

date: **2/4/18****Bible Passage: 2 Samuel 2; 5—7**
(King David)

God Is Sovereign

REMEMBER VERSE

How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you.

Psalm 31:19

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

It was 4:20 p.m. on a Friday, and I was on my way to my wedding rehearsal when my phone rang. “Drive to the courthouse,” my dad said. “You need a marriage license.” What? How could I have forgotten this detail? The courthouse was at least half an hour away and closed at 5 p.m. I burst into tears.

Our family and friends arrived at the church for the rehearsal and went through the motions of the ceremony without us. Everyone except my dad, who was outside pacing and praying we would make it to the courthouse on time. As he prayed, we drove frantically toward the courthouse. I was crying, my fiancé was speeding, and my maid of honor was trying to bribe a courthouse staffer to keep it open. The courthouse was actually to close at 4:30 p.m., no exceptions. That was half an hour earlier than we had thought!

It was 4:40 p.m. when we finally arrived. Fortunately, my dad’s assistant was there already. She had filled out the paperwork and begged the county recorder to stay open and let us in. At 4:44 p.m. (a minute before the computers shut down), we raised our hands, took our oaths, and signed the marriage license.

When we arrived at the church, everyone cheered and hugged us. My dad said it was a miracle the courthouse stayed open. In the 30 years he had been an attorney, it had never stayed open past closing time. It was also a miracle that his secretary just happened to be in the area of the courthouse and was able to help.

In this situation, God was in control of the traffic, the courthouse, the whereabouts of my dad’s secretary, and the recorder’s computers. God was completely sovereign, and it was only through His power, over everything, that we obtained the license. In the grand scheme of things, this was very small ... but it was important to me. I will never fully understand, but I will praise Him for His love again and again.

Tori Funkhouser
TruStory Team

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

In 2 Samuel 7:2, David said, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.” David was so overcome with love and respect for the God who had given him and his people rest from their enemies that he wanted to give God a gift of gratitude: a house for Him to dwell in. Though God approved of David’s intentions, He did not allow David to build a house for Him. Instead, God promised something amazing: Christ, the Savior, would come through David’s family line!

2 Samuel 7 describes God’s covenant with David. Although the word “covenant” doesn’t appear in this passage, David uses it many times in the psalms to describe the experience in 2 Samuel. For instance, in Psalm 89:3–4, David says: “You said, ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, “I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.””

This passage also uses the word “house” multiple times to describe many different concepts, including dynasty, bloodline, kingdom, an actual house, and a temple. God fulfilled this promise to David. His son Solomon built a temple (or a house) for the Lord for Him to dwell in. Also, David’s house, or kingdom, continued even when the kingdom of Israel split and the kingdom of Judah remained. Most importantly, Christ came from David’s family line through Joseph. David’s descendant, Jesus Christ, will one day establish His kingdom on earth.

Through God’s covenant with David, we see God’s plan was far-reaching, masterfully crafted, and motivated by love. We know this because Christ’s life, death, and resurrection fulfilled God’s covenant with David.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word

As you think about God’s covenants, what comes to mind? The covenants can be somewhat confusing to us, but they’re such important, beautiful parts of The Big God Story.

Spend time reading 2 Samuel 7 and think for a moment about what this covenant means to you personally. How does it make you feel to know God gave David this covenant with the knowledge that Jesus would fulfill it? How does it make you feel to know Jesus isn’t just the fulfillment of this covenant but also your personal Savior—your personal Good Shepherd?

After you’ve spent some time meditating on God’s use of covenants in Scripture, spend time praying for your children. Pray they will begin to comprehend God’s sovereign plan—how masterful, beautiful, and loving it is—and how they are a part of it. Pray they see God as the Shepherd King, the One who controls everything in the universe and loves them like a nurturing caretaker.

SMALL GROUP

SECTION

EXPLORE// 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.

God chose David to be the next king of Israel, and, at a young age, David was anointed to be king. But more than 15 years passed before David could take the throne. It must have seemed like God was taking a long time to fulfill His promise! But David trusted that God has power over everything and that God would fulfill His promise at just the right time. Today's activities require trust—trust that someone will come through for you at just the right time.

Lean on Me**SUPPLIES**

- Optional: pillows or floor pads

SET UP

Clear a space in the room where the children will form a circle. Optional: Place pillows or floor pads on the floor in the middle of the space.

RELATE

Have kids form a circle. (Optional: If you're using pillows or floor pads, have kids form the circle around the outside of those items.) Invite one volunteer to stand in the middle of the circle and perform a trust fall, with you catching him. Have the child face away from you while you face the child with your arms extended. Encourage the child to keep his body straight and fall back into your arms while saying, "I trust you." Catch the child as he begins to fall and then stand him up. Make sure everyone gets a chance to fall.

LARGE GROUP

SECTION

DISCOVER// 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.

Traditions and Remember Verse

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse image (see Resources)
- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)

RELATE

Give the children mementos (such as rocks, marbles, or blocks) for accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse or bringing their Bibles. Have them put the objects into a clear container or add them to a structure, and celebrate when it's complete.

This week's Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you. Psalm 31:19

Connect

Encourage the members of your community to get to know one another through engaging questions, energizing games, and creative activities.

Question

What is one thing in your life you would like to control if you could?

The Big God Story

Bible Passage: 2 Samuel 2; 5—7

Storytelling Technique: Props and Images

God Is Sovereign

SUPPLIES

- Timeline image (see Resources)
- Images: Ark of the Covenant, Ephod (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Plastic bin (large)
- Crown (homemade paper or plastic)
- Robe (purple)
- Toy sword or scepter
- Oil (bottle or jug)
- Chair (large) or "throne"

PREPARE AHEAD

Search the Internet for a few facts about kings: what countries have kings today, who was the youngest king ever, etc.

SET UP

Put the crown, toy sword or scepter, purple robe, and bottle or jug of oil in the bin. Place the large chair or “throne” in the center of the stage.

RELATE

Lead children in a Prayer of Release **to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds. What do you know about kings?** As kids respond, pull crown, robe, and sword or scepter out of bin. Put on the crown and robe and hold the sword. Sit on the large chair or throne. **What’s a good king like?** Allow responses. **Great thoughts. Good kings care about their people. They lead, guide, and protect their people. Also, kings are sovereign.** Invite kids to say, “sovereign” with you. **Sovereign means having complete power, authority, and control over someone or something.**

If you’ve ever seen a king, tell the kids about it, or share any facts you found on the Internet about kings. Then stand up and place the crown and sword on the throne. **God was victorious over the giant Philistine warrior Goliath. He used David, who was just a young boy at the time, to kill Goliath with a simple slingshot and a small stone. That young boy would one day become the king of Israel. God worked through David’s life to show the people that God is sovereign. He is in control of everything!** Invite kids to say, “sovereign” with you.

As a young boy, David was anointed in a special ceremony to be the king of Israel. But at the time, there was already another king—Saul. But even when Saul died, David still wasn’t allowed to be king! One of Saul’s sons thought that he should be king. It makes sense, right? David wasn’t one of Saul’s sons, and only the priest, Samuel, and David’s brothers had seen David anointed as king.

David chose to trust that God was sovereign. What does *sovereign* mean? Allow responses. **Good thoughts. David took his family to a place named Hebron. Have kids look up 2 Samuel 2:4 and follow along. There the rulers of Judah “anointed David king over the tribe of Judah.” To anoint something means to smear it with oil. Take bottle of oil and pretend to pour it over your head or the head of one of the kids. Oil represented God’s Spirit. If you remember, David was anointed king as a young boy, so when he was anointed at Hebron, this was the second time he’d been anointed with oil to be king. But still he wouldn’t become king just yet!**

As David waited, war broke out within the country over who would be the next king of Israel. After seven years, the people of Israel finally decided they wanted David to be their king. All the elders of the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and anointed him as king (2 Samuel 5:3). How many times was David anointed? Allow responses. Yes, three times! About 15 years passed from the first time David was anointed to the last time. God could have made David the king sooner because He is God and He is sovereign. Invite kids to say, “sovereign” with you. But God was in control, and He knew exactly when He wanted David to become king.

As king, David put God first, so David decided to go get the ark of the covenant. Tech: Cue Ark of the Covenant image. You might remember that the ark of the covenant was a wooden chest that held the Ten Commandments. But this was no ordinary box. It was the place where God met with His people. It represented God’s presence and blessing to them. When the ark led them into battle, the people knew that God was there, fighting their battles. Other nations also knew that it meant that God was with them. They were afraid to fight against Israel because of the ark.

So when the ark fell into enemy hands, God’s people were devastated. But when David had the chance to bring the ark to Jerusalem, the people were overjoyed! And as they travelled back to Jerusalem, they stopped every six steps to worship the Lord. Wow!

Let's see what happened when David and his men arrived in Jerusalem with the ark. Invite kids to turn to 2 Samuel 6:14. **“Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might.” An ephod (Tech: Cue Ephod image) was kind of like an apron men wore over their clothes.** Remove your purple robe and place it on the throne. **In fact, David's dancing looked more like leaping.** Leap a few times. **David showed the people how to worship God freely and with a joyful heart.**

God had made David king, just as He had promised. God had won battles for David against his enemies. God had also brought back the ark of the covenant to Israel. David was so overjoyed by what God had done for him throughout his life that he wanted to build a temple to honor God. But this wasn't God's plan for David.

Instead, God made a covenant with David. What's a covenant? Allow responses. **A covenant is a very special promise, and when God makes a promise, He keeps it! God promised that David's family line would last forever.** Invite children to turn to 2 Samuel 7:14, 16 and follow along. **God said, “I will be his father, and he will be my son ... Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.” How do you think David's family line would last forever? Who do you think that king would be—this Son of God, whose kingdom would last forever?** Allow responses. **That's right! It would be Jesus Christ! Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, and Jesus' mother, Mary, came from the family line of King David. David's family line will last forever because Jesus will reign as the sovereign King forever! What does this show us about God?** Pause for responses.

Have kids look up and read Matthew 28:18. **Every part of The Big God Story points to Jesus. Jesus chose to come to earth and die on the cross for our sins so we can be forgiven and live forever with Him. This was all a part of God's plan and His promise to David. We can trust God because He is faithful to keep His promises, and David's life gives us an example of God's goodness and His sovereignty. God loves us, keeps His promises, and is always sovereign.** Share a personal story about God as sovereign in your life.

SMALL GROUP SECTION

RESPOND// 15 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.

Reflect: God Is Sovereign

Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

Questions for Younger Kids

- How does it make you feel to know that God is your King?
- What is a covenant?
- What did God promise King David through His covenant? 2 Samuel 7:11–16
- How did God fulfill His promise? Matthew 1:1–17
- How does it make you feel to know that God always keeps His promises?

Questions for Older Kids

- **What is a covenant?**
- **Who were some other people with whom God made covenants?** Genesis 9:1, 15; 15:1; 2 Samuel 7:18
- **What did God promise David through His covenant?** 2 Samuel 7:11–16
- **How are we a part of God’s covenant with David?** Matthew 1:1–17; John 1:12
- **What does the word *sovereign* mean?**
- **How does it make you feel to know that God is in control of everything?**
- **How does it make you feel to know God keeps His promises?**

BLESS// 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES

- HomeFront Weekly: Lesson 10 (see Resources)
- Bible

RELATE

As you bless your kids, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share the joy and love they have received from God.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up. Then open a Bible and read Ephesians 1:16–23:

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Now bless each child individually by putting a hand on his shoulder and saying, (Child’s name), **may you trust that God is sovereign over everything that happens in your life this week.**

Finally, bless the entire group with the following:

May you know God as your all-powerful King—the One who is seated in the heavenly realms, far above all earthly rulers.