

David's Heart

Sunday Plan

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 7

MEMORY VERSE

2 Samuel 7:16

God's plans are always bigger than ours.

For the Teacher

Read this before you teach. Today's chapter is one of the most important in the Old Testament — the Davidic Covenant. David, finally settled in his own house in Jerusalem, looks around and feels guilty: he lives in a cedar palace, but God still lives in a tent. So he decides to build God a temple. God's answer is the surprise. Through the prophet Nathan, God tells David: *you don't build me a house. I build you one.* Not a house of cedar — a dynasty. A line of kings. And out of that line, eventually, will come a king whose throne lasts forever. That king is Jesus.

KEY TRUTH

God's plans are always bigger than ours.

The flip is the lesson. David has a good idea. A generous idea. He wants to honor God. But God refuses the offer and gives David something far bigger in return. That move — David offers; God out-gives — is the whole shape of the chapter. Don't let the kids think this is a story about building projects. It's a story about God taking a small, good gift and answering with a forever promise.

The forever king. 2 Samuel 7:16 is the memory verse, and it's the hinge: "*Your throne shall be established forever.*" No human king's throne lasts forever. David died. Solomon died. Every king after them died. That promise points past David to someone bigger — to Jesus, the descendant of David whose kingdom never ends. Make this connection explicit at the end of *The Story*. The kids need to hear it.

Where this fits. Two weeks ago Israel demanded a king (Q3L7). Last week David walked into the valley of Elah and beat Goliath because *the battle belongs to the LORD* (Q3L8). This week David — now grown, now king — gets a promise that goes way past his own lifetime. Next week his son Solomon inherits the kingdom and asks God for wisdom (Q3L10).

What we're skipping and why. The source material leans heavily on "a man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22) and a heart-examination exercise. That's a real biblical theme, but Acts 13:22 is not the text for today and the heart-check exercise pulls focus from the covenant. We stay in 2 Samuel 7. The flip is the lesson; David's heart is best seen *in his prayer* (verses 18–22), where he responds to God's bigger promise with humble worship.

Repeat the bottom line all morning. Say it at least six times. Have the kids say it back. Write it on the board. End with it.

MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Pencils, crayons or colored pencils
- Two pieces of paper for the "offer / promise" demo (see *The Story*)
- Activity sheets (printed in advance from this week's activities — pick what you'll use)

1. Gather

Welcome the kids and have them sit together. Tell them today's story is about a king who tried to give God a present — and got a much bigger present back.

ASK

Has anyone ever given somebody a gift, and gotten an even bigger gift back than what you gave?

Let two or three kids answer. Then tell them: today's story is like that, but the giver is God and the gift is so big it lasts forever. Write the bottom line on the board:

SAY

God's plans are always bigger than ours.

2. The Story

Setting the Stage

Before opening the Bible, the kids need to know where David is in his life. Tell them, in your own words:

SAY

Last week we watched David — just a shepherd boy back then — beat Goliath because the battle belonged to the LORD. A lot has happened since then. David grew up. The first king of Israel, Saul, got jealous of David and tried to kill him. David ran. David hid in caves. And finally — after years and years — Saul is gone and David is the king himself, sitting in a beautiful new palace in Jerusalem.

He's safe. He's settled. And he looks around his cedar palace, and something starts to bother him.

Reading the Text

Have everyone open to 2 Samuel 7:1. Pick a confident reader.

2 Samuel 7:1-3

DISCUSSION

1. What does David notice in verse 2?

→ *He lives in a house of cedar — a fancy palace — but God's ark is still in a tent. The kids should see the contrast: David has a palace, God has a tent.*

2. What does David want to do about it?

→ *Build God a house. A real one. A temple.*

3. What does Nathan the prophet tell him at first?

→ *"Go, do it. The LORD is with you." Nathan thinks it's a great idea too.*

God's Answer

Tell the kids: but that night, God speaks to Nathan. And God's answer is going to surprise everybody.

2 Samuel 7:4-7

ASK

Did God ask David to build him a house?

No. Look at verse 7. God says he's been moving around in a tent the whole time and he's never once asked anyone to build him a cedar house.

Then read the surprise — the flip:

2 Samuel 7:11-16

Pull two pieces of paper. On the small one write **"David's gift: a house for God."** On the big one write **"God's gift: a forever king from David's family."** Hold up the small one, then the big one.

SAY

David said, "Let me build you a house, God." And God said, "No, David. Let me build you a house. Not a house of stone — a family. Your son will sit on your throne. And one of your children's children's children will be a king whose throne lasts forever."

DISCUSSION

1. What kind of "house" is God promising David?

→ *A family. A line of kings. A dynasty — kid-friendly word: a family that keeps ruling.*

2. Verse 16 says David's throne will last how long?

→ *Forever. Not for a long time. Forever.*

3. Has any human king ever lived forever?

→ *No. They all die. So the forever-king has to be somebody bigger than just a regular king.*

The Forever King

This is the most important moment of the lesson. Slow down.

SAY

Hundreds and hundreds of years after David, a baby was born in Bethlehem — David's hometown. His name was Jesus. The Bible calls him "the son of David." Jesus is the king God promised right here in 2 Samuel 7. He's the one whose throne lasts forever. David offered God a building. God promised David a forever king. And Jesus is that king.

TRANSITION

David thought he was being generous. But God's plan was already bigger than anything David could imagine.

David's Response

Have a confident reader read:

2 Samuel 7:18–22

ASK

How does David respond when he hears God's bigger promise?

He sits down before God and prays. He's humble. He doesn't say "thanks" once and move on — he worships. Verse 22: "There is none like you, O LORD."

SAY

David didn't argue with God. He didn't say, "But I really wanted to build you a temple." He said, "Who am I, that you would do this for me?" When God's plans are bigger than ours, the right response is worship.

3. The Point

Say the bottom line again, with the kids:

SAY

God's plans are always bigger than ours.

The Memory Verse

Have everyone turn to 2 Samuel 7:16. Have a student read it aloud:

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 7:16

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

Read it three ways together: all together normally, all together emphasizing the word “forever,” and all together pointing up on the word “forever.”

SAY

“Forever” is the word that doesn't fit any human king. Every king dies. Every kingdom ends. But God promised David a king whose kingdom never, ever ends. That king is Jesus.

Closing Prayer

PRAY

God, thank you that your plans are always bigger than ours. Thank you that when David wanted to build you a house, you promised him a forever king instead — and that forever king is Jesus. Help us trust that your plans for us are bigger and better than ours, even when we don't see it yet. Amen.

4. The Work

Pick one or more activities from this week's menu. Print enough copies for each kid in advance. The kids don't have to do all of them — pick what fits the group's energy and what time you have left.

The menu for this week:

- **Words for David** — word search with names and key words from 2 Samuel 7.
- **Bigger Than Mine** — drawing prompt connecting the lesson to the kid's own life.
- **Remember the Promise** — fill-in-the-blanks recall using the kids' Bibles (2 Samuel 7).

The full production specs for each activity are in this week's activities file.

NOTE

While the kids work, sit with them. Ask one or two what they're working on. Reinforce the bottom line one more time before class ends. If you finish early, have a few kids share what they made. If you run long, send the activity sheets home.

What Comes Next Week

David's son Solomon becomes king. God offers him anything in the world, and Solomon asks for wisdom. The kids will see what it looks like to want the right thing — and watch Solomon build the temple his father David only dreamed about.