

Message Discussion Guide

THE PROMISE OF A KINGDOM

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

May 9, 2010

2 Samuel 7

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Invite learners to respond to the following question: When you are struggling in life and in trusting God, what do you cling to in your faith?

After several learners have responded, explain that today we will see how God has always demonstrated His faithfulness to us from the beginning of time.

Option 2

Encourage learners to give an honest description of how the Old Testament has influenced their faith. After several minutes, explain that today we will explore God's Old Testament covenants with His people and how Jesus (the center of our faith) is the ultimate fulfillment of them.

Review the Message . . .

The Different Covenants...

- Adam: The covenant of creation.
- Noah: The covenant of preservation.
- Abraham: The covenant of promise.
- Moses: The covenant of law.
- David: The covenant of the kingdom.

The Davidic Kingdom...

- God's People...
 - A continual seed will endure.
 - An honored son will reign.
- In God's Place...
 - A place where they will enjoy God's rest.
 - A place where they will encounter God's glory.
- For God's Purpose.
 - To redeem a chosen people.
 - To extol the incomparable God.

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- Nations will come to the temple and _____ behold _____ God's greatness.

Discussion

- Enlist several learners to look up Genesis 3:15, Genesis 8:20-22, Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 19:4-6, and 2 Samuel 7:8-16 and to read them in order aloud. Explain that each of these covenants was a continual reminder of God's covenant relationship with His people.
- How did these covenants continue to reveal God's ultimate plan for His people?
- How does 2 Samuel 7:9-13 continue to fulfill God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, 17:6?
- What time frame does God set up to continue His promise of a chosen people to Abraham through David?
- How does God's covenant with David promise a lasting kingdom to the one promised to Abraham?
- Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20. Why was God so exact in His outline for an earthly king for His people? How was the line of anointed kings from David intended to be God's representative and mediator to His people?
- How does 2 Samuel 7:14 continue to fulfill God's promise to Moses in Exodus 6:6-7? How does the Law given to Moses continue to be a standard within God's covenant with David?
- How does 2 Samuel 7:22-24 continue to fulfill God's promise to show Himself faithful to the nations as promised in Exodus 8:10, 9:14? What was the purpose of these covenants?
- How was God's glory shown to the nations during the time of these covenants?

Application . . .

- What can we learn about God's character from His covenants with His people?
- What can we learn about God's character from His continual fulfillment of His covenants with His people?
- Knowing that God's people did nothing to deserve or initiate God's relationship with them, how does that affect how we view God's care for us?
- Considering that the purpose of God's Old Testament covenants with His people, what is the purpose of our relationship with Him?
- How do we often make ourselves the center of our relationship with Christ? Why?
- How would our lives look different if God and His Glory were the center and purpose of our relationship with Him?

Defective Kings...

- Sin's Anatomy...
 - It appears so _____ subtly _____.

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- It harms so deeply.
- It controls so quickly.
- It devastates so painfully.
- Sin's Tragedy...
 - The defiance of God.
 - The destruction of men.

Discussion

- Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27. What started the line of sinfulness in David's family?
- What were the immediate results of David's sin?
- How did this sin contradict God's outline for a king in Deuteronomy 17:14-20?
- Remind learners that this sinfulness began a time of incredible pain in Israel and within the house of David spanning murder among brothers, incest/rape, mutiny, and national tension (2 Samuel 12-24). How did David's sin affect an entire nation?
- Enlist a learner to read Psalm 51. Who did David say that he ultimately sinned against? What was the greatest result of his sin against God?

Application . . .

- How did David's sin begin?
- What line of defense can we set up to avoid temptation altogether and also to avoid sinning in the face of temptation?
- Are there any sins that only affect us?
- Why do we rarely consider the effect of sin on our relationship with God?
- How have we become desensitized to sin?
- Why must we hate sin as God does?

The Divine King...

- God's People...
 - Jesus came from the seed of David.
 - Jesus came as the son of God.
- In God's place...
 - In Christ, we find our rest.
 - In Christ, we see His glory.
- For God's purpose...
 - To save a chosen people.
 - To exalt the incomparable God.
 - The temple now goes to the nations to declare God's greatness.

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- Enlist two learners to read Luke 1:26-33, 67-75 and 2:8-11. How did Jesus fulfill God's covenant with David?
- Read Acts 2:29-36. How is Jesus greater than David? How did God's covenant with David point to the new covenant with Christ?
- How did Jesus' death provide a final covenant with God's people?
- Enlist two learners to read Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 15:16-17. How is the glory of God made known to the nations in this new covenant?
- How is God's character demonstrated in the faithful way He continued His covenant with His people, despite their sin and disregard for their part of the covenant?

Application . . .

- How is our relationship with Christ connected to the old covenants that God made with His people in the Old Testament?
- How does this connection affect how we view the Christmas story? What is it truly a story of?
- How do we rest in Christ as the fulfillment of God's covenant with His people?
- What is our purpose as God's covenant people?
- What is our continued responsibility as God's covenant people?