

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – September 18, 2022

Theme: Lessons from the life of David Topic: An Attitude of Gratitude

Main Texts: 2 Samuel 7:1-29

Key verse: 2 Samuel 7:18 – *“Then King David went in and sat before the Lord; and he said: “Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?” (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: In 2 Samuel 6, King David’s passion for God prompted him to bring the Ark of God from the backwoods of Kiriath Jearim to a more befitting place in Jerusalem, the capital city. Since then, he has come a long way: He is settled in a palace of expensive cedarwood, and the Lord has subdued all his surrounding enemies. But the Ark of God’s presence was living in tents. And the contrast between him in a palace made of cedar and the Ark in a tent made him uneasy (2 Samuel 7:1-2). Being a man of action, a plan was already forming in his mind, to build a befitting temple for the Ark which symbolized God’s presence. When he shared his thoughts with his trusted adviser, Nathan, Nathan gave him his blessing. After all, anything to ‘honor’ God must be fine with God too, or so Nathan thought. But God had other plans and told King David, ‘Thank you, but no, thank you!’

1. **Read 2 Samuel 7:1-3. David wanted to do something special for the honor of the God who took him from grass to grace. But God said ‘No.’ (a) Let participants share some of the grand things they had thought of doing for God. (b) If you were in David’s shoes, how would you feel to hear God say ‘No’ to your grand, God-honoring plan? (c) What point(s) do you think God is making with the questions He asked King David in 2 Samuel 7:5-11? And how significant are those points to David and to us, ages later?**

God’s questions to King David in 2 Samuel 7:5-7 must have sounded harsh: ‘who told you that you are the one to build Me a house? I have never required any of the past leaders of Israel to build a house for Me, and My being with them all those years in the wilderness has never been predicated on what they did for Me....’ If those words hurt King David, it must have been quite brief, considering what God says next in 2 Samuel 7:18-19. Any disappointment on David’s part quickly turned to amazement, that the Lord would pivot his desire to build God a house or temple 360° - David is the one who needed God to build him a house! (2 Sam. 7:11–16). We are the ones who need God, and not the other way round. Ultimately, this promise pointed to the Christ, the Son of David whom God would establish on the throne forever and who would incorporate all believers into the Lord’s house as living stones (2 Samuel 7:12–13; 1 Peter 2:4–8).

2. **(a) In 2 Samuel 7:8-9, God reminds King David of all He had done for him. Why do you think it was important for David (us) to remember what God has done for him(us)? (b) The temple King David wanted to build out of gratitude to God is eventually built but is now a tourist site. What does that tell you about the right attitude of gratitude? (c) How do these align with how we generally tend to show our gratitude to God? Where do we need to adjust our attitude of gratitude?**

King David gets God’s message that those God has blessed should not feel uncomfortable by His blessings, nor should they try to earn more blessings. It is all God’s grace. David also learns that what God wants to do for and through us is more important and significant than what we can ever do for Him. And he is humbled by it all and asks God *“Who am I, ... and what is my family, that You have brought me this far? ... Do You deal with everyone this way...?”* (2 Samuel 7:18-19 NLT). David goes on to praise God and to ask God to fulfill His promise. As Matthew Henry comments, “David desired the performance of God’s promise for the honor, not of his own name, but of God’s.”

3. **Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29. (a) What does David’s prayer reveal about his attitude to what God has said? (b) Why pray for that which God has already promised? Please explain your answer (c) When you review the lessons from this study, in what ways do they convict, challenge, or encourage you?**

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, often we get carried away by the grand things we are doing or want to do for You, which often distorts our attitude towards what You are doing for and through us. Please help us to repent of this so that we may be truly thankful. to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.*