

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

STORY OF FAITH: WEEK 8

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As the Story of Faith continues, we come to the time of King David and God’s promise to him (also known as the Davidic Covenant). A lot has happened since the Passover event. The Israelites left Egypt and eventually made it to the Promised Land. Moses died and Joshua was their next leader. Over the centuries that followed, God raised up various men and women, called “Judges,” to lead the people through temporary difficulties. You may recognize the names of some of the Judges: Samson, Gideon, Deborah, and Samuel.

Through it all, the Israelites were a theocracy, which meant God was their King. But then the people demanded a human king, which is how Saul—from the family line of Benjamin—ascended to the throne. He proved to be disobedient and unstable, so God told Samuel to secretly anoint another king... Jesse’s son, David. Remember, God’s promised Messiah would come from Abraham’s offspring through the line of Judah. Unlike Saul, David was from the royal family lineage.

Saul died in battle and David was crowned king. He wanted to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem and build a remarkable temple for the LORD, but God had a different plan. God was thinking about a dynasty where David’s line would reign forever, so He came to David with a much bigger promise than David could have ever imagined! The house God wanted to build would not have walls and a roof but rather children and grandchildren instead. This would be a royal house, a dynasty through David’s descendants that would last forever.

While the perpetuity of David’s throne was an unconditional promise (God would do it), his descendants must still follow the Lord. Yes, Solomon built the temple years later, but he did not follow God all the days of his life. In fact, very few of the kings after David walked with the Lord. In the years that followed, sin was rampant, and things went from bad to worse. The Israelites desperately needed a substitute who would solve the problem of sin once and for all.

2 SAMUEL 7:4-16 ESV

4 *But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan,*
5 *“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?’*
6 *I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling.*
7 *In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’*
8 *Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.*
9 *And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.*
10 *And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly,*
11 *from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.*
12 *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.*
13 *He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*
14 *I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,*
15 *but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.*
16 *And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”*

DISCUSSION GUIDE QUESTIONS

on your own, with family, or with your small group

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-29. David was at peace and living in his palace at this point. How is your relationship with God during different seasons of your life? In crisis, we tend to cry out to the Lord, but when we are at rest where do we turn our attention?

What was God’s point by reminding David of His hand on his life (vv. 8-9)? Read 1 Samuel 16:13 and 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. Is it possible that God was not concerned about a temple made with human hands? Why or why not?

God graciously blesses those who honor him in unexpected ways. How have you seen and experienced this aspect of God’s character?

God’s blessings to us are not just for us: they are also for those who come after us. You are blessed to be a blessing, and God’s favor can extend from one generation to the next.

How do these truths affect the way you think about investing in the next generation?

How have you seen this play out in your own life? Who are your spiritual mentors and how have you seen the fruit of their spiritual legacy in your own life?