

## Lesson #3-7

# *God's Promise to David*

2 Samuel 7:1-17



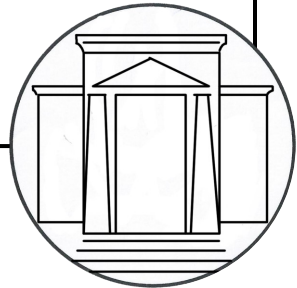
### **Key Verse:**

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

2 Samuel 7:16

### **The Point:**

We can never out-give God, no matter how hard we try.



## *Introduction*

Although David made a promise to God, God had other plans and made a much bigger promise to David: David's descendants would forever be on the throne of Israel, and they would be the ones to build the temple to the Lord. God's promises and plans are so much bigger than we could ever conceive.

The biblical writer uses a play on words to point out the different types of houses that are important to our identity as families and communities. David pledges to build a house—structure—for God, but God pledges to build a house—family—for David.

### **The Point**

**We can never out-give God, no matter how hard we try.** David did nothing wrong. He did not break a promise, or stray from God's promise. David merely made a promise to God that was not to be. David wanted to build a temple to the Lord, but the Lord had other things in mind. It would not be David, but his son, Solomon, who would eventually build that temple. Even when we seek to do God's will, sometimes we try to make decisions that are God's decisions to make. Despite our best intentions, God's plans come through for good.

# Activities a la Carte

## Activities

## Supplies

### Introduction

#### *My Home*

Draw our homes.

10 min.

- † Paper
- † Markers or crayons

### Learning the Story

#### *Building a House*

Hear the story while building.

10 min.

- † Bible
- † Building blocks

### Activities

#### *What's in a Home?*

Learn about ministry to those experiencing homelessness.

10 min.

- † Optional: Internet-connected devices

#### *Houses of Worship*

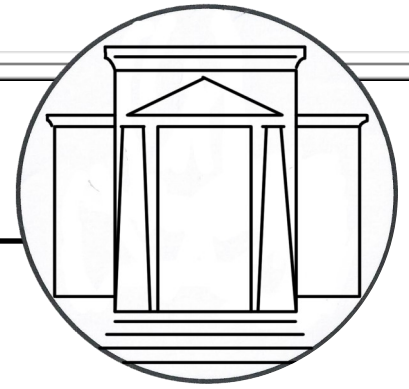
Tour the Jerusalem temple.

10 min.

- † Internet-connected devices

### Prayer

# *God's Story @ Home*



## *Introduction (10 minutes)*

### *My Home*

Draw our homes.

#### *Supplies:*

- † Paper
- † Markers or crayons

#### *Instructions:*

1. Take a few minutes to each draw a picture of your home. Make sure to include details that are important to why this place is home to you.
2. Once everyone has finished their drawings, take turns describing your drawing to each other. Make sure you point out what you like the most about your home, and what makes it feel like home to you.
3. In our story today, we will hear about a man who wants to build a house for God, but God has other plans for him.



## *Learning the Story (10 minutes)*

### *Building a House*

Hear the story while building.

#### *Supplies:*

- † Bible
- † Building blocks

#### *Preparation:*

1. Set out a pile of building blocks.

#### *Instructions:*

1. **Get comfortable in your seats to listen to today's story. You might want to close your eyes to imagine what the scene you are hearing might look like.**  
Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17 aloud. Read slowly and as dramatically as possible.
2. **The next time I read this story, each person will silently build a big, fancy house. Today's lesson is about when David became aware of the fact that he had a beautiful house, but the Ark of the Covenant remained in a tent. David wanted to build a house for the Lord. What would that house look like? Use your creativity and imagination.**
3. Read aloud a second time, while people build their houses. After reading, invite everyone to look at each other's creations.
4. Together, discuss the following questions:
  - **What was David's plan?** *[To build a house for the Lord.] Was this the Lord's plan?* *[No. The Lord said that David's son would build the house.]*
  - **The Lord also wants to build a "house" for David, but this word is used in a different way. What is the "house" that the Lord will build?** *[This house will be the descendants and kingdom of David, which will remain forever.]*
  - **Why do you think God does not want David to build a house at this time?**
  - **What part of God's promise to David speaks to you most strongly? Why?**



5. If there is time, discuss:
  - **Have you ever experienced someone making a promise to you that is much bigger than the promise you could make to them?**
  - **How do you think David felt about God's big promise to him?**
6. **God made David a promise that is much bigger than what David could ever do for God. Even though David's promise to build a home for the Lord was honorable, God had bigger plans than David could ever imagine!**

## *Activity (10 minutes)*

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### *What's in a Home (10 minutes)*

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Learn about ministry to those experiencing homelessness.

#### *Supplies:*

- † Optional: Internet-connected devices

#### *Preparation:*

1. Do some research on local ministries that serve people without homes. Each community differs in what it offers, but there are some large-scale ministries that might be a good place to begin, such as Family Promise (<http://familypromise.org/affiliate-map/>).
2. Prepare information to share with the group. Research work your congregation already does with homeless ministries, if applicable.
3. The website hyperlink is provided for your convenience and is correct and relevant at the time of publication but may not be at the time of use.

#### *Instructions:*

1. **David was concerned that God did not have a home. As a church, we are concerned about people who do not have homes.**
2. Discuss what you discovered about your congregation's work with homeless ministries. Share information gleaned from your research of local ministries, or search together online.
3. Discuss the following questions:
  - **What do you think our church's responsibility is to care for people without homes?**
  - **How do you think we can become (more) involved in ministry serving people without homes?**
  - **Brainstorm an activity or a way that our family can serve in this ministry together. What would be an appropriate way for people of all ages to serve together?**

## *Activity (10 minutes)*

### *Houses of Worship (10 minutes)*

Touring the Jerusalem temple.

#### *Supplies:*

- † Internet-connected devices

#### *Preparation:*

1. Share links to the websites below. Alternatively, search online for virtual tours of the temple in Jerusalem and images of worship places around the world, and use your findings.
2. Website hyperlinks are provided for your convenience and are correct and relevant at the time of publication but may not be at the time of use.

#### *Instructions:*

1. **David did not end up building a house for God, but his son, Solomon, did. This website shows a digital depiction of what the temple in Jerusalem may have looked like in Jesus' time:** <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/475745539-judaism/ancient-jerusalem-and-second-temple-world-religions-judaism/>.
2. Take a virtual tour through the temple.
3. **People of different faiths, in different parts of the world have been building temples, churches, and other houses of worship for ages. Let's look at some of them, and see how they compare to one another.**
4. Show images from some or all of the following web pages.
  - <http://www.architecturaldigest.com/gallery/houses-of-worship-around-the-world>
  - <http://bahaiblog.net/site/2011/04/21-stunning-photos-of-bahai-houses-of-worship/>
  - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/galleries/worship/>
5. Discuss:
  - **How are these houses of worship similar to the temple built by Solomon and to each other? How is our place of worship similar?**
  - **How are they each different?**
  - **Which do you like the best?**

## *Prayer*

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Make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

**People have built homes for God since the beginning of time; but churches, synagogues, mosques, and other places of worship are not the only places we can go to worship God. Let's name some of the other places where we worship God. Allow time for participation. Let us pray.**

**Eternal God,**

**You have always kept your promises to us, even when we have not kept our promises to you. We thank you for your faithfulness and for your forgiveness. We especially thank you today for places of worship. We thank you for our home, and we ask for your protection of those people who do not have homes. Use us to serve your vulnerable people, and to care for those who are homeless. Amen.**

If you have the “Living the Word: Sharing God’s Story @ Home” sheet, remember to use it throughout the week as a part of your family devotions!