

# The View From Above

## Week 8: God Promises a King

### Lesson Summary

In this week's lesson we are going to study King David, and how he is the type of king that the people truly needed. David was a king who loved God, and He led the nation of Israel to love God too. David was an imperfect person like all of us, but God, in His faithfulness, decided to make a covenant with David. God promised to never leave David, and He promised that someone from his family line would always be on the throne. This will apply to his sons in the near future, but this promise is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ. That is where we want to take our kids today. We will talk about God's promise to David, and we will talk about how that promise is fulfilled in Jesus.

This week's activity is aimed to reinforce the idea that God provided a temporary king to lead His people, and God's promise to David points to and is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

### Activity

We will be creating a Family Mobile that will illustrate how the promises made to Abraham and to David point to Jesus. The Family Mobile will contain a star to represent God's covenant to Abraham, a crown to represent God's covenant to David, and a cross to represent the promises' fulfillment in Jesus. You will cut out the pieces from the Family Mobile sheet, and attach them to the clothes hanger. Invite the kids to color on the cut outs as well. Supplies are: Family Mobile handout (attached), 1 clothes hanger per kid, scissors, string or yarn (3 per kid), hole punch, and marker or pen.

#### Big Idea

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to David

#### Memory Verse

2 Samuel 7:16

### Lesson Agenda

Intro: 5 minutes

Bible Reading: 10 minutes

Explain: 10 minutes

Activity: 20 minutes

Discussion Questions: 10 minutes

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### Lesson Script

#### **Explain:**

This week we get to talk about King David, and the promise that God made with him. If you remember, last week we talked about the story of the book of Judges and how the people had a need for a king. Without that leadership they were stuck in this downward spiral of rebellion, punishment, asking God for help, deliverance, and then back to rebellion. Because God knew His people needed a king he appointed Saul first, and then David second. Saul wasn't the greatest king, but David was the kind of king that the Israelites really needed.

To begin, I want to talk about who David is. I want to talk about who he is and where David came from, because that is significant. First, David was the youngest of 8 siblings. Jesse, David's dad, had a lot of sons, and as the youngest son he was the forgotten one. David's 7 older brothers were soldiers in Israel's army, and as the youngest brother David was given the job of shepherd. While his brothers were out fighting for their people David stayed home and tended to the families' flock of sheep. Taking care of sheep is really hard work, so David benefitted from his experiences working with sheep and that helped him get ready to be king.

One day, the prophet Samuel was sent by God to Jesse's house because God wanted to appoint the next king. Saul wasn't the best king of Israel, and God wanted to appoint the next king, the one who would lead God's people back to God. So, Samuel shows up to Jesse's house because God was going to pick one of Jesse's sons. Conventional wisdom would suggest that one of the older brothers with experience in the army would be the choice, but no. The one that God picked was in fact David; the youngest brother, the shepherd, the least expected of all of them. God had chosen the next king that was going to lead His people.

Once David is established as the king of Israel he wanted to do something nice for God. David looked around at the nice house that the king lived in and saw that God lived in a tent (the tabernacle.) David loved God, and wanted to do something nice for God out of gratitude and worship. David wanted to build God a great big house (temple), but God had other plans. Instead of David building God a house, God decided to make a promise to David, his family, and his household.

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### Lesson Script

Let's read 2 Samuel 7:11b-16

God said to David, "I will preserve your house, your family, forever. Your son (Solomon) will be the one that builds me a temple, but I will make sure that your throne will be established forever."

God made a promise to David that a member of his family, his bloodline, would be on the throne of the king of Israel forever. Whoa...that's quite the promise! But, what does that mean?

God's promise to David showed itself to be true immediately. When David eventually died his sons carried on leadership of Israel, and that carried on for a few generations. But, was this the real emphasis of God's promise? Did God just want there to be David's sons, grandsons, great-grandsons, and great-nephews on the throne or was there something else that God had in mind when he promised David that he would establish his throne forever? I think there is something much bigger going on, and it all points to Jesus. You see, Jesus was a descendant of David. If you look at Jesus' family tree through many generations he is a descendant of King David. When God said that He would make sure someone from his family would be on the throne forever he meant it! God's promise was certainly about having David's descendants on the throne, but it couldn't be just about having David's blood-lines on the throne because there is still so much evil in the world. The people of Israel needed a king to rule but they also needed someone to lead them in their battles against sin and evil.

Many of David's descendants disobeyed God and they led the people astray, so while their butts were on the throne they weren't really doing a good job on fighting sin and evil. There had to be a Better and True king that would finally defeat evil and rule forever. David did a much better job while he was king than anyone else, but he was imperfect like the rest of us. We need a perfect king to rule forever and to defeat sin forever.

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This is where the story gets exciting. Jesus is the one that God's promise to David was talking about the whole time. Jesus is God's promise fulfilled. When Jesus was born, lived the perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead, ascended to heaven he defeated sin and evil for good, and established himself as the True King who will rule forever. In Jesus, God's promise to David was fulfilled. Jesus is the king, and God's promise to David points to a True King that will rule forever and defeat sin and evil. Jesus is our savior and our king!

### **Discussion Questions:**

What do you think made David a good choice to be king of Israel?

What did God promise David?

How does God's promise to David point to Jesus?

Imagine that you were David. How would you have reacted to God making this promise to you?

What does it mean for Jesus to be our king?



