

BELONG

Starter Questions: What makes someone a good leader? Ask your students if they would like to share their highs and lows from the week.

Become Challenge Check-In: Ask students how they allowed God to use them in their circle of impact this week. Celebrate any wins. Did they go to The Lord first when faced with stress or encouragement? Did they uplift anyone around them?

BELIEVE

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:8–17

Main Idea: God always keeps His promises.

Focus Question: Will I trust God's plan when it isn't my plan?

Context:

After years of waiting, David was finally reigning as king over all Israel. David knew the Lord had established him as king and had given him victory over his enemies. Jerusalem had become the nation's capital, and in the previous chapter David brought the ark of the covenant there. The ark reminded God's people that the Lord was their true King and had chosen to dwell among them in a special covenant relationship. At this time, God's people worshiped at the tabernacle, a portable tent that had been used since the days of Moses. The temple had not yet been built. As you read, remember that although David was God's chosen king, he was still part of God's much bigger plan to rescue His people.

Summary:

David wanted to honor God by building a permanent temple instead of having the ark remain in a tent. Although David's desire was good, God had a different plan. Through the prophet Nathan, God reminded David that He had always been faithful to him and promised to establish David's kingdom. God declared that one of David's descendants would reign forever. While David's earthly kingdom eventually came to an end, God's promise did not. Generations later, Jesus was born into David's family. As the promised Messiah and forever King, Jesus fulfilled God's promise and established an eternal kingdom that will never end.

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-3

- Why do you think David wanted to build a temple for God? What does that reveal about his heart? *(David wasn't trying to make himself look important. He wanted to honor God because he recognized everything God had done for him. His desire was rooted in worship and gratitude. Even so, loving God doesn't automatically mean every good idea is God's plan.)*
- What does Nathan's response teach us about knowing God's will? *(Nathan responded based on what seemed wise, but God's plans are known only because He reveals them. Even God's prophet depended on God's word, not his own wisdom.)*

Read 2 Samuel 7:4-7

- What reasons did God give for saying "no" to David's plan? *(God reminded David that He had never asked anyone to build Him a permanent house. Since bringing Israel out of Egypt, He had chosen to dwell among His people in the tabernacle.)*

- Why do you think God reminded David of Israel's history before explaining His plan? *(God wanted David to remember that He had always been faithful to His people. God had never depended on a building or on human effort to accomplish His purposes. Instead, God has always been the One leading His people and carrying out His plan.)*

Read 2 Samuel 7:8–11a

- What does God's reminder about David's past teach us about His promises for David's future? *(Before making new promises, God reminded David of all He had already done for him. God's past faithfulness gave David every reason to trust His future promises. The God who had been faithful would remain faithful.)*

Read 2 Samuel 7:11b–17

- When God promised to build David a "house," was He talking about a building? How can you tell? *(No. In the verses that follow, God speaks about David's descendants, kingdom, and throne being established forever. Those promises describe David's family line, or dynasty, not a physical building.)*

Key Truth: *David wanted to build a temple for God. God promised to build a dynasty for David. David was thinking about one building. God was revealing a much bigger plan that would lead to the forever King.*

Looking Deeper: *What is a covenant? A covenant is a binding promise that establishes a relationship. Throughout the Bible, God established covenants with His people. God's promise to establish David's family line and send a forever King is known as **the Davidic Covenant**. Unlike people, God always keeps His covenant promises.*

- Which parts of God's promise could Solomon fulfill, and which parts point beyond Solomon? *(Solomon would become king after David and build the temple. However, no ordinary king could reign forever or establish an eternal kingdom. Those promises point beyond Solomon to Jesus, the promised Messiah and forever King, who fulfilled the Davidic Covenant.)*

Read Luke 1:31–33

- How does Gabriel's message show that Jesus fulfills God's promise to David? *(Gabriel announced that Jesus would inherit David's throne, reign forever, and establish an eternal kingdom, showing that Jesus fulfilled God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7.)*
- Based on these passages, what makes God's plans worthy of our trust? *(Students may give different answers. God has always been faithful to His promises. He sees the whole story when we see only a small part. His plans are greater than ours and accomplish His purposes. Most importantly, God proved His faithfulness by fulfilling His promise to David through Jesus, the forever King. Because God always keeps His promises, we can trust His plans even when we don't fully understand them.)*
- If God's plans are always greater than ours, how should we respond when they don't match our own? *(We can continue to trust and obey Him. Like David, we won't always understand God's timing or His reasons, but God's faithfulness in the past gives us confidence for the future. Because He kept His promise by sending Jesus, we can trust Him with every part of our lives.)*

BECOME

Circle of Impact Challenge:

Someone in your circle of impact may be struggling to trust God's plan because life isn't unfolding the way they hoped. Pray for that person by name this week, then encourage them by reminding them that God always keeps His promises. Whether through a conversation, a text, or by sharing a verse from Scripture, remind them that we can trust God's plans because Jesus is our forever King.