



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)
- symbolic rocks from the previous 6 sessions
- rock with church building drawn on it
- building blocks or interlocking blocks
- copies of **Grace Notes (GN) 1, 2**
- Stories, Colors & More (SCM) 11, 27, 34, 36–39**
- Music & Melodies (MM) 2017–2018**

Responding

Celebrating

adult helpers

Bonus Activity

copies of **GN 3**



Rock 7

GATHERING IN GOD'S GRACE

Post the visual schedule shown in **SCM 36–37** to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM 38–39** 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



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 symbolic rocks from the previous six sessions, a river rock with a simple church building drawn on it (see sidebar illustration), and **GN 1**. This is the final session in which the rocks will be used. Wonder together what the image 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 of two or three and give each group 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 34**—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,

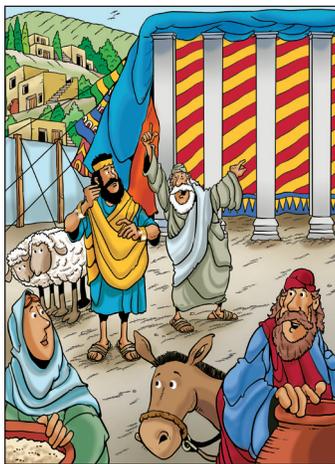
God of grace, we thank you for being with and loving our families. Amen.



Preparing to Hear the Story C L

Ask the children to review the stories of David by making reference to the symbolic rocks from the past few sessions. Call attention to **GN 1** and to today's new rock. 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 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 LB

Invite the children to reenact the story as you read it again. Provide biblical costumes if available. After the story, 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 27**.

Turn off the candle.



RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE

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

Claiming God's Grace

For the Israelites, the Ark of the Covenant reminded them that God was with them. After David's son Solomon built the temple, the people took with them those things that reminded them of God—the Ark and other holy vessels.

Invite the children to think of something in the church building that reminds them of God. They may name something in the church school learning area or the nursery, a person or a stained glass window, the communion table, a rocking chair, a candle, or a baptismal font. They may think of something outside the church building on the church grounds, playground, or outdoor chapel. Invite the children to use play dough to make the thing that reminds them of God or to draw it on paper with markers or crayons.



Celebrating God's Grace

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. Teams make a list of signs that they can find that this is God's house. Set a time limit.

When everyone returns to the learning area, each team tells of its findings.

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



Offering God's Grace

Remind the children that one of the things that God promised David is that God would never take God's love away.

Invite the children to come up with a song that uses the phrase, "God's love never goes away" as its refrain.

If you have a large group, you could form small groups so that you have more than one song.

Encourage the children to be creative and to use any style of music that they want. You could give them ideas, such as using a familiar tune to create a song.

Invite them to share the song with their families as a way to offer their creativity to God. Speak to your congregation's worship team about the possibility of using the songs as part of the worship service and sharing the experience of God's loving presence with the church.

Bonus Activity

Distribute copies of **GN 2** and pencils. If helpful, allow the children to work in groups to complete the word search. 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 place, 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 on the back of the page.



Ages 5-7

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





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

