



God Will Build a House

Goal: To claim God's love for our houses—our families.

RECOGNIZING GOD'S GRACE . . .

. . . In 2 Samuel 7:1-17

When David brought the ark of God (“chest” CEB) to Jerusalem, it was placed inside a tent (6:17). But King David thought that since he had a palace, the sacred chest should have more than a tent in which to dwell!

But God said, “No.” God told David there was no palace when God delivered the people from Egypt and “a tent has always been my home wherever I have gone with them” (v. 6). Instead, God instructed the prophet Nathan to tell the king that God would make David a promise (a covenant): “Now I promise that you and your descendants will be kings” (v. 11) and “I will make sure that one of your descendants will always be king” (v. 16).

This was far more than David could have asked for or hoped. God's concern was not with outward appearances like a temple, but with Israel's leadership and having people live in obedience to God's will. A later descendant of David will build a temple for God (v. 13). But God's gift is that David's line will be the leaders for the nation.

This was great grace given to David. His gratitude was great as well.

. . . In Your Children's Experiences

Bigger and better—concepts that are alive and well in the culture in which we live. Children will be able to understand David's desire to want to build a beautiful home, a temple where the holy chest could be placed. Something this special—the reminder of God's presence with God's people—should have a special place. But God wanted David to remember that people, and how they lived and acted, were more important than building a grand temple. Helping children make this connection in their own lives with the things that God values will be an important learning from this story.

. . . In Your Relationships with the Children

This final story about David will give children a chance to see how God called one person as a leader for the Israelites and supported him in his call. A review of the stories from the time when David was anointed for his call as a shepherd boy, to this story when he was king, will help them remember the many ways that David knew God was present with him. As you recall these stories, help the children name the ways that they think God has been—and is—present with them. You can also invite them to offer their gratitude to God.

Holy God, you are everywhere; the universe is your home. We are like temples filled with your Spirit; help us live in your way. Amen.



Supplies

basic supplies
(see p. vii)

audio recordings
(see p. vii)

rocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
cut from **SCM 20** and
SCM 24

building blocks or
interlocking blocks

copies of **Grace Notes**
(**GN**) 1, 2

Stories, Colors & More
(**SCM**) 11, 20, 24, 26, 29,
36, 38–41

Music & Melodies (**MM**)
2017–2018

Responding

Celebrating

adult helpers

Praying

SCM 26

copies of **GN 3**

Bonus Activity

copies of **GN 4**

GATHERING IN GOD'S GRACE

Post the visual schedule to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM 40–41** for the key to icons (for example, **LG T**) and ways to adapt for children who have special needs or disabilities.

“Celebrating God’s Grace” requires more prep.

Welcoming and Preparing

LG A B M MS

Welcome each child with, “Grace and peace be with you, (*name*).” Prompt children to respond, “And also with you.”

Invite children to help prepare the worship space. Provide a candle, a Bible, the rocks from the previous six sessions, and rock 7 cut from **SCM 24**, and **GN 1**. This is the final session in which the rock photos will be used. Wonder together what the images on **GN 1** may represent. Recall together the stories learned about David so far.

Ask some children to help prepare today’s Responding in Gratitude activities and suggest that one or two prepare to lead today’s singing.

Have the children get into groups and give each some blocks. Invite them to build a house. Challenge each group of children to build a house using as many of the blocks as possible. Encourage their attempts and praise all efforts. Promote an atmosphere of fun, not competition. Once everyone has arrived and had a chance to work on a house, have the children look around at the others’ attempts. Have the groups count the number of blocks they used and cheer for each group. Have the children pick up their blocks and put them away.

Singing

Gather the group together in the worship space. Play “God’s Love for Us Is Truly Amazing!”—**MM 30**; **SCM 36**—and sing along.

Praying

Turn on the candle.

Allow for a couple of moments of silence. Invite the children to consider and name ways they know God is with their families. As children take turns naming God’s presence, lead the rest of the group in saying, “Thank you God!” in response to each offering.

Conclude by praying,

God of grace, we thank you for being with and loving our families. Amen.



Preparing to Hear the Story C L

Ask the children to review the stories of David by making reference to the rocks from the past few sessions. Call attention to **GN 1** and to rock 7. Tell the children that the word “house” has several different meanings, suggested by the three simple outlines on **GN 1**: a house, a church, and people to represent a family. Wonder together how each outline can be considered a “house.” Say that we can also call the people in a family a “house.” Demonstrate with the last names in your group, for example, “Heather’s family is the house of Smith, or Antoine’s family is the house of Jones.”

Introduce today’s story by saying that it is a story about David when he was the king of Israel. As the story begins, David has just built a fancy house for himself, a palace. David thinks that he should build a house for God, too. But God has a different idea!

Hearing the Story L

Have a child open the Bible to 2 Samuel 6 and place the open Bible on the worship table.

Give each child a copy of **GN 1** and a pencil. Explain that as you read the story, the children are to listen for all the uses of the word “house.” Tell the children that when they hear the word “house,” they need to decide which category it belongs to. Have them put a check mark by the appropriate drawing on their page.

Read the story from **SCM 11** or ask a volunteer to read. Use your voice and expression to make the story engaging. When the children have completed **GN 1**, ask the children how they decided what type of house was mentioned. Honor all responses.

Conclude by saying, “Word of wisdom, word of grace,” and prompt children to say, “Thanks be to God.”

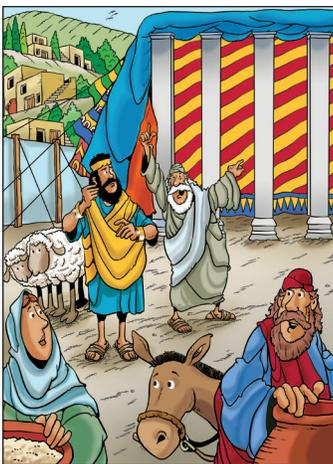
Reflecting on God’s Grace B LD

Invite the children to act out three skits on **GN 2**, three different versions of the story. Each skit requires three people: King David, Nathan the prophet, and God. After the skits, wonder together how David must have felt after hearing God would build him a house. Go around the group and have each person complete the sentence, “I am David and I feel _____.”

Singing

Give God an offering of music. Play and sing together “Wherever I May Wander”—**MM 1**; **SCM 29**.

Turn off the candle.



Boys or girls can play any of the parts. If you have fewer than nine people, children may be in more than one skit. If you have more than nine people, ask for volunteers to play the parts. If you have non-readers in your group, be creative in including them as family members or consider reading and having the children act out the parts.



RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE

Select activities appropriate for your group and for the time available.

Claiming God's Grace

Invite the children to draw family portraits. Encourage them to take time to create nice, thoughtful portraits that include details such as clothes, hair, jewelry, and other details as they are able. Be sensitive to each child's family situation and affirm the child's concept of his or her family. Allow time for children to create thoughtful and detailed portraits.

Explain to the children that God promises to love our families, just as God promised to love David's family. Invite the children to surround their families with God's love by lightly drawing a large heart around their family portraits in pencil. Encourage the children to write with brightly colored markers along the outline of the heart, some of the blessings their families have received from God's love. Such blessings may include care, love, a home, food, health, safety, and so on. The children could also write the words "God loves my family," and other messages along the heart.



Celebrating God's Grace

B

Ask, "How can you tell when a building is a restaurant or a post office or a house?" Pause to allow for thoughts and ideas. Ask additional questions that help the children explore the signs on or around a building that show who or what dwells in a particular building. Then ask, "How can you tell if a building is God's house?" Let children voice the ways.

Encourage their ideas to expand and include as signs the ways people in the building act or what they believe, as well as signs found on (or in front of) the buildings themselves.

Go on a scavenger hunt to find the signs that tell others that your church is God's house. Divide into small teams, each with an adult helper. Have the teams make a list of the signs or proofs they can find that show others this is God's house. Set a time limit. When everyone returns to the learning area, call on each team to share its finding.

A few suggested scavenger hunt items:
baptismal font
cross
paraments
pulpit
communion table



Family crests began in medieval times as a way of identifying knights who were so covered up in armor that you couldn't tell them apart!

Family crests became a popular way to identify families, businesses, schools and so on, especially in the many centuries when most people could not read.

The colors and pictures on the family crests were often symbols that provided a kind of code to communicate what was important about a family or a business.

Praying God's Grace

Ask what the children know about family crests and add to their observations with the information in the sidebar. Show **SCM 26** and invite the children to look at the different symbols and colors that might have been used in David's family crest. Ask them to identify the symbols and what they meant as part of David's family history.

Hand out copies of **GN 3**. Invite the children to design a family crest for their families or house. Tell them that just as the house of David is blessed by God's unfailing love, our own houses are also blessed. Ask each child to make a design, or family crest, showing the blessings of God's love for his or her family. Have the children think of symbols, pictures, and colors that might represent their family. They may also want to use some of the symbols and colors on **SCM 26**. Have them include the last name of their family as part of the design. If you have time, give an opportunity for each child to share his or her family crest.

Hand out half sheets of white paper. Invite the children to write a prayer to God in response to the promise of God's love for them and their families using the elements of their crest designs. Prompt them to focus on the feelings of joy and happiness modeled by David as a response to God's abundant promise of love. Be available to help as needed while the children take time to compose and write out their prayers.

After writing the prayers, have the children choose a sheet of construction paper. Instruct them to cut out their family crest, then glue it and their prayer to the sheet of construction paper. Set aside the finished projects to send home.

Bonus Activity



Distribute copies of **GN 4** and pencils. Allow time for the children to complete the word search at the top of the page. Ask:

- I wonder, "Which of the places named in the puzzle do you find most appealing?"
- I wonder, "In which place might you think about God and worship?"
- I wonder, "In which of these places might it be difficult for you to think about God?"
- I wonder, "What might be some of the disadvantages and advantages of each location, as a place to feel close to God?"
- I wonder, "Where would you like to worship God?"

Invite children to draw or write their ideas in the open space on **GN 4**.



Ages 8-10

God Will Build a House

November 12, 2017



LOVING AND SERVING GOD

LG

Invite the children to gather and lead them in cleaning up the worship space.

Gather in a circle. Ask children to take turns naming something they enjoyed doing together today. When everyone has had a turn (including yourself), pray:

Thank you, God, for the grace you share through your people and for all the wonderful times we have to celebrate you.
Amen.

Ask parents and caregivers for their e-mail addresses so you can send the Grace Sightings link, or invite them to visit gracesightings.org.

Have the children hold one hand of the person on each side of them. Look to the child on your right and say, "Peace be with you." Prompt the child to respond, "And also with you." That child then exchanges the message of peace with the child who is on his or her right side. The peace exchange moves around the circle, passing from child to child and ending with you. Tell the children to offer God's love to their family this week. Invite all of the children to join with you in saying, "Amen."

HOUSE



House of David: Skit 1

David: My goodness! Here I am, a great king living in a house of cedar, but God's still living in that ark in the tent! God deserves better! God should have a nice house, a temple. Then God will stay here with us in Jerusalem forever instead of roaming around in that ark! Nathan!

Nathan: Yes, my lord?

David: I'm going to build God a really nice house, a temple!

Nathan: Awesome idea, King! I give it a thumbs up!

(That night, Nathan is dozing . . .)

God: Nathan!

Nathan: *(waking up and turning on his light)* Yes, God?

God: Go and tell David this message from me, God!

(Nathan mimes the speech as God says the words. David listens, looking thoughtful and nodding.)

God: Listen up, David! Thanks for the nice idea, but I don't need a fancy house. I know you want me to always stay with you, but you can't keep me in a house like a bird in a cage. I'm not a statue god like that Dagon over in the Philistines' land. I am God! I come and go as I please! I live where I live!

(All actors take a bow.)

House of David: Skit 2

David: Well, I've finally made it! It's really great to be king! I'm really going to get Israel in good order. No more roaming around! We're a nation now, with a real capital and palace and king!

(That night, Nathan is dozing . . .)

God: Nathan!

Nathan: *(waking up and turning on his light)* Yes, God?

God: Go and tell David this message from me, God!

(Nathan mimes the speech as God says the words. David listens, looking first embarrassed and then thankful.)

God: Don't get too big on yourself, David! Who promoted you from being a shepherd? Who cut down your enemies? Who made you king? I did! I have always been with you, making things good for you. And I will take care of Israel and you. I will make your name famous, and I will give you all a home and peace!

(All actors take a bow.)

House of David: Skit 3

David: God really has been good to me and Israel! Wow, when I was a kid, we were just a bunch of tribes, and now we're a nation! But, you know, sometimes I get worried. Being a king is a big job! What if I mess up, like that King Saul before me. What if God gets mad at me and leaves me?

(That night, Nathan is dozing . . .)

God: Nathan!

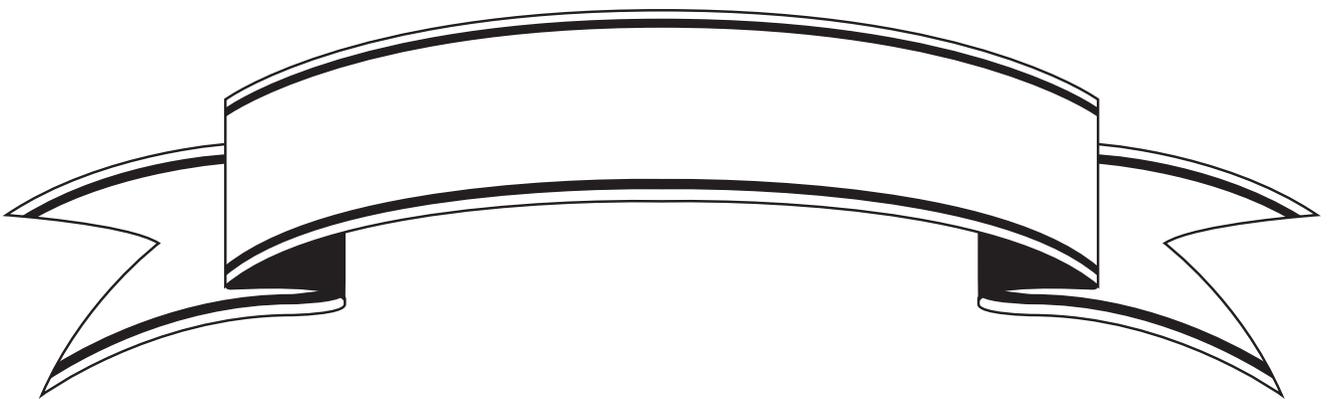
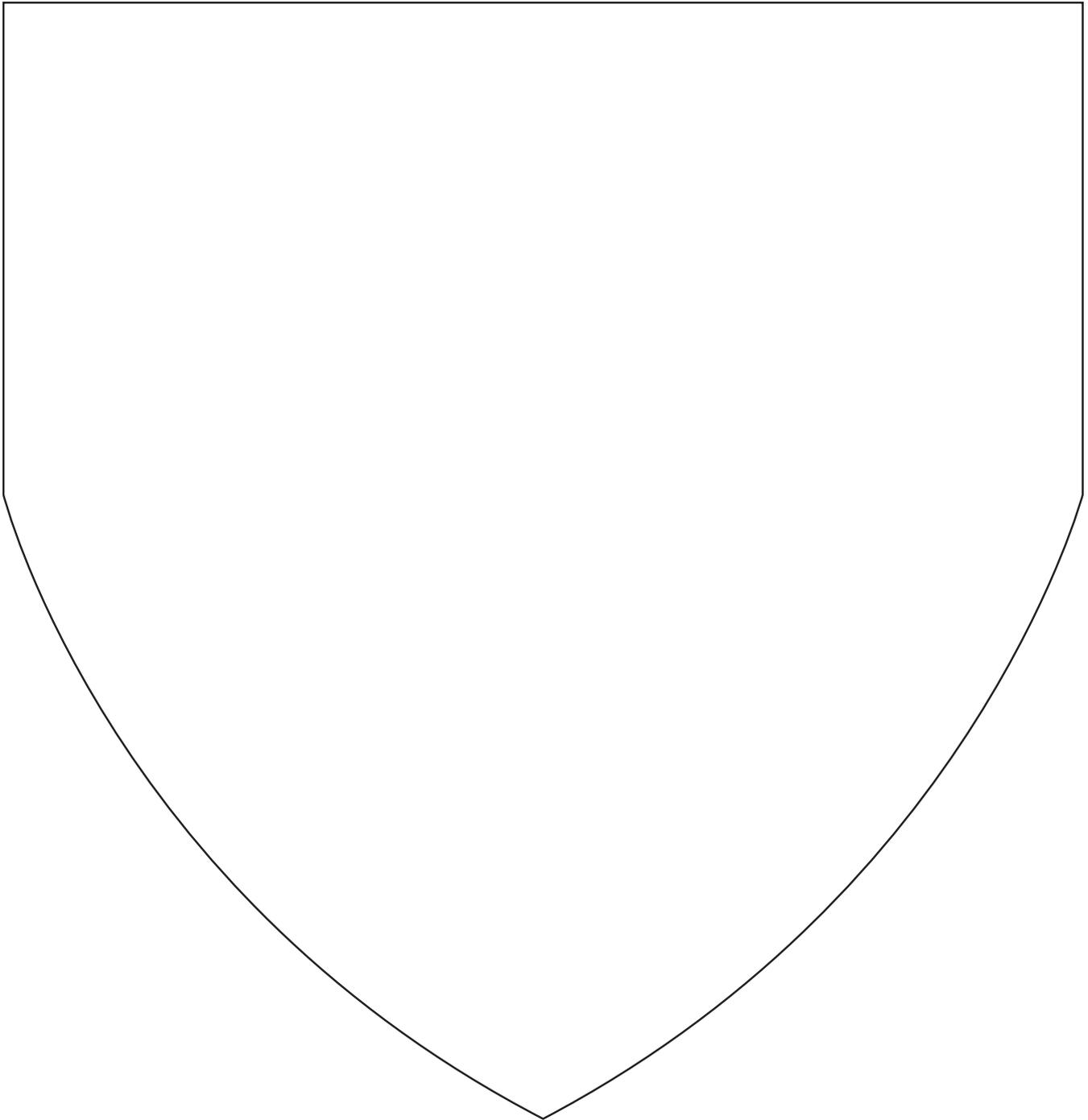
Nathan: *(waking up and turning on his light)* Yes, God?

God: Go and tell David this message from me, God!

(Nathan mimes the speech as God says the words. David listens, looking first worried and then totally amazed.)

God: David, you're not going to give me a house. I'm going to give you a house! I will make your descendants go on forever, and I will promise to love them forever! They will make mistakes, but I will always love them, no matter what. Your name will be famous and your throne will last forever!

(All actors take a bow.)





R H P A T H W A Y
 M O E K C B L C N
 O S U I B E A H U
 U P C T E C K A B
 N I H C D A E P E
 T T U H R O M E A
 A A R E O A O L C
 I L C N O R K R H
 N S H U M Y S A S



WORD BANK

BEACH
 BEDROOM
 CHAPEL
 CHURCH

KITCHEN
 LAKE
 HOSPITAL

MOUNTAIN
 OUTDOORS
 PATHWAY

