

Your house and your kingdom shall endure for ever before me, your throne shall be established for ever.

- 2 Samuel 7:16

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we are returning to our covenant series with the Davidic Covenant, and the promise of an everlasting throne. So far, we have looked at the covenants God established with Noah and all of creation, with Abraham, and with all of Israel. Next week we will come to the climax of our series with the new covenant. Seeing how Jesus fulfilled the covenants of the Old Testament, as well as the impact on us as believers today.

At the end of this session is an application for your children to put what they have learnt into practice. Throughout the week it is useful to check in with them to see how they are going.

If you have children in more than one age group, can I please encourage you to pick one program that you feel works best for all your children's ages and complete that together as a family.

Blessings,

Jess

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| Topics: | Covenants of the Bible – God's Promise to David |
| Sessions Aim: | Children will learn of God's promise to David of an everlasting kingdom. Examine the fulfillment of these promises in Solomon but ultimately in Jesus. |
| Bible Passage: | 2 Samuel 7:1-17 |

A Time of Prayer

Come together in a time of prayer with your children. Everyone can share something they would like to pray for or share a God Story. These are stories of where you have been able to see God at work in your lives or each other's lives during this week.

Dear Father,

You are the everlasting one who has no beginning or end,
Our wonderful counsellor, mighty God, everlasting Father, prince of peace.
We are sorry that we don't always treat you as our King,
We thank you for sending Jesus for us,
We ask for your help to live the way you want us to.
Amen

Worship Songs

Please spend some time listening and singing to your family's favourite worship songs. This may have already been done in the worship period of Oaktree's service.

To help get out some energy before the session, while the worship songs are playing encourage your children to be active in their praising of God. They may like to dance, or do jumping jacks, anything that keeps them physically active while you worship God.

Recap of Covenants

1: Before today's activity recap what we have already learnt about covenants. This will help children in making bigger a connection between all the covenants and Jesus' fulfilment of them in the new covenant.

A covenant is like a partnership or agreement between God and us. Within these covenants God makes promises to his people to bring us blessings. Ask your children if they can remember what the covenant promises God made are. As well as what the human response was in the covenant.

2: Everlasting Kingdom.

In today's passage God creates His covenant with David and promises his descendants an everlasting kingdom. This kingdom would not be taken over or destroyed. For a kingdom to be everlasting it has to be established by God.

A fun illustration is for your children is to give them 15 minutes to try and create a fortress which is indestructible. They can build this using whatever resources you have, possibly Lego or building blocks. They may like to try and build a pillow fort, they will need to reinforce it so it can't be knocked down or destroyed. They may like to build one virtually on a video game such as Minecraft.

At the end of this session we will look at how all kingdoms -including the fortress they make – can't withstand the test of time.

Bible + Discipleship Questions

1: Have your children find 2 Samuel 7 in their Bibles. Encourage them to use the contents page to help them learn their way around the Bible.

Either you or one of your children pray for God's Spirit to be at work in your heart's revealing His meaning.

You or your children reads 2 Samuel 7:1-17.

2: In each covenant we have seen that God makes a series of promises and then throughout the Bible we read their fulfilments or look to the time when it will happen. Discuss the following promises that God made to David with your children:

1. God will raise up an offspring of David to succeed him.

It is important for a King to have an heir who can continue the family line on the throne. God gives David a son named Solomon to rule on his throne. Ultimately, Jesus is a descendant of David and is the one to rule over the everlasting kingdom.

2. David's successor will be the one to build a house for God.

The start of this chapter shows that God's presence is still dwelling in a tent. God doesn't want David to build him a temple but promises that his descendant will. The next book of the Bible is 1 Kings which contains David's son Solomon becoming King. Solomon is the one who built the temple for God's presence to dwell in.

3. David's descendants kingdom will last forever

Throughout history you see kingdoms and empires rise and fall. But God promised David that his house, kingdom and throne will be established forever. We have the whole Bible so we know that it is Jesus' kingdom that will last forever and Jesus is the forever king.

3: Optional Bible Activity: It would be helpful for the next exercise to have a digital or printed version of the Bible verse so that your children can take notes. Bible Gateway is a great place to electronically find passages, <https://www.biblegateway.com>.

When God makes promises in His covenants he keeps them. Make your way through verses 12-16 looking at each one to see if it was fulfilled in Solomon, Jesus or both.

Verse 12: Both. David has a son named Solomon who God uses to establish a kingdom. Jesus is also a descendant of King David and it is God who establishes his everlasting kingdom.

Verse 13: Both. In 1 Kings, Solomon builds a mighty temple for God. The throne that will last forever is fulfilled in Jesus.

Verse 14: The first part refers to the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. The second part is only about Solomon, Jesus was sinless, he was perfect.

Verse 15: Both Solomon and Jesus

Verse 16: This is all about Jesus! ☺

God keeps all the promises that he made to David in this covenant. Some were fulfilled through Solomon others fully realised in Jesus. For the complete fulfilment of these promises the King needed to keep their commitment, to be righteous,

following God perfectly. No King was able to live this way. Jesus is the only sinless one, therefore fulfillment of the everlasting Kingdom needed Jesus.

Application

1: The application for this week is living in God's kingdom now. God is the one who established this everlasting Kingdom, not humans. When humans try to do things on their own or live their own way, it doesn't turn out the best.

With your children think about what it looks like to have Jesus as our King. You might like to make a visual representation of what you discuss (like a mind map) to display around the home. This will help remind them throughout the week that we need to be following Jesus, not trying to live our own way being our own kings.

Everlasting Kingdom Continued

1: Come back to the fortress that your children made. Ask them how hard they think it would be to destroy?

Help them find a way to continue to reinforce their fortress to make it stronger. Looking for any weak points in their structure.

Once they have reassessed their fortress, ask do they believe that nothing could destroy their fortress. They might like to try knocking it down. If they are proud of their fortress and want to keep it, encourage them to use it as a reminder of today's lesson.

The only way a kingdom can last forever is if God is the one who creates it. We know that God has created an everlasting Kingdom and Jesus is the ever-ruling King!

This gives us hope and reassurance that we as Christians are a part of this everlasting Kingdom.