

Open Bible Stories - God's Covenant with David

Introduction

Key Idea

The story of God's covenant with David teaches us about God's promise to send his Messiah to rule his people forever.

Core Belief Verse

"And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised." Acts 13:22-23"

God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham. He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But, God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

God sent judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

God made a covenant with the Israelites and made them his people.

God tested Israel in a series of wilderness wanderings and eventually brought his people into the promised land of Canaan.

God raised up deliverers to lead Israel and rescue them from their enemies.

God formed Israel into a kingdom. He made a covenant with King David and promised to send a king that would rule his people forever.

The Story: God's Covenant with David

17-01



Saul was the first king of Israel. He was tall and handsome, just like the people wanted. Saul was a good king for the first few years that he ruled over Israel. But then he became a wicked man who did not obey God, so God chose a different man who would one day be king in his place.



God chose a young Israelite named David and began to prepare him to one day become king after Saul. David was a shepherd from the town of Bethlehem. At different times, David killed both a lion and a bear that attacked his father's sheep while David was watching them. David was a humble and righteous man. He trusted and obeyed God.



When David was still a young man, he fought against a giant named Goliath. Goliath was a very good soldier. He was very strong and about three meters tall! But God helped David kill Goliath and save Israel. After that, David won many victories over Israel's enemies. David became a great soldier, and he led Israel's army in many battles. The people praised him very much.



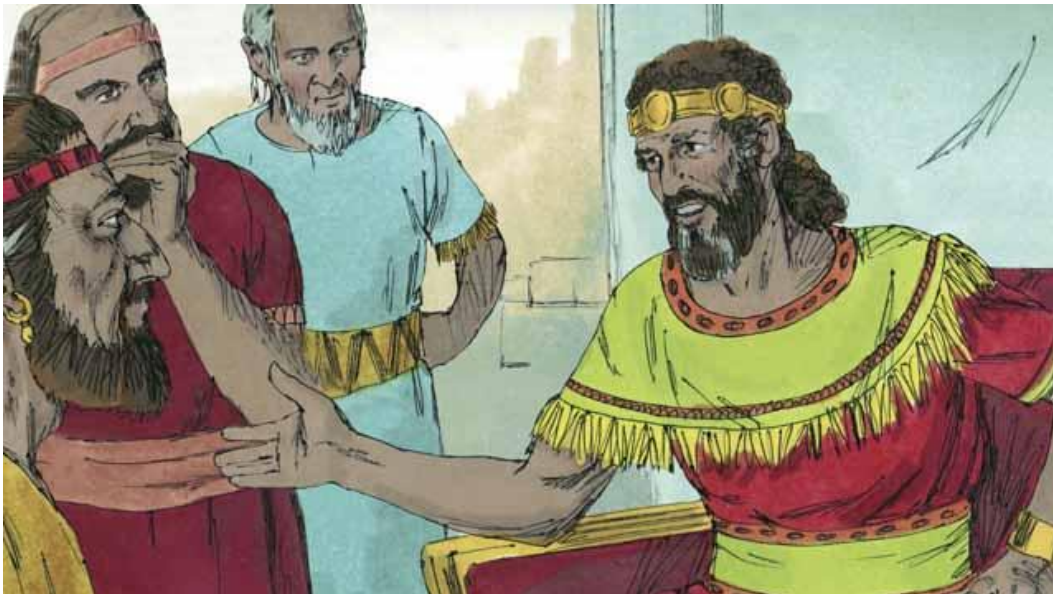
The people loved David so much that King Saul became jealous of him. Finally Saul wanted to kill him, so David ran away into the wilderness to hide from him and his soldiers. One day when Saul and his soldiers were looking for him, Saul went into a cave. It was the same cave that David was hiding in, but Saul did not see him. David went up very close behind Saul and cut off a piece of his clothing. Later, after Saul left the cave, David shouted to him to look at the cloth he was holding. In this way, Saul knew that David refused to kill him to become king.

17-05



Some time later, Saul died in battle, and David became king of Israel. He was a good king, and the people loved him. God blessed David and made him successful. David fought many battles, and God helped him defeat Israel's enemies. David conquered the city of Jerusalem and made it his capital city, where he lived and ruled. David was king for 40 years. During this time, Israel became powerful and wealthy.

17-06

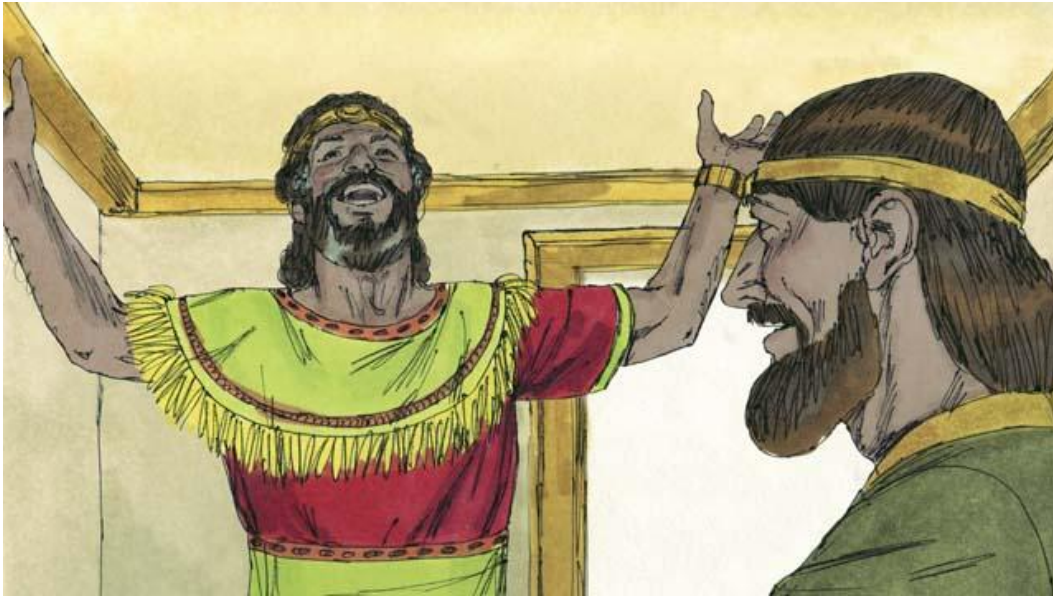


David wanted to build a temple where all the Israelites could worship God and offer him sacrifices. For about 400 years, the people had been worshiping God and offering sacrifices to him at the Tent of Meeting that Moses had made.



But there was a prophet named Nathan. God sent him to tell David this: "You have fought in many wars, so you will not build this Temple for me. Your son will build it. But still, I will greatly bless you. One of your descendants will rule as king over my people forever!" The only descendant of David who could rule forever was the Messiah. The Messiah was God's Chosen One who would save the people of the world from their sin.

17-08



When David heard Nathan's message, he thanked God and praised him. God was honoring him and giving him many blessings. Of course, David did not know when God would do these things. We know now that the Israelites would have to wait a long time before the Messiah came, almost 1,000 years.

17-09



David ruled his people justly for many years. He obeyed God faithfully, and God blessed him. However, in his later years, he sinned greatly against God.

17-10



One day, David looked out from his palace and saw a beautiful woman bathing. He did not know her, but he found out that her name was Bathsheba.

17-11



Instead of looking away, David sent someone to bring her to him. He slept with her and sent her back home. A short time later, Bathsheba sent a message to David saying that she was pregnant.



Bathsheba's husband was a man named Uriah. He was one of David's best soldiers. He was away fighting in a war at this time. David called Uriah back from the battle and told him to go be with his wife. But Uriah refused to go home while the rest of the soldiers were in battle. So David sent Uriah back to the battle and told the general to place him where the enemy was strongest so that he would be killed. This is what happened: Uriah died in battle.



After Uriah died in the war, David married Bathsheba. Later, she gave birth to David's son. God was very angry about what David had done, so he sent the prophet Nathan to tell David how evil his sin was. David repented of his sin and God forgave him. For the rest of his life, David followed and obeyed God, even in difficult times.



But David's baby boy died. This is how God punished David. Also, until David died, some members of his own family rebelled against him, and David lost much power. But God was faithful and still did what he had promised David he would do for him, even though David had disobeyed him. Later, David and Bathsheba had another son, and they named him Solomon.

A Bible story from: 1 Samuel 10; 15-19; 24; 31; 2 Samuel 5; 7; 11-12

Taught in Jesus - Putting on the New Self

- **Key Idea:** understanding the process of Christian formation
- **Key Passage:** Ephesians 4:17-24
- **Main Session:** OBS 17 (God's Covenant with David)

Sing a Song (3-5 minutes)

God makes incredible promises to his people. Choose a song that praises God for his great and amazing promises. Sing this song together and celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness.

Recite the Core Belief Verse (3-5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.
Acts 13:22-23

OR

They will wage war against the Lamb. But the Lamb will conquer them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings - and with him are the called ones, the chosen ones, and the faithful ones. Revelation 17:14

Think About Your Culture (5 minutes)

Jesus is the King who is more powerful than all other kings. God promised that he would send Jesus as King when God made a covenant with David. As Christians, we serve Jesus as the greatest King. Think about what it means to live under Jesus' authority.

Because we serve Jesus as King, this means...

Read the Passage (5 minutes)

Because Jesus is King, Christians are commanded to follow Jesus' teachings. It can take time for Christians to learn how to live their new lives in Jesus. Read the passage below to understand what it means to live a life that follows Jesus.

17 Therefore, I say and insist on this in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their hearts. 19 They have no shame and have handed themselves over to sensuality, and they are continually practicing every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not how you learned about Christ. 21 I assume that you have heard about him, and that you were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus. 22 You were taught to put off what belongs to your former manner of life, to put off the old man. It is the old man that is corrupt because of its deceitful desires. 23 You were taught to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the

new man that is created in the image of God - in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:17-24

Explore the Idea (10-15 minutes)

When Christians follow Jesus, they surrender their whole lives to Jesus' authority. This means that Christians reject their old way of life and start living in a way that pleases God. After reading the passage above, use the following questions to help your community discuss biblical teaching on personal life transformation.

1. How does this passage instruct us to follow Jesus?
2. How does this passage explain a process of transformation? How do Christians change the way they live their lives?
3. What areas of your life does Jesus want you to change? What does Jesus want you to stop? What does Jesus want you to start?
4. How can you apply the principles of this passage to experience change in your own life?
5. Why is it important for your community to practice these principles of personal life transformation?

Share Your Story (10 minutes)

Think about what it looks like to be made new in Jesus. Celebrate the ways that God has made you a new person in Christ.

Because I believe in Jesus, God is making me into a new person that is like this...

Pray to God (5 minutes)

Pray for members of your community to experience a change in how they live their lives. Ask that God would keep them from living like the world and to continue living in a way that pleases Christ.

Movement 1: Understand the Story

Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.

Observation Questions

17-01

Who was the first king of Israel and what was he like?

Saul was the first king of Israel; Saul was tall and handsome just like people wanted.

Was Saul, the first king of Israel, a good king or a wicked king?

Saul was good for the first few years, but then he became wicked and did not obey God.

What happened to Saul's kingdom?

Because Saul disobeyed God, God chose a different man to replace Saul as king.

17-02

Who did God choose to be king to replace Saul?

God chose a young Israelite named David to be king in Saul's place.

What was David's occupation before he became king?

David was a shepherd who took care of sheep.

How did David defend the sheep under his care?

David killed a lion and bear that attacked his father's sheep.

What was David like?

David was a humble and righteous man who trusted and obeyed God.

17-03

Who did David fight against while he was a young man?

When David was still a young man, he fought against a giant named Goliath.

Why was it so amazing that David was able to kill Goliath?

Goliath was a very tall, very strong trained soldier wearing battle gear.

David was a shepherd boy with no weapon but a sling.

Why did the people of Israel praise David?

David won many victories over Israel's enemies and became a great soldier who led Israel's army into many battles.

17-04

What did Saul and the people think about David?

The people loved David but Saul was jealous of David.

What did David do when Saul wanted to kill him?

Saul wanted to kill David and David ran away in the wilderness to hide.

Where did David and Saul meet one day?

One day Saul entered a cave where David was hiding but Saul did not see David.

What did David do when he had a chance to kill Saul in the cave?

David spared Saul and only cut off a piece of his clothes.

What did Saul learn about David from this experience?

Saul knew that David refused to kill him to become king.

17-05

When did David become king of Israel?

David became king of Israel after Saul died in battle.

How did David become so successful?

God blessed David and he was successful. God helped David defeat Israel's enemies in battle.

What was the city that David conquered and then made his capital?

He made Jerusalem his capital.

How long did David rule as king?

David was king for 40 years.

17-06

What did David want to build for God?

David wanted to build a temple where all the Israelites could worship God and offer sacrifices.

Where were the Israelites worshipping God before this time?

For about 400 years, the Israelites were worshipping God in the Tent of Meeting.

17-07

What did the prophet Nathan tell David?

God sent the prophet Nathan to tell David that he would not build the Temple.

Why did God not allow David to build a temple?

David would not build it because he had fought in so many wars.

Who did God say would build the Temple?

David's son would build it.

What was the great promise that God gave to David?

God promised to greatly bless David. God promised that one of David's descendants would rule as king over God's people forever.

What great act would the Messiah do?

He would save the people of the world from their sin.

17-08

What did David do when he heard Nathan's message?

When David heard Nathan's message he thanked and praised God.

What did David not know about God's promises?

God greatly blessed David, but David did not know when God would fulfill his promise for a Messiah.

About long would the Israelites have to wait for God to send the Messiah?

The Israelites would have to wait about 1,000 years for God to send the Messiah.

17-09

How well did David rule the people of Israel?

David ruled justly for many years and obeyed God faithfully. In his later years, David sinned greatly against God.

17-10

Who did David see when he looked out from his palace?

David looked out from his palace and saw a beautiful woman bathing. Her name was Bathsheba.

17-11

What terrible sin did David commit with Bathsheba?

David committed adultery with Bathsheba and sent her back home.

What message did Bathsheba send to David a short time later?

Bathsheba sent a message to David telling him that she was pregnant.

17-12

How did David try to cover up his of making Bathsheba pregnant?

David called Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, back from battle and told him to sleep with his wife.

What did David do when Uriah refused to sleep with his wife?

Uriah refused to sleep with his wife while the rest of the soldiers were in battle. David sent Uriah to tell the general to put him where the fighting was strongest. Uriah died in battle.

17-13

What did David do after Uriah died in battle?

After Uriah died in battle, David married Bathsheba.

What did God think of what David had done?

God was very angry about what David had done and he sent the prophet Nathan to tell him about how evil his sin was.

What did David do when Nathan confronted him about his sin?

David repented of his sin and received God's forgiveness.

17-14

How did God punish David for his sin?

David's baby boy died, there was fighting in David's family for the rest of his life, and David's power was greatly weakened.

Did God still keep his promises to David in spite of David's unfaithfulness?

Yes, God still kept them.

What was the name of their son who was born later to David and Bathsheba?

His name was Solomon.

Movement 2: Theological Questions

What Does This Story Teach Us?

1. What is the nature of God's kingdom? What is God's kingdom like? What can we learn about God's kingdom from the positive and negative examples of Saul and David?
2. How should Christians be servants in God's kingdom? How does David's example when he ruled Israel righteously instruct us in how we should serve God?

3. What is sin like and what makes it so evil in God's eyes? How does David's sin warn us about temptation and sin?
4. How can God's people find freedom from their sin? What does the story of David teach us about how people can be rescued from sin?

Movement 3: Live It Out

Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.

1. How is God preparing you for his service?
2. How well is your life aligned with God's kingdom priorities? What would you need to change to have your life more in line with God's kingdom?
3. What temptations to sin are you facing? How can you resist these temptations?
4. Think about this week. Where does "God's Covenant with David" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of God's covenant with David teaches us about God's promise to send his Messiah to rule his people forever.

Movement 4: Retell the Story

Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.

1. Can someone retell "God's Covenant with David" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

Church Ministry

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

Ministry Preparation: Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. What setting, audience, or approach would you use? Record your ideas below.

Ministry Implementation: Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching or lead a discussion. Record your ministry plan below.

Ministry Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. What went well? What would you do differently? Reflect on your experience below.

Movement 5: Share It

Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.

1. Who is one specific person you will share "God's Covenant with David" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

Mission Engagement

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

Witness Preparation: Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. What context, relationship, or opportunity will you use? Record your ideas below.

Witness Implementation: Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a natural conversation or teaching. Record your plan below.

Witness Reflection: Think about what you learned from sharing this story with unbelievers. What did they respond to? What questions did they ask? Reflect on your experience below.