in this prayer of thanks? *The passage is literally packed with acknowledgements and phrases that point to God's pleasure and power in doing what He willed and fulfilling the promises.*

FAITHFUL

Discover the Truth

We can say with David that God is awesome in power to accomplish His plans and that He is faithful to fulfill all that He promises. That is just as true for us today as it was for David 3,000 years ago.

**Applying God's Word****WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD**

Just as God had promised to David, Jesus is King of kings and he is ruling and reigning this very day. David acknowledged with his praises that God had blessed him apart from anything that he had done to deserve such a blessing. God was pleased to make a covenant with David. He is sovereign and able to keep that covenant. He is faithful to fulfill what He has promised.

As we have seen throughout our study of the Old Testament, this promise was made pointing forward to the coming rule of Jesus Christ. Although there were many earthly kings from David's line who ruled over Israel, the eternal throne was given to David's Son—the Son of

God—Jesus Christ. We have the privilege of serving this King as the one who laid down His life on our behalf and brought us into His kingdom. When we were enemies of God, He took us from the kingdom of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son! We can praise the Lord alongside David, thanking Him for His goodness to us in fulfilling His promise to us forever.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

- ? **How can you use the tools in your Bible to understand God's Word better?** *Discuss various tools available, including suggesting references that you use to study.*
- ? **What have you learned or had confirmed about God as we have studied this passage?** *Discuss various ideas.*
- ? **Knowing that God the Father has made His Son, Jesus, the King to rule forever, how should each of us respond to our King?** *We should humble ourselves under His rightful authority and submit to Him. If we truly understood what God has saved us from in Christ and what He has blessed us with in the presence of His Spirit, we would willingly submit and follow Him.*
- ? **How has looking at these passages in a chronological fashion helped you understand the Bible or God and His promises?** *Discuss various ideas.*



MEMORY VERSE

2 Samuel 7:22 Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for revealing His promises to us.
- Praise God for His faithfulness even when we are faithless.
- Ask God for wisdom in applying these truths to our lives.

