

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Advent 4
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-11; 16

Background

Today we continue our Advent journey. Advent is a time when we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. During Advent, we reflect on the hope, peace, and joy that come with the birth of Christ. We prepare ourselves for the coming of the light that will help bring God's kingdom to earth.

A Notation for This Week's Scripture

Today's Scripture comes once from the Old Testament book of 2 Samuel. In today's story, God makes a covenant with David, promising that David's offspring would continue to lead and rule Israel long after his death. The line of David would last for many, many years. We see this covenant fulfilled in the birth and life of Jesus, who comes from the house and the line of King David. This story reminds us that when God makes a covenant with us, God lives up to it. God always fulfills God's promises.

Theme: God Fulfills God's Promises

Before Class: Read the story in 2 Samuel 7:1-11; 16 prior to the start of class. Take special note of what words, phrases, or images stand out to you as you read. You will need Bibles to tell the story. Gather and prep materials for your chosen activities.

Beginning: Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles on your class Advent wreath. What season of the church year are we in? Why are we lighting candles on the Advent wreath?

Opening Prayer: Faithful God, you are always with us. Be present with us now as we learn more about your great promises. Amen.

The Story: 2 Samuel 7:1-11; 16 Divide students into groups of three. Give each group a Bible and help them turn in it to 2 Samuel 7:1-11; 16. Instruct each small group to read the story and then work together in order to create a news report (in the form of a skit) to re-tell it. After groups have spent time working, invite them to share their skits with the class.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder why we would hear this story today. What do you think?
- I wonder how David felt when God made this covenant (promise) with him. How would you feel?
- What are some promises that you make to people? What are some promises that people make to you?
- Is it easy or hard to keep promises we make? Why?

Activity

Option 1: Help students draw out their family tree, to the best of their ability. Why do you think God's promise to David's family was so significant?

Option 2: Using Bibles, read through the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1. Do you recognize any names in the genealogy? How does this genealogy connect to today's story?

Option 3: What are some of the promises that God fulfills to us today? Create a class mural depicting some of these promises. Hang your mural in a place where the congregation can see it.

Getting Closure: Gather around your class Advent wreath. What are some of God's promises that are fulfilled at Christmas? How do we prepare ourselves for the fulfillment of these promises?

Closing Prayer: Loving God, you make and fulfill promises to all people. Help us trust and hope in your promises to us. Amen.

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