
Growth Group Notes: David 5– an amazing promise



Warm Up...

What sort of promises do you hear in everyday life?

Are you inclined to believe them?

Do you ever make promises? How good are you at keeping them?

What promises do you think God has made to us? How good do you feel he has been at keeping them in your experience to date?

Background

This week we move on quite a long way in David's story. After spending about 8 years on the run from Saul, David was anointed king over the tribe of Judah, following Saul's death in battle. 7 years later the rest of the tribes of Israel come to him and ask him to be their king also: 1 Samuel 5:4-5. We pick up the story in 2 Samuel 7 when David has captured the city of Jerusalem, made it his capital and build himself a magnificent palace.

(do encourage people to read as much of the intervening chapters as possible either before or after the session)

Read 2 Samuel ch 7 v1-3

How would you describe the situation David finds himself in?

What does he seem to be wanting to do in v2?

Does this seem like a good plan?

Read 2 Samuel ch 7 v4-17

Why doesn't David's idea turn out to be such a good plan after all?

Is there a lesson for us here?

Who is the subject of all the verbs in v6-15?

How does this challenge David's plan directly?

What is God reminding David of here?

Reflecting on being in control. . . .

How much do you like being in the lead and calling the shots as opposed to going along with someone else's plan?

Remembering that the word "SIN" has "I" very firmly in the middle, how is this passage a challenge to our desire to lead the way and take control?

Jesus called his disciples to follow him; Christians were first called "followers of the Way"; how much of an issue is it for you do you think, to follow someone else's desires and plans?

Is there a challenge here for you in your Christian life, desires and ambitions?

Some might say that David wanted to keep God safely in temple, out of everyday life! How much do you think you like to keep God in church on a Sunday morning?

David wants to build God a physical house of wood and stone. How does God turn this on its head, v11?

What kind of house does God have in mind?

Why didn't God want David to build the temple? *God doesn't tell David here any reasons, but later on, we find that God does explain, as recorded in 1 Chronicles 28:3³ But God said to me, "You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood."*

What promises does God make here

...to David? v8-9, 11b

...to his descendant? v12-16

...and to the people of Israel? v10

Ezekiel 34:23-24²³ I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

These promises were made to David around 1000BC. What do we as readers of the New Testament know about these promises?

(you might want to read Matthew 1v1, 21v9 for clues)

What confidence can that give us as Christ followers today?

Reflecting on trusting God and his promises...

How easy do you find it to trust God in your own life?

Are there any specific promises that you find it hard to hold on to?

How can reading this part of God's word bring us encouragement?

The best prayers are prayed when we call on God to be fully God in our lives and we base our expectations and requests on God's character and the promises He has made in His word.

If you have time Read 2 Samuel ch 7 v18-29 to see how David responds.

Where do these verses take place?

How would you describe David's response?

How might this be an example to us?

Reflecting on the New Testament view of a temple...

What does 1 Peter tell us about what kind of temple God choses to dwell in today?

How does this link back with the conversation between God and David about building a temple?

Is there a challenge here about how committed we are to the people of God?

1 Peter 2:19-22¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Pray together: thank God for Jesus as the fulfilment of all his promises! Pray for strength and desire to choose to live daily under the authority of the King, trusting in his faithfulness and goodness.