

DAVID, THE FAITHFUL KING

+ SESSION IN A SENTENCE:

God promised that He would provide a king who would rule His people perfectly without end.

+ BACKGROUND PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 5–7

+ SETTING:

After David defeated Goliath, his status changed significantly. No longer a lowly shepherd, now he was a national hero. But David's fame with Israel had a negative effect on his relationship with King Saul as he became the focus of Saul's jealous paranoia and murderous rage. David then went from national hero to public enemy number one until the death of Saul. Only then was David sought out by the people to be king. From David's anointing to being settled on his throne and at peace in his kingdom was about twenty-five years. But God's purpose came true with more promises yet to come.

DAY 1

READ:

2 Samuel 7:1-3

FOCAL PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 7:1

NOTES

I consider myself a decently active, involved, energetic woman, wife, and mom. But every now and then, after too many days of early mornings, late nights, and too much crammed in between, I'll declare one period of time—usually a Saturday night—to be my official “sit on the couch” time. I'm not cooking, I'm not cleaning, and I'm not preparing for tomorrow. I'm going to start a movie and do my best to rest my weary mind and body.

There's nothing quite like sitting down on purpose and choosing to take a break from a job, planning, responsibilities, and chores. But it isn't lasting. We know that in a few hours, the dog will need a walk, the kids will need to be put to bed, and the thinking for tomorrow will begin again.

When we read that David had settled into his palace (2 Sam. 7:1), it meant so much more than sitting—even though it could certainly be translated that way. The original Hebrew verb can be translated “dwell,” “remain,” “sit,” “abide,” “stay,” or “inhabit.” David had been through so much in the decades preceding this text—shepherding, being a warrior, saving his own neck, uniting a nation—that I might have told him that he deserved a “sit on the couch” night. Or week. Or year.

But that's not what he did. Instead, he turned his thoughts to the Lord and His glory. He recognized the Lord had given him the rest—what could he do in return? What a timely reminder that, just as our work comes from the Lord, so does our rest. And each time we have the luxury of sitting and relaxing for a few hours, we should acknowledge the God who granted us the peace we so desperately need.

**How do you acknowledge the Lord in your busy times?
In your times of rest?**

DAY 2

READ:

2 Samuel 7:4-7

FOCAL PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 7:6-7

NOTES

Have you ever given someone an upgrade they didn't really want?

My dad's bathroom sink is old, small, and antiquated. The bowl is much smaller than anything you can buy today, and the faucet is so short you barely have room to scrub your hands in the water. The handles squeak, and it all sits a little too low.

But if you were to offer him a new sink, he'd say, "Thanks, but no thanks." Why? Because it reminds him of his own father, who died almost 25 years ago. His father helped him install the sink, and it looks sweetly similar to the sink my grandfather had in his own bathroom in the basement of his home. The sink is worth almost nothing to anyone except my father, and yet it means the world to him.

David offered to upgrade the home for the ark of the covenant, God's dwelling place. It was a nice gesture, and God would later assign that task to David's son Solomon. But when David made the offer, God looked back: His presence had dwelled in that tabernacle since shortly after they left Egypt about 500 years earlier. The Lord had been moving around with His people as they wandered in the desert, conquered the promised land, struggled through the period of the judges, and now had become a nation. There was nothing wrong with the tabernacle.

Newer isn't always better with the Lord. He doesn't need us to keep up with the latest trends or add a splash of color. He can use technology but doesn't require it. His style is timeless rather than trendy. God would rather be accessible than updated.

Why do we need to focus on doing what God says rather than what we think is best?

DAY 3

READ:

2 Samuel 7:8-17

FOCAL PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 7:8-9

NOTES



ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE #16: GOD IS FAITHFUL

God's faithfulness means He keeps His word and always fulfills His promises (1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:13; 1 Pet. 4:19). God's faithfulness is demonstrated in His fulfillment of the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The apostle Paul linked the attribute of "faithful" to God's coming through on His word in 1 Thessalonians 5:24. We reflect God by keeping the promises we make to Him and to others.

A mark of maturity in the life of a Christian is the realization that your life was never really how you perceived it, but it was all God's plan. You thought your parents chose to have a family, but He put that desire in their hearts. You gave your teachers credit for what you learned in school, but it was the Lord who gave them passion, skill, and influence. You credit your own hard work for the success you've had in your job, but it was the Lord who opened doors, gave you abilities, and developed your skills.

David had the same experience when, while sitting in his palace, he thought he could do something nice for God. The intent was genuine. But at every step of life, every turning point, every new path, God had already ordained the situation. From the pasture to the palace, from Goliath to Saul to the other enemies conquered, from leading sheep to leading an army, God had put every plan in place. He had given David success and His presence all along the way.

Perhaps David had begun to see the truth of God's prevailing plan, as we tend to do as we get older and wiser. Perhaps he thought back to the trying times and realized he never would have made it through without God. Perhaps he thought back to the victories and realized afresh the battle was the Lord's. Perhaps he saw those narrow escapes and cherished his life and thanked God for every day.

Even David's most noble ideas couldn't compare to God's plan. His desire to build a temple paled in comparison to the house God promised. The better we learn to believe and trust the Lord, the more confident we become in His plan for tomorrow. Look back and see His hand at work in the past; it will strengthen your confidence for tomorrow.

Consider one good, one tragic, and one trying time in the past 10 years. How can you trace God's hand in those seasons?

DAY 4

READ:

2 Samuel 7:18-29

FOCAL PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 7:25-29

NOTES

In David's prayer of thanksgiving and praise after hearing the revelation of his eternal house, David referred to God as "Lord GOD" (2 Sam. 7:18,19,20,22,28,29), an acknowledgment of the Lord's sovereignty. But when David entreated the Lord to fulfill His promise in verses 25-27, he changed names and once again used the name Yahweh Sabaoth, translated "LORD of Armies" or "LORD of hosts." The Hebrew word *sabaoth* is used dozens of times in the Old Testament, each time pointing to a group of trained soldiers prepared to fight.

The first time God is identified as Yahweh Sabaoth is in 1 Samuel 1:3, where it is said Elkanah, Samuel's father, would go every year to worship the Lord at the tabernacle in Shiloh. The next time is on the lips of Hannah, Samuel's mother, as she prayed to the Lord, pleading with Him to give her a son (1 Sam. 1:11). Samuel too spoke this name in his instructions to King Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15:2).

When David shows up on the battlefield against Goliath, we again see the name of God that was used by Samuel and his parents (1 Sam. 17:45). And later, David blessed his people by this name (2 Sam. 6:18). Even God used this name to identify Himself when He spoke His message for David to Nathan (2 Sam. 7:8).

Why would David use this name in his prayer of thankfulness? Perhaps because this name—Yahweh Sabaoth—communicates sovereign power. If anyone was going to fulfill this promise and receive the glory through an eternal promise to a sinful human being and his sinful family, then it would have to be the powerful Lord of hosts.

We often feel as though we're up against an army in our own lives. We see here, though, that we can find comfort and confidence when we remind ourselves that God is Yahweh Sabaoth.

What are some situations in your life and promises of God for which you need to remember Yahweh Sabaoth?

DAY 5

READ:

Psalm 138

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Psalm 138

NOTES

We don't know much about Psalm 138 except that most likely David wrote it with a thankful heart. But if you've been following the story of David's desire to build a temple, only to be promised an eternal house by the Lord, and then immediately flip to Psalm 138, you might see a connection between the two passages.

David was thankful for the Lord's revelation, and in response to His promise, the king went and sat in the presence of the Lord, likely as close as he could get to the ark of the covenant (2 Sam. 7:18). We might picture him singing, bowing, and worshiping not only inwardly but outwardly. God had revealed to David His love and truth, pointing to God's nature and promises.

Oh, that we would take time to worship as David did. It need not be formal or official; we can sit in the Lord's presence right in the middle of our couch. We can even use the words from Psalm 138 as a template:

- Start by thanking God mentally, then allow that thanksgiving to turn into a song of praise.
- Next, bow (yes, physically bow!) and acknowledge who God is. Praise Him for His holiness, His power, His sovereignty, and beyond. Tell Him how you see His hand in your life, in creation, and through the Spirit.
- Then recall a few of His promises, particularly the ones He's impressed upon your heart lately.
- Thank Him for His promises and the power He gives to those who believe in Him.

What are some reasons you have to be thankful to the Lord?

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"God is love! That is the one and all-sufficient reason for your expectation. Love seeks out its own: God's love is His delight to impart Himself and His blessedness to His children. Come, and however weak you feel, just wait in His presence."¹

-Andrew Murray (1828-1917)

GROUP

NOTES

POINT 1: The Lord's king seeks to make a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1-3).

Just because an idea is _____ doesn't mean it aligns with God's plan or timing. David rightly sought to _____ God, but God determines how that should occur.

? **What are some steps we should follow when considering a work for the Lord?**

We need spiritual _____ in our lives, but they _____ take the place of a personal _____ with God.

? **What should a healthy Christian mentoring relationship look like?**

POINT 2: The Lord's king is promised a house from God (2 Sam. 7:8-16).

ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE #16: GOD IS FAITHFUL

God's faithfulness means He _____ His word and _____ fulfills His _____ (1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:13; 1 Pet. 4:19). God's faithfulness is demonstrated in His fulfillment of the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The apostle Paul linked the attribute of "faithful" to God's coming through on His word in 1 Thessalonians 5:24. We _____ God by keeping the promises we make to Him and to others.

? **What are some ways God has proven His faithfulness to you?**

VOICES from THE CHURCH

"God's chosen king, the one to whom he promised an enduring dynasty, had faults and occasionally needed divine humbling. God himself would have to provide a king who would have no faults."²

-Michael Williams

God promised to build a _____ for David, meaning he would have a _____ and legacy. The throne of David would cease for a time, but never God's faithfulness, because the promise ultimately pointed to _____ .

NOTES

POINT 3: The Lord's king extols the grace of God (2 Sam. 7:18-24).

David's response to God's promise was _____ expressed in _____ , seeing his sinful humanity in contrast to God's power and grace.

David also responded with _____ for God's holiness and greatness. The same Lord who had chosen and rescued sinful Israel had chosen David to bless Israel and the _____ .

? What are some of God's great attributes and acts that should result in our praise?

MY RESPONSE

Because we have experienced the mercy and grace of our King, we offer ourselves in His service so that we might reveal Jesus Christ to the world, guiding others to find everlasting rest in His kingdom.

- **HEAD:** What are some ways you will seek God's plan in the small things of your daily life?
- **HEART:** What faithful and gracious actions from the Lord in your life will propel you to respond in humility and worship?
- **HANDS:** Where has God called you to work to reflect His kingdom plan, and how will you obey?

VOICES from THE CHURCH

"In the hearts of the people is a groping, inarticulate conviction that if the right ruler would only come along, the world would be healed of all its wounds. Creation is headless and desperately searching for its head."³

-Richard Lovelace