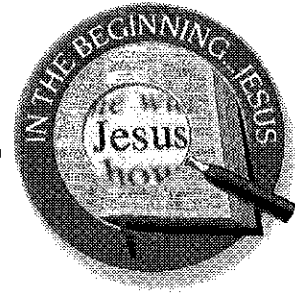


In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 25

God Establishes His Kingdom through David

Themes:

- God gave Israel a king after its own heart—Saul.
- God rejected Saul and chose for Israel a king after His own heart—David.
- God blessed David and promised to him an everlasting throne on which his offspring would reign forever.

Scripture:

Portions of 1 and 2 Samuel

Memory Verse:

John 1:6-7 (and review verses 1-5)

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
 - CROWN—Color and decorate with markers, glitter glue, plastic gems, etc. Cut out the pieces along the dashed lines and place the pieces in the gift bag (mentioned below).
 - HEART TEMPLATE—Use to trace and cut visuals from red and black construction paper (red for the RED HEART, black for the DARKENED HEART). Place each set of pieces into the gift bag (mentioned below).
 - KING SAUL, KING DAVID.
 - PRIESTS (from Lesson 20).
 - Bible Clue Card #27—Cut the card into four pieces along the dashed lines and follow the instructions in the “Pre-Class Preparation” section.
 - JESUS IS THE KEY visual (from previous lessons).
 - COVENANT ARROW (see Resource Packet visual for Lesson 21).
 - THE GREAT NATION OF ISRAEL.
- Magnifying glass (for use in reading the clue card).
- Two bananas: one yellow and one brown (If you do not have an over-ripe banana, freeze a yellow banana overnight and thaw it before class.)
- Gift bag.
- Various pieces of other colored paper (not red or black) cut up and placed in the gift bag.

Pre-Class Preparation:

Hide the four pieces of the clue card in the classroom as follows. Place several Bibles out on a table(s) in the classroom. The piece that contains the scripture reference should be hidden inside one of these Bibles. The second piece should be placed somewhere high (i.e., so the children will need to use a chair to get it down) and somewhat visible. The third piece should be placed somewhere on the floor. The fourth piece should be taped or placed underneath something (e.g., a table or chair).

Lesson

Display the two bananas and pose the following scenario:

Suppose you were with your mom in the grocery store and she wanted you to choose some bananas to purchase. What would you be looking for, bananas like this (hold up the yellow one) or bananas like this (hold up the brown banana)? Would you be surprised if she told you to choose only brown bananas?

Point out that most people wouldn't want to buy brown bananas, thinking that they are overripe, mushy, and not good for eating. However, if you are going to make banana bread, you would want brown bananas since they are exactly what you need for making good banana bread.

Explain that in our previous lesson we learned that Israel was also looking for something—a king. Ask the children if they remember why Israel wanted a king. [So they could be like all the other nations.] Was this a good reason for wanting a king? Why not? [Israel was God's covenant people. They were to be different from all the other nations. God was their one, true King.] Did God give them a king anyway? [Yes.]

Activity: Choose two children to come up to the front. **Display** the gift bag and tell them that inside there are pieces to a picture of something kingly—something belonging to a king. You will empty the bag on the table and they will, as quickly as possible, choose the correct pieces and tape them together to complete the picture. When the picture of the crown has been completed, ask the children:

Does this picture show something kingly? Did the children pick the right pieces out from among the other pieces? (Hold up some of the other pieces that are left on the table.)

Point out that not only did Israel want a king like all the other nations, they also had an idea of what a king should look and be like.

Have the children turn to **1 Samuel 9:1-2**. Read verse 1 and choose a child to read

verse 2:

There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

Does this appear to be the kind of man Israel would want for a king—tall, handsome, and rich? Would Saul look impressive to the other nations as he goes out to battle?

Display KING SAUL and lightly tape it on the crown picture. Explain that God did give the nation of Israel the king it wanted so badly. Chapters 11-12 of 1 Samuel show that God was with King Saul and gave him victories over Israel's enemies. For a time, Israel thought their troubles were finally over—they had a mighty, handsome, and victorious king to lead them. However, as time went on, something changed.

*Point to the crown: Saul decided it was not enough to be Israel's king. He decided he could also be a priest and offer sacrifices. (**Display PRIESTS.**) Is anything wrong with this? What tribe of Israel was Saul from? [Benjamin.] What tribe must a priest be from? [Levi.] Would this matter to God? Could Saul choose to lead Israel his own way instead of God's way?*

Choose children to read **1 Samuel 13:13-14**:

And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which He commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

*Did Saul's disobedience matter to God? What did God say was now going to happen? [The kingdom would be removed from Saul.] (Carefully remove the **KING SAUL** sign from the picture of the crown.) What kind of man would God replace him with? One taller? One more handsome? One richer? One stronger?*

Display the two bananas again. Recall that most people would choose the yellow banana over the brown one because the yellow one appears to be better. However, as we learned earlier, depending on what it is intended for, the brown one might actually be best. Israel had wanted a king for the wrong reasons and it also had the wrong things in mind in about what would make a good king. Saul had seemed like the right

kind of king (point to the crown). And for a time, God did appoint Saul to be king. But God had a different kind of king in mind for His people.

Point to the leftover pieces on the table. Remind the children that earlier you instructed the children to pick out the pieces of something kingly and they chose the pieces of the crown. But they didn't know that hidden in the pieces was something much more kingly, even though it didn't appear that way. Pick up the red pieces and tape them together into the shape of a heart.

The king that God had in mind for His people was a man after His own heart.

Quickly read **1 Samuel 16:1**:

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for Myself a king among his sons."

Explain that Samuel did as God had said and went to visit Jesse. Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel so he could look at each one. When Samuel saw the first son, he thought that surely he looked like a king. What do you think he was looking for that might have given him this opinion? But this is what God said to Samuel:

Choose a child to read **1 Samuel 16:7**:

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

*What mistake was Samuel making? What was he looking for? (Point to the **CROWN**.) [Someone who looked "kingly" on the outside.] But what was important for the kind of king God wanted for His people? (Point to the **RED HEART**.) [God wanted a man after His own heart.]*

Explain that Jesse did have one more son, the youngest, named David. This young shepherd boy was the very kind of person God had in mind to rule His people—a man after God's own heart. (Tape **KING DAVID** to the heart.)

Point out that because David was God's chosen king and a man after God's own heart, David became a great king over Israel and Israel became a great and mighty nation. (Tape the **CROWN** above the **RED HEART**.) David ruled over Israel for 40 years and God blessed him and brought peace to Israel.

So now God's covenant people were living under the good rule of God's

chosen king in the land God promised them. But God had an even greater promise for King David and the people of Israel.

Activity: Ask the children if they remember the riddle from the end of the previous lesson: *Look high. Look low. Look underneath. Look in between something special and often seen.* Have them look around the room for a few moments. Tell them that **Bible Clue Card #27** has been cut into four pieces. Each piece will be found in a different place and the riddle gives the clues to where each piece can be found. When you give the signal to begin, the children should search the classroom for the four pieces. [This activity should last no longer than two or three minutes so you may need to give the children some additional hints to find the pieces.] When all the pieces have been found, tape them together and choose a child to insert the card behind the red paper in the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual to reveal:

*Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:9-13, 16
Clue under Window # 29*

Read **2 Samuel 7:9-13, 16**. Ask the children to listen very carefully for the promise God is making in these verses, especially verses 13 and 16:

And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over My people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish His kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever.

*What does God promise He will do for the people of Israel in the future?
[They will live in the land and not be bothered by enemies anymore.]*

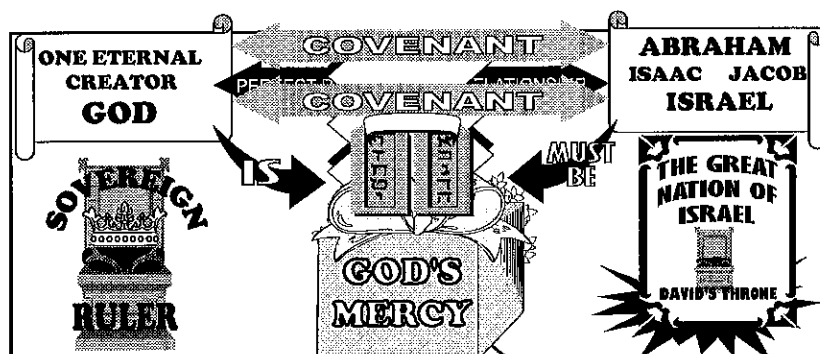
And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.

What is God promising to David in these verses? What will happen after David dies? How long will David's throne last?

Choose a child to open Window #29 to reveal: **DAVID'S EVERLASTING THRONE.**

Point out that, all along, God had planned a king for His people. However, the kind of

king the Israelites thought they needed was very different from the kind of king God knew His people needed. God had in mind a king like David—a man after His own heart. And after David died, God would raise up a new King, one of David's offspring who would rule Israel forever and give the people rest from every enemy. **Display** the new **COVENANT ARROW** and tape it directly over the pieces of the torn **COVENANT ARROW** on the **GOD—MAN** visual. Next, lightly tape **THE GREAT NATION OF ISRAEL** on the visual. It should now look like this:



NOTE: Place the leftover pieces of paper back in the gift bag. These will be used in the next lesson. Also, carefully remove the tape from the **COVENANT ARROW** and glue this new visual directly over the torn pieces of the previous one. Leave **THE GREAT NATION OF ISRAEL** visual taped to the poster.

Application

- ❑ Have the children review the illustration of the two bananas and the crown and the heart. Why might God have first given Israel a king after “their own hearts” before giving Israel a king after “God’s own heart”? Have your parents ever given you something you really wanted in order to teach you a lesson about wanting the wrong kinds of things? (For example, children who want to eat nothing but ice cream. So their parents fed them ice cream for breakfast, lunch, and dinner until the kids were sick of ice cream.)
- ❑ Read and discuss **1 Samuel 15:22**. (Before beginning the discussion give the children the context of the passage; namely, Saul’s disobedience in the preceding verses in which he kept some of the enemy’s forbidden livestock, giving the excuse that he was planning to sacrifice the animals to God.) How could this verse be applied in your own life?
- ❑ Ask the children to recall a previous poster clue that contained something kingly. [Lion of Judah.] Review the text for that clue in **Genesis 49:10**. This clue was pointing to a King in Israel’s future who would receive obedience

from all peoples. What tribe would this King be from? Did King Saul meet this qualification? What tribe was he from? Benjamin (**1 Samuel 9:1**). Point out that the king God had in mind—David—was from the tribe of Judah. Was David the fulfillment of the clue from Genesis?

- Ask: *What does it mean that David was a man after God's own heart? How does a person show that he or she is someone after God's own heart?* [Possible responses: You love the things God loves, you want to do things God's way, etc.] Review the story of David and Goliath from **1 Samuel 17**. What in this story demonstrates that the things most important to God were also things David cared most about? (Key verses: 26, 45-47. God's name and fame are under attack.)
- Have the children turn to **1 Samuel 16** in their Bibles. Explain that this chapter tells how David was chosen by God to be king over Israel and was anointed by Samuel. However, God did not yet put David on the throne to rule—Saul was still king. But as David grew older, his fame spread, especially after his defeat of Goliath. Saul was jealous and sought to kill David. David had to spend a lot of time hiding from Saul and other enemies. During this time David wrote many psalms. In many of these, he is crying out to God to rescue him. Read and discuss **Psalms 18:1-6** (or a similar psalm). How does this psalm show David was a man after God's own heart even when he was in trouble? Whom did David credit for his deliverance? Who was great in David's eyes, himself or God?

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