

Small Group Guide THE PROMISE OF HIS ETERNAL REIGN

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. David Platt

December 22, 2013

2 Samuel 7

Use this resource as a tool to help Christ-followers move forward in their spiritual growth. To do this well requires that the Small Group Leader is building a relationship with the individuals in the small group and has identified where the people are in their relationship with God. Are they Christ-followers? Are they growing in Christ? If so, in what areas do they need to grow further? As disciple-makers, Small Group Leaders shepherd people to know the truth of Scripture, to understand why it matters, and to apply it to their lives. Small Group Leaders come alongside those whom they disciple to discover how loving God, loving each other, and loving those not yet in the Kingdom should shape how they live. The structure of this resource coincides with moving people from knowledge (Main Truth) to understanding (Why It Matters) to application (Now What Do We Do?). Utilize this Small Group Guide as a flexible teaching tool to inform your time together and not as a rigid task list.

GETTING STARTED

Welcome – Incorporate time for greeting one another, enjoying any refreshments, and making announcements. If guests are visiting, make introductions and help them feel welcomed. Ask for their contact information, so you can follow up with them.

Looking Back – Provide an opportunity for small group members to share what God is teaching them, how they are applying what they are learning, and how He has given them opportunities to share the gospel with others. This can be done as a whole group or in smaller groups. Do the people know each other well enough to share more than surface level information? How can time together be used to foster deeper relationships among those in the small group? Also, what are the struggles and needs of the people in the small group? How can the people in the small group sacrificially serve each other?

Looking Up – Hold prayer as fundamental to small group time rather than supplemental to it. Give adoration and thanksgiving to God in prayer. Submit yourself to Him, confessing sin. Petition God for personal needs and other requests. Pray for the disciple-making efforts of those in the group and for the salvation of the lost in each other's families, spheres of influence, and in the world. The Weekly Prayer Focus below can also be incorporated in the group's prayer time.

Weekly Prayer Focus (from Our Worship Guide)

- *Pray for Our Lives: Praise God the Father for sending His Son Jesus to earth. Pray we will all readily remember the birth of the Christ Child we celebrate at Christmas. Rejoice in His salvation. Pray for all those who have not put their faith in Him to listen to the gospel and do so. Pray for endurance and perseverance as we eagerly await Christ's second coming. Praise God for the eternal reign of Jesus Christ our King.*
- *Pray for Our City: This week we are praying for the residents of Marks Village Public Housing Community. Many families were affected by the gas line explosion and subsequent fire late Monday evening. We are also praying for Redeemer Community Church and Joel Brooks, Pastor.*
- *Pray for Our World: This week we are praying for field partner and Brook Hills member organization Neverthirst. The Church at Brook Hills partners with Neverthirst in India, South Sudan, and Cambodia in order to provide access to clean water. This may include providing a deep-water well or a rain collection tank.*

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Whatever the project, it is all done through the local church for the ultimate goal of sharing the gospel and seeing the church strengthened. For more information, visit neverthirstwater.org.

MAIN TRUTH

Message Outline

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2 Samuel 7

The Davidic Kingdom...

- God's People...
 - A continual seed will endure.
 - An honored son will reign.
- In God's Place...
 - A place where they will enjoy God's rest.
 - A place where they will encounter God's glory.
- For God's Purpose.
 - To redeem a chosen people.
 - To extol the incomparable God.
 - Nations will come to the temple and behold God's greatness.

The Divine King...

- God's People...
 - Jesus came from the seed of David.
 - Jesus came as the Son of God.
- In God's place...
 - In Christ, we find our rest.
 - In Christ, we see His glory.
- For God's purpose...
 - To save a chosen people.
 - To exalt the incomparable God.
 - The temple now goes to the nations to declare God's greatness.

The Bottom Line...

- Put all your trust in this King.
- Spend all your life proclaiming His kingdom.

Message Summary

The Old Testament prophesies of the birth, life, and death of the Messiah, but it also promises that He will reign forever. In His covenant with King David, God sums up previous covenant promises to Noah, Abraham, and the people of Israel and focuses them on David's line of descendants. A descendant of David – Jesus Christ - would rule over God's people forever. Christ, the Divine King, came to save a chosen people and to exalt the incomparable God. In light of who Christ is and what He has accomplished, we should spend our lives declaring His greatness and proclaiming His kingdom to all people.

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WHY IT MATTERS

Digging Deeper

A challenge with discussing this sermon is to get so bogged down with Scripture references, names, and facts that we lose sight of the purpose and the application of this message. As the Old Testament prophesied about the coming Messiah, it anticipated a King who would reign forever. As those who live on this side of the cross, we know that Christ is the King, the Promised Messiah, and we anticipate His return when His kingdom will be **consummated** (brought to final completion and perfection). As you meet with your small group, discuss the implications of living as a citizen of God's kingdom while on the earth.

One purpose of this sermon is to provide a foundation for understanding the storyline of the Bible - the kingdom of God. Ensure that those in your small group understand this theme and how to read the Bible in light of it. Be mindful that some in your group may not know the history of events in Scripture or key figures in the Bible, so for many people, the information presented in this sermon may be new and overwhelming. Emphasize the unity of the Bible and how God designed His Word to communicate about His kingdom and about how we are to live as His people under His reign. How does learning about all of this biblical history and theology aid us in anticipating Christ and considering Him this holiday season?

Begin the group's meeting by asking the group how they would describe the kingdom of God to someone. What did the kingdom of God look like in the old covenant with the people of Israel? What does the kingdom of God look like now in light of Christ? Explain that, even for earthly kingdoms such as Great Britain, a kingdom involves three things: a King, a people, and land.

- **Old Covenant** (before Christ) – Israel was God's chosen people, and the land of Canaan (modern day Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, and part of Syria). God ruled Israel, and beginning with King Saul, he established kings to rule over Israel as His representative. However, many kings in Israel's history disobeyed God and led His people astray.
- **New Covenant** (after Christ) – Those who turn from their sin and trust in Christ as Lord and Savior comprise the people of God in the new covenant. Unlike the old covenant, the kingdom of God under the new covenant does not currently consist of land with physical boundaries, but after Christ's return, there will be a new heavens and a new earth. God's people will eternally reside in His presence in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21).

This sermon traces the theme of God's kingdom from God's promises to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:18; 17:3-7) to prophecy about the line of Judah (Gen. 49:10; Matthew 1:1-17) to God's promises to David (2 Sam. 7). In Deuteronomy 17:14-20, God specifically gave Israel instructions regarding His intent about how earthly kings should rule. Israel was unique in that God was their king (a **theocracy**), but God knew that His people would reject Him as king and want an earthly king, which is why He made provisions in Deuteronomy for how He would reign as King over Israel through His relationship with the earthly king. 1 Chronicles 29:22b-23 informs us that Solomon succeeded his father David as king of Israel, but it also mentions Solomon sitting on the throne of the Lord as king. Here, we see the instructions of Deuteronomy 17 implemented as Solomon rules Israel as a representative of God the heavenly King to His people. God related to His people through an honored son who reigned over them.

In 2 Samuel 7, King David expresses the desire to build a temple for God in Jerusalem, but God relays that the temple would be built by David's son instead of David. In response to David's willingness to build God a house (the temple), God promises to build David a house (a dynasty) that would reign forever (2 Sam. 7:16). Ruth 4:18-22 and Matthew 1:1-17 presents us with genealogies that show how Christ descended from Abraham, Judah, and King David, and Luke 1:26-33 and Luke 2:8-11 describes how Jesus came from the seed of David as the Son of God.

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In Deuteronomy 11:24 and 12:10, God promised His people a land where they would live safely and experience rest (see also 2 Sam. 7:1, 10). While traveling in the wilderness from Egypt, God instructed the people to build a tabernacle, a mobile sanctuary, where they could worship God. God dwelled in their midst in the tabernacle until the completion of the temple in Jerusalem that was built during Solomon's reign. When John describes Christ's first coming in John 1:14, he describes how Jesus "dwelt" among us. This word for "dwelt" also means that Christ "tabernacled" among sinful people. The presence of God that was once only accessible by the high priest one time a year (the Day of Atonement) now lived in human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, making it where an ordinary fisherman or housewife could see the presence of God walking down the street. After Jesus ascended into Heaven, the Holy Spirit came, and 2 Corinthians 6:19 says that each believer is a "temple of the Holy Spirit." Not only can we access the presence of God, the presence of God resides in us! How should this truth – that the Holy Spirit lives in us as Christians – affect our thinking, our words, our actions, and our attitude?

While this sermon might seem more like a history lesson, ask the small group members to reflect on why this information is important. How does it shape how they view Christ? How should it transform how they live and what they desire? How should it affect their study of Scripture? How should the understanding that Christ is the King and is the center of all history lead us to love Him more deeply, follow Him more obediently, and proclaim Him more faithfully?

NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

Group Discussion & Application

Use the following questions to help review the application of God's Word to our Head (What does God want me to know?), to our Heart (What does God want me to desire/value?), and to our Hands (What does God want me to do?).

- Christ reigns eternally. What implications does this truth have for how you should live? How does this truth affect your view of Christ and your relationship with Him? How does this truth affect our view of this world and our response to current events? How does this truth bring hope to Christ-followers?
- What is the kingdom of God? How would you explain the kingdom of God to someone who is unfamiliar with the concept?
- Looking at Genesis 12:1-3; 15:18; 17:3-7, how does God reveal His plan for His kingdom through His promises to Abraham? How does God's promises to Abraham in Genesis align with His promises to King David in 2 Samuel 7:9-10?
- Why is it important to understand the storyline of the Bible, particularly that God reigns eternally over all?
- Compare and contrast God's purpose with the Davidic kingdom and His purpose under the Divine King.
- What does it mean to extol or to exalt God? How can we exalt Him in our daily lives?
- 2 Samuel 11 describes King David's adultery and how he attempted to cover up his adultery through murder. His attempts to cover up his sin ultimately failed because all sin is committed before a holy God. How does our participation in one sin spiral and lead to greater sin in our lives? Why do we attempt to cover up our sin? Why do we resist confessing our sin to God? What prevents us from confessing our sin to other people? What sin(s) do you need to confess and repent of?
- After Israel returned from their exile under the Babylonians and rebuilt Jerusalem and the temple, they experienced silence – no prophet and no word from God – for 400 years. During these 400 years, they waited for God to keep His promises about the coming Messiah. How do you respond to periods of waiting in your life? Is there anything for which you are currently waiting? Do you anticipate God to work, or do you become impatient and begin to doubt Him? How do we wait well for God's plan and God's timing?

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- Why are we tempted to doubt God, especially when He does not act according to our timeline? What we think about God affects how we live. What does your life indicate about your understanding of who God is and your trust in Him?
- How do we know that God is worthy of our trust? Why should we trust Him?
- What risks are associated with spending our lives proclaiming God's kingdom? What prevents us from faithfully heeding this call?
- What should motivate obedience in sharing the gospel? How does our view of God influence our obedience? How do we cultivate a high view, a respect and adoration, of God in our lives?