

Teaching Plan
EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Date: June 24, 2018
Lesson Title: "Established"
Lesson Passage: 2 Samuel 7:8-21

ABOUT THIS LESSON

The Bible passage begins with a message that the Lord has told the prophet Nathan to pass on to David, a reminder that his elevation from the humble life of a shepherd to the kingship of Israel was the work of the Lord, David is told that God intends to establish his "house" (his dynasty) permanently through his descendants. The lesson concludes with an excerpt from a prayer praising the greatness of God.

TEACHING/LEARNING GOALS

- (1) Explain the reason for Nathan's prophetic message to David.
- (2) Explain the dual meaning of the word "house" in 2 Samuel 7.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Begin by displaying the word "HOUSE" on the board or on a poster, and ask, "What is the meaning of this word?" Pause briefly for responses, then observe that this word has a variety of meanings. EXAMPLES: "It's on the house." "Both houses of Congress." "You shall not covet your neighbor's house (i.e., household)." Then make this point: A double meaning of the word "house" is a significant feature of today's lesson passage. To illustrate, read 2 Sam. 7:5 and 7:16.

TEACHING PROCEDURES

1. *Review the historical background of the lesson passage:* (1) Things were looking good for both David and the nation of Israel. The tribes of Israel were united under the kingship of David, the Philistines had been defeated, and the nation was beginning to experience economic prosperity. (2) David had established Jerusalem as the seat of government in his kingdom, but he was also determined to make his capital city the religious center of Israel. In keeping with this intention, he had arranged for the ark of God to be brought to Jerusalem the description of this significant event in 2 Samuel 6 was a scene of national celebration in which King David led the jubilant procession (recall our previous lesson). (3) Then, contemplating an even more significant step toward establishing Jerusalem as the center of Israel's religion, David expressed his deep desire to replace the tabernacle (a mere tent) with a more permanent house of God (2 Sam. 7:1-2). God turned down the offer (7:4-7), but responded with a promise to bless David and his lineage greatly (7:8-16). He promised to make David's name great, to vanquish all his enemies, and to establish David's throne forever. Deeply touched by God's gracious blessings, David then went into the tabernacle to pray (2 Sam. 7:18).

2. *Continue the discussion of 2 Sam. 7:8-15:* (1) Although God rejected the young ruler's offer to build a house of God (the temple), He assured David, who was destined to be numbered among the world's most illustrious leaders (7:9b), that his kingship would be divinely blessed. (2) Israel

would be granted peace, to dwell securely in her land and be free from foreign oppression (7:10-11a). (3) "The Lord will make you a house" (7:11b) is a pun on the two meanings of the word "house" ("dwelling place" and "dynasty"). NOTE: The profound meaning of this play on words is that if God requires a house, it will not be one made with human hands, but one consisting of human lives, one that He has fashioned. (4) Some Bible versions, influenced by "He shall build a house for me" in v. 13, mistakenly translate v. 12, "I will raise up your son after you," on the assumption that this refers to Solomon. But the Hebrew has not "son" but "seed," a reference to the family of David throughout all generations. So, the translations "I will raise up your offspring after you" (NIV and RSV) and "I will set up thy seed after thee" (KJV) are correct. (5) Saul had suffered a direct punishment from heaven in that he lost all touch with the God on whom he should have relied for guidance (v. 15); but, if any of David's descendants sin, God will use human agencies to punish them in a somewhat less devastating fashion (v. 14).

3. *Emphasize the importance of 2 Samuel 7:16 as a pivotal verse in the Bible's messianic motif:* (1) The belief in David's everlasting kingdom, which persisted even after the downfall of the Davidic dynasty at the time of the Babylonian Exile, contributed to the later eschatology of Judaism, in which many pious hopes were centered in the coming of great David's even greater son. (2) *Ask someone to read Isaiah 11:1-2,10-11a, which is the best-known statement of this belief. Then add this Christian interpretation:* This messianic expectation was originally understood to be the promise of a divine intervention in Old Testament times. But its ultimate fulfillment came when Jesus Christ was born over seven hundred years later. The Apostle Paul confirmed this when he related Jesus to the "Root of Jesse" in Romans 15:12.

4. *With reference to David's prayer in 7:18-21, share these thoughts:* (1) He set aside time to pray. Though he led a very busy life administering the affairs of his kingdom, David took time to be alone with God. *Recall that this was a practice of Jesus* (Mt. 14:23; Mk 1:35). (2) David went to a special place to pray. "Then King David went in and sat before the Lord" (1 Sam. 7:18) means that he went into the tabernacle and sat (or knelt) before the ark of the covenant, the symbol of the Lord's presence. APPLICATION: Christians who are experienced in prayer pray continually, wherever they might be; but they often have a special place set aside for uninterrupted communion with God. (3) David's prayer was personal. *Note the frequent use of "thou" in 7:18-21 and "I" and "me" in vv. 18-19.* (4) His prayer was humble. "Who am I, O Lord God...that thou hast brought me thus far?" (7:18). (5) It was a prayer of thanksgiving (vv. 19-21). David doesn't use the word "thanks," but these verses reflect a deep sense of gratitude in David's heart.

CLOSING THE LESSON

Reiterate this thought: A significant truth that emerges from the narrative in 2 Sam. 7 is that God does not need "houses made with human hands" nearly so much as living "houses" made of human lives dedicated to him.