



UNIT 11 | SESSION 3

GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH DAVID

2 SAMUEL 6-7

KEY PASSAGE:

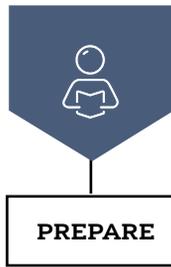
Ephesians 1:7-8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is grace? Grace is when God gives us something good even when we do not deserve it.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God promised David that future kings of Israel would come from David's family, and David's kingdom would last forever. God kept His promise by sending His Son, Jesus, as one of David's descendants. Jesus is our King who will rule over God's people forever.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

David is described in the Bible as a man after God’s own heart (1 Sam. 13:14). Though at times David showed the depth of his depravity, he also demonstrated a sincere faith in the Lord through his love for Him. In 2 Samuel 6, we see David love God with full abandon as he danced before Him.

David demonstrated his love for God in many ways. David wrote songs, played instruments, and danced for the Lord. We also see how David’s prayers showcased a profound love for God.

In 2 Samuel 7:18, after David heard from the Lord through Nathan, we find the beginning of an incredibly humble prayer of thanksgiving to God. David’s first response to the great things God had promised Him was to say, “Who am I, Lord GOD, and what is my house that you have brought me this far?”

David didn’t stand up taller or display an attitude that suggested he deserved God’s blessing. He actually did just the opposite. David recognized he simply didn’t deserve the good things God had promised to do.

God’s promise to David was ultimately fulfilled through Jesus Christ. And like God’s covenant with David, the gospel story is one of grace. We have done nothing to deserve the good gift of salvation. And God also continues to fulfill His promise to complete

the good work He began in us through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

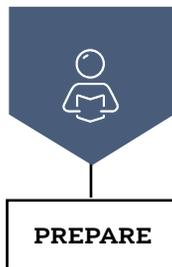
When you think about God’s great work in your life or when you read His Word and recall His precious and very great promises, what is your response? Do you find yourself believing you deserve it and wish there was more? Or do you rightfully understand that God alone has brought you this far, leading you to respond in praise and thanksgiving?

This week, take the time to remember some of the great things God has done in your life; how He saved you and others. Remember how He has given you victory over sin. Remember the things you’ve seen God do in the lives of friends and family members.

Humbly thank God for what He’s done, and boldly ask Him to continue to work—not because you deserve it but because you desire to see, know, and love God more.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Nathan: prophet in royal court during reign of David and early years of Solomon. The name *Nathan* means “gift of God.”



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- “Build a House for God” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- Yes sign
- No sign

Session Starter (Option 2)

- craft sticks
- glue sticks



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- “God Made a Covenant with David” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- “Unit 11, Session 3” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- “Missionaries Adapt” missions video

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- “In Him We Have Redemption (Ephesians 1:7-8)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- index cards



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

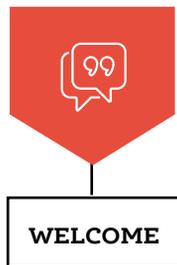
- ball

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- Big Picture Question Poster
- strips of paper, 1 per kid plus 2 more
- stapler or tape
- stickers

Reflection and Prayer

- Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Hi, everyone! I am so glad to see your smiling faces today. Is there anyone here that likes to go camping? [Allow responses.] Do you like to sleep in a tent? [Allow responses.] Today we’re going to learn about a special tent that had the ark of God inside.”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Build a House for God” on the activity page.

SAY “Everyone hold up your pictures. Beautiful temples! A temple is another name for ‘a house for God.’ Today, we’re going to learn about the temple David wanted to build for God.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: PROMISE KEEPER



Tape the Yes and No sign to opposite walls in the room. Instruct kids to stand in the middle of the room. Explain that you will describe a promise a person might make to another person. If kids think they could keep the promise, they should stand on the Yes side of the room. If kids think they could not keep the promise, they should stand on the No side. Use these examples:

- I promise to clean my room.
- I promise to get an A on every test.
- I promise to be kind to my siblings.
- I promise to chew with my mouth closed.

SAY “I bet your mom and dad hope you keep some of those promises! The problem with people making promises is that we are sinful. Sometimes we don’t keep our promises. But I know someone who always keeps His promises. Let’s read our Bibles to find out!”

OPTION 2: TALLEST TEMPLE

Provide the kids with a large pile of craft sticks and glue sticks. Instruct each kid to build a tall temple with the sticks. If their temple falls down while building it, they can start over. Give kids five minutes to build their temple. At the end of the five minutes, the tallest temple wins. Play again as time allows.

SAY “That was fun! In our Bible story today, David wanted to build a house for God. But God said, ‘No.’ Let’s read to find out why God told David not to build a temple.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Can anyone recall facts about the ark of God or the ark of the covenant? [Allow responses.] Good memory! We learned about the ark of God some time ago. The ark of God contained two stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them. It was through the ark that God dwelled with His people. The ark of God was kept in a tent. If you could choose to live in a tent, would you? [Allow responses.] I don’t think I’d want to live in a tent! I really like my warm house.

King David really wanted to build a temple for the ark of God. David thought that a house would be much better than a tent for God. Let’s read what God said to David about building a temple. To read this Bible story, we need our Bibles. Hold up your Bible if you brought it with you today. [Distribute classroom Bibles to those who need one.] ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “ Let’s practice saying our big picture question and answer together: **What is grace? Grace is when God gives us something good even when we do not deserve it.** God gives us grace in so many different ways. God gives us the gift of salvation, and we certainly don’t deserve that. God gives us the gift of family and friends, and we didn’t do anything to earn our family and friends. God even gives us the gift of yummy desserts! Now, what did we do to deserve God’s creation of cocoa beans that are used to make chocolate? God’s grace is all around us. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ David started out as a young shepherd. Then God chose him to be the next king of Israel. It was an unusual choice for God to choose David as king. It was also unusual for David to fight Goliath. But God was with David. David killed Goliath. David went from shepherd to hero. Next, he would be king. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 6–7. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Made a Covenant with David.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH DAVID

“**God had chosen David to be the next king of Israel.** King Saul had died, and God gave His people a time of peace. David lived in a beautiful palace in the city of Jerusalem. **David brought the ark of the Lord to Jerusalem and set it inside a tent** he had pitched for it.

One day, David was talking with Nathan the prophet. David said, “I live in a palace of nice cedar wood, but the ark of God sits inside a tent!” It hardly seemed fair. “Shouldn’t God have a nicer house than I do?” **David wanted to build a temple for the ark of God.**

Nathan said, “God is with you. Do what you want!” But God did not want David to do whatever he wanted. God wanted David to do what God wanted. **That night, God gave Nathan a message for David. This is what God told Nathan to say:**

“David, are you going to build a house for Me to live in? I brought My people out of Egypt. I gave them leaders to guide them. The entire time I have been with them, My house has been a tent. Did I ever ask anyone to build a temple for Me?”

“You used to be a shepherd, David, but I made you a king. I helped you defeat your enemies, and My people now live peacefully in their own land. I promise you, David, that you and your descendants will be kings. When you die, one of your sons will be king. He will be a strong king, and no one will be able to take his kingdom away from him. **He will build a house for Me.** I will love him, and I will never leave him. **When your son dies, his son will be king. Someone in your family will be king forever.”**

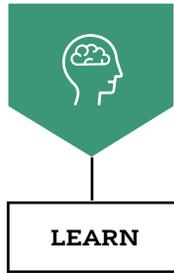
Nathan told David everything God said. David went into the tabernacle. He sat down and prayed: **“God, I don’t deserve anything You have done for me, and You promise to do so much more! You are so great! There is no one like You!** You chose the Israelites to be Your own people. You rescued them from slavery in Egypt. **God, please keep Your promises. I know Your words are always true.”**

Christ Connection: God promised David that future kings of Israel would come from David’s family, and David’s kingdom would last forever. God kept His promise by sending His Son, Jesus, as one of David’s descendants. Jesus is our King who will rule over God’s people forever. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use voices: Use different voices for David, Nathan, and God as you tell the Bible story.

Use hand motions: Teach the kids hand motions for different words: king (put hands on head in a circle like a crown), house (put fingertips together to make upside down V), God (point to heaven). As you teach, the kids will make the appropriate hand motions when the words *king*, *house*, and *God* are spoken.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ One day, David was talking to Nathan. Nathan was a prophet. A prophet is ‘someone who receives a word from God through a vision or dream and shares God’s Word with the people.’ David told Nathan that he felt bad about living in such a nice palace when the ark of God was in a tent. What did David want to build for God? **[Allow kids to respond.]** He wanted to build a temple for the ark of God. The ark of God was the special wooden box that held the two stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them. The ark of God was special because it showed that God was with Israel. David wanted God to have a beautiful temple like his beautiful palace.

Do you remember why God didn’t want David to build a temple? **[Allow kids to respond.]** God told David that his son, Solomon, was going to build the temple. God’s message to David was that future kings of Israel would come from David’s family and his kingdom would be forever. God reminded David that He had always taken care of Israel and was going to keep taking care of Israel.

David knew he did not deserve God’s grace through this special promise. David was overwhelmed with how much God had given him. David thanked God for all God had provided. He praised God for how good He had been to him. He asked God to keep His promise and send kings from his family forever.

God did keep His promise. God always keeps His promises. God sent Jesus to be King forever. King Jesus came from King David’s family. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ God promised David that future kings of Israel would come from David’s family, and David’s kingdom would last forever. God kept His promise by sending His Son, Jesus, as one of David’s descendants. Jesus is our King who will rule over God’s people forever. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

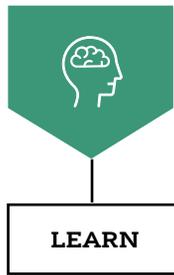
Show the “Unit 11, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can I know if what I want to do is what God wants me to do?
2. How can you trust that God’s plans and desires for your life are good?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ Did you know that most of the world—8 out of 10 people—learn primarily by hearing instead of by reading? Some people don’t know how to read or they live in a culture that does not learn from a written language. So even if they had the Bible in their own language, they still might not be able to read it. This creates an interesting challenge for missionaries! ”

Play the missions video.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

SAY “ A group of filmmakers reach people who do not know the Bible by working with local people to make videos in their language. Can you believe that these videos may be the first way people ever see and hear their own language being spoken? Imagine what kind of impact Bible story videos could have for these groups of people all over the world! God gives filmmakers and missionaries talents and skills to share the gospel. ”

Ask a volunteer to pray that more people will hear and believe the message of the Bible in their own language.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Ephesians 1:7-8 together.

SAY “ God promised David that his kingdom would last forever. God has promised us a part of that kingdom. Through King Jesus’ blood and God’s grace, we get to be part of the family and live forever. ”

Before the session, write each word of the key passage on an index card. Hide the index cards around the room. Invite the kids to find the key passage words and put them in the correct order. Recite the key passage together as a group.

Lead kids to sing “In Him We Have Redemption (Ephesians 1:7-8).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

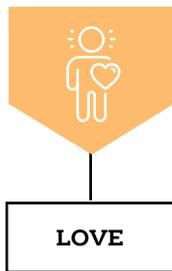
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ God, we are so thankful that You always keep Your promises. We know that You promised to send a King through David, and You did. You sent Jesus to be the King forever. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to 2 Samuel 6–7. Explain that 2 Samuel comes after 1 Samuel in the Old Testament. The Book of 2 Samuel is found between 1 Samuel and 1 Kings.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Samuel 7:18-29 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses. Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H5) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map.

SAY “David was chosen by God to be the king of Israel. He lived in a beautiful palace in Jerusalem. He wanted to build God a beautiful temple. God reminded David that He didn’t need a temple built by David. He made a promise to David that future kings of Israel would come from David’s family. David’s kingdom would last forever. David praised God for all that God had done for Him. David thanked God for His promise.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “What did David want to build for God?”

Review how David wanted to build a temple for God, but God told David no. God said that He didn’t need a temple. He was always with the people of Israel, and He would always be with them. God reminded David of all the things He had provided without having a beautiful temple. God doesn’t need a temple to provide for His people.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Sam. 7:11-16.)

SAY “Why did David pray to God?”

Remind kids that David praised and thanked God for all the things God had provided. David acknowledged God’s greatness and power. David realized that he didn’t deserve any of the things that God had given him. David remembered God’s faithfulness to Israel. We can pray to God like David. We can thank Him for His greatness, power, and provision for our lives.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Sam. 7:18-24.)

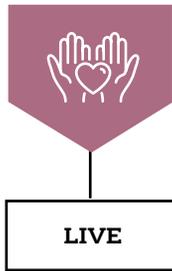
SAY “How do we know God will keep His promises?”

Encourage kids to remember that God always keeps His promises because He is faithful. God’s promises to David came true through Jesus. Jesus is the King of kings who will reign forever just as God said. God always keeps His promises.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Sam. 7:25-29.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: LISTENING SKILLS



SAY “Listening carefully is an important skill, especially when hearing about Jesus! Let’s work on our listening skills.”

Guide the kids to sit in a circle. Explain that they will take turns naming something that they’re grateful for. Give one kid a ball and let her start. (Example: “I’m grateful for spaghetti.”) Direct her to toss the ball to another kid. That kid will then repeat what he just heard—“Jessica is grateful for spaghetti,”—and he will name what he is grateful for: “I’m grateful for basketball.”

Kids continue passing the ball and taking turns recalling and sharing gratefulness statements. If kids struggle to remember previous statements, instruct them to recall just one or two other statements.

SAY “I’ve enjoyed learning what you’re grateful for! If you listened carefully, you probably learned some things about your friends that you didn’t know. This week, let’s pray for people around the world who need to hear about Jesus. We can pray that when they hear the gospel, they will listen carefully and trust in Jesus.”

OPTION 2: PAPER CHAIN



Before the session, write King David on one strip of paper and King Jesus on another strip of paper. Provide each kid with a strip of paper. Invite them to use the markers and stickers to decorate their strips.

Make a paper chain starting with King David. Add each of the strips of paper to the chain with the stapler or tape. When all of the kids’ strips have been added, finish the paper chain with King Jesus. Discuss with the group how God promised King David that future kings after him would come from his family. Show them how all of the kings are connected all the way to King Jesus.

(Option: Read some of the king’s names from Matthew 1:6-11 such as Solomon, Uzziah, Hezekiah, and Josiah.)

SAY “God promised King David that his kingdom would rule forever. God said that future kings of Israel would come through David’s family. King Jesus is the last king of Israel. King Jesus is the ruler over every part of the world. King Jesus will rule forever and ever.”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.