

Small Group Guide – Week 18 The Promise of a Kingdom

The Church at Brook Hills

May 3-9, 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.

2 Samuel 7 – God promises David an everlasting Kingdom, and David responds with praise.

This is the explanation of the Davidic covenant, which is the last major covenant we have seen since Moses and will see until the new covenant is prophesied and then fulfilled in Christ. God promises to bless David's line and to establish His Name forever through David's line. David responds in praise to God for His blessing upon him. This chapter is the theological climax of the books of Samuel and is an extremely important chapter in Old Testament history and the overall story of redemption.

Study the Text . . .

David desires to build a Temple for the Lord (7:1-3).

This aspiration arose after Hiram's stonemasons and carpenters built David's palace (cf. 5:11), and David was at rest from his enemies. Israel is experiencing peace, the ark of the covenant is now in Jerusalem (in a tent), and David is enjoying his new cedar palace. All these events lead David to decide God needs a proper dwelling place.

- During peace, how does David respond? To what or whom, does he turn his attention?
- Who is Nathan the prophet? What role will he play in David's life?
- Does Nathan seek the Lord before responding to David's request?

Group Discussion . . .

- How do you respond during peaceful times? In crisis, we tend to cry out to the Lord, but when we are at rest where do we turn our attention?
- When you have a great idea for how to exalt God, do you just do it? Or do you first consult Scripture and your small group to discern if it is God's desire?

Study the Text . . .

The Lord makes eternal promises to the House of David (7:4-17).

This revelation is the climax of David's life. Through this pronouncement David is made the founder of the only royal line God will establish forever, and he becomes the standard by which his descendants will be judged. Furthermore, this covenant will become the center of hope for the messages of the prophets in later generations, and these promises are the foundation for the messianic expectations that are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

- Is God bothered that he does not have a temple?

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- What is God's point by reminding David of God's hand on his life (vv. 8-9)? Read 1 Samuel 16:13; James 4:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19. Is it possible that God is not concerned about a temple made with hands because he is building a temple inside David?
- Verse 11b, God promises to make David a "house." What kind of house is God going to build for David?
- Does Jesus fulfill all of the promises God makes to David? Can you find the fulfillment of these promises in the New Testament? Are any of these promises not fulfilled yet?

Group Discussion . . .

- What does it mean that Christians become a living temple to the Lord? Was David a temple to the Lord the same way Christ-followers are a temple to the Lord?
- God notes that his people have been afflicted (vv. 10-11), but he says that he will give them rest from their enemies. Today, we face hardships, difficult times and even persecution. Where is our hope? Where are we to fix our eyes?
- Verses 14-15 speak of the relationship between a father and a son and discipline? Describe a father-son relationship? How do love and discipline exist together? Does God discipline Christians for sin? If so, how does he discipline his children?
- How does Christ fulfill the promises in this text?

Study the Text . . .

David Praises the Lord (7:18-29).

David responds to God's declaration by going into the tent (tabernacle) sitting before the ark of the covenant (the footstool of God's throne) and praising God. This response provides a model for all who receive unmerited blessing from God.

- How does David begin? How does he speak of himself? How does he speak of God?
- How many times does David refer to himself as servant? Why respond in this manner instead of referring to himself as the king of God's people?
- How does David praise God? What does he say about God? Does he talk about himself?

Group Discussion . . .

- What promises has God made to each of us? How often do you praise God for the promises he has made to you? How often do we praise God as a body of believers?
- If David's prayer is a model, how do we praise God?
- Read Psalm 33. What does this psalm teach us about praising God?
- If you were to write a prayer of praise, how would you write it? Consider writing a prayer or song of praise to God together as a group.