

Study Series: The God Who Is There

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Lesson Title: “The God Who Reigns” (pp. 64-77)

Session 5

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The main point of this lesson is: God is now and will continue to be the sovereign and supreme authority.

Focus on this goal: To help adults acknowledge Jesus as the sovereign and supreme authority to whom they will one day bow, whether willingly and joyfully or begrudgingly and fearfully

Key Bible Passage: 2 Samuel 7

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Encourage the group to brainstorm statements children make when someone tells them what to do. Consider how people reflect these same attitudes toward God and why.

Ask: How might God respond if you were to say to Him, “You’re not the boss of me!”? Declare this session emphasizes that the God who is there is the God who reigns.

Read the main point of this lesson statement (p. 75).

Step 2. Monarchs

Ask from Day One: (p. 64): “What do we conjure up in our minds when we hear a word like king or monarch?” Consider how people’s responses to that question are dependent on when and where they live.

Point out the Old Testament references numerous kings who reigned with authority while also emphasizing God is the king who rules over all. Discuss Day One, activity 1 (p. 65).

Evaluate how the creation account establishes the foundation of God’s sovereignty. Discuss Day One, activity 2 (p. 65).

Note that navigating through Scripture requires focusing on how God reigns over His covenant people, the Israelites.

Step 3. Biblical Rulers

Explain the book of Joshua describes the Hebrews’ conquest of the promised land. But once they settled in Canaan and Joshua died, the Hebrews fell into a cycle. Use Day Two remarks (p. 66) to describe that cycle.

Discuss Day Two, activity 1 (p. 66). Request a volunteer read Judges 21:25.

Invite another volunteer to read 1 Samuel 8:4-20. Ask: Why might the people’s demand for a king have broken God’s heart? How might Christians break God’s heart in similar ways today?State God’s answer to the people’s demand was King Saul. Ask volunteers to state why the people would eventually be sorry Saul was king.

Read or summarize the Day Two paragraph (pp. 67-68) about David.

Step 4. 2 Samuel 7, Part 1

Ask a volunteer to read 2 Samuel 7:1-2. Consider how the verses reveal one reason David may have been called a man after God’s own heart.

Request a volunteer read 2 Samuel 7:3-11. Invite participants to identify from Day Three the first reason (p. 69) God restrained David’s good intentions. Determine other instances when God took the initiative. Examine why it is essential we recognize God alone takes the initiative.

Request adults identify the second reason (p. 69) God restrained David’s initiative. Ask: What’s the problem with thinking we can do God a favor?

Step 5. 2 Samuel 7, Part 2

Discuss Day Four, activity 1 (p. 70). Invite someone to read 2 Samuel 7:12-16. Determine the kind of house God promised to build for David. Consider how God was revealing His sovereign kingship even while promising to establish David’s kingly line.

Explain many biblical promises and prophecies have an immediate and ultimate fulfillment. Guide the group to examine how David’s sons were the immediate fulfillment of God’s promise. Use the Day Four remarks (p. 71) on “son” to add to the discussion.

Ask: What are the only two ways God’s promise for David’s dynasty to continue forever could be fulfilled? Which of those ways is actually possible and why? Request someone read Isaiah 9:6-7. State this prophecy was written two hundred years after God’s promise to David, when the nation of Israel and the kingly line of David was on the brink of being wiped out. Ask: How could this promise give God’s people great hope?

Invite a volunteer to read 2 Samuel 7:18-24. Ask: Why was the great King David happy to submit to God’s kingship? What would it take for us to be “hushed and crushed” by God’s promises?

Step 6. From King David to King Jesus

Hold in your hand all the pages between 2 Samuel 7 and Malachi in your Bible. State the remainder of the Old Testament describes the continuing rebellion of God’s people and continual sovereignty and faithfulness of God, even after there was no longer a Davidic king on the throne.

Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 73). Ask: What is the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promise to David in 2 Samuel 7?

Invite someone to read Mark 1:15. Lead a discussion with: What did Jesus mean by saying, “The kingdom of God is here?” Is everyone a part of that kingdom? How can a person be a part of God’s kingdom? Why would someone want to be under Christ’s rule?

Invite a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 15:25-26. Consider how this truth is so much more powerful after gaining a foundational understanding of Genesis 1–3. Add to the discussion with remarks from the last paragraph of Day Five (p. 74).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Read Philippians 2:10. Ask: What are our choices in response to King Jesus? Request a volunteer read the Day Five Note (p. 74). Urge adults to bow the knee to Jesus now, willingly and joyfully. Make yourself available to speak with any participant who desires to know more about what it means or how to bow before Jesus.

Close in prayer.

