

YOUTH UNIT I: Jesus, the Heir of David
YOUTH GENERAL LESSON TITLE: God's Promise to David
YOUTH TOPIC: You Can't Always Get What You Want

LESSON 2
DATE: December 8, 2024

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 7:1-17
PRINT PASSAGE: 2 Samuel 7:4-17

KEEPIN' IT CURRENT! (5 Minutes)

Housebuilding for God - Jason Ballard, from Texas, became the first member of his family to graduate from college. He majored in conservation biology and became interested in sustainable building while volunteering in a homeless shelter. According to his plan, he graduated and received an acceptance letter to seminary to become a priest in the Episcopal Church. However, he could not stop thinking about housing and helping homeless people.

Before he could start seminary, a hurricane destroyed his hometown, and he began helping his family to restore their home using the building skills he learned. Jason's passion for building and helping people grew to the extent that he became uncertain about his career. He decided to get advice from his Bishop and mentor, the Right Reverend C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. After sharing his predicament with Bishop Doyle, Bishop Doyle encouraged him to pursue his passion for building houses for the homeless as his ministry.

Jason put together a team with two friends who had backgrounds in finance and engineering to pursue his dream of 3-D printed cement housing. They started small, making a shed, and using robotics, advanced materials, and software they developed. They competed in contests and received funding to build all cement, 3-D printed housing for people who could afford to pay in order to get the money to begin helping the homeless. Unlike his family home, these houses would not be destroyed by hurricanes.

Jason now has a company with employees, and they have partnered with Community First! of Austin, Texas, a village of small homes for hundreds of formerly homeless people. The people who received housing had lived unsheltered, on average, for nine years. Without assistance from Community First! those unsheltered people coming to them had a life expectancy of fifty-nine years, as

compared to the 70 to 80 years life expectancy of the general population in Texas. Although Jason did not get what he planned as his career, he loves his work.

(Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/company-3d-prints-houses-on-earth-partners-with-nasa-to-3d-print-on-moon-60-minutes-transcript/>)

KEEPIN' IT REAL! (5 Minutes)

- If you had unlimited access to money to form a charity to help people in the community, who would you try to help and why? (e.g., foster care children and teens, cancer survivors, people with alcohol or drug addiction, people with disabilities)
- Describe your experience, if any, volunteering with the church, school, or community groups? Give reasons why it is important to volunteer.

KEEPIN' IT BIBLICAL! (20 Minutes)

KEY VERSE: "Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever." 2 Samuel 7:16.

⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled

and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵ But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever. ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

David's desire to build a "house" for God was prompted by gratitude (7:1-2). Like David's unfulfilled desire to build a house for God, there are times when we have a heart to do good things for others or we develop a great idea, from our perspective, of things we can accomplish as believers in God, but those plans and ideas do not always work out (Proverbs 19:21, Proverbs 16:9). Sometimes this may be due to other people's interference, but other times God, Himself, leads us in another direction.

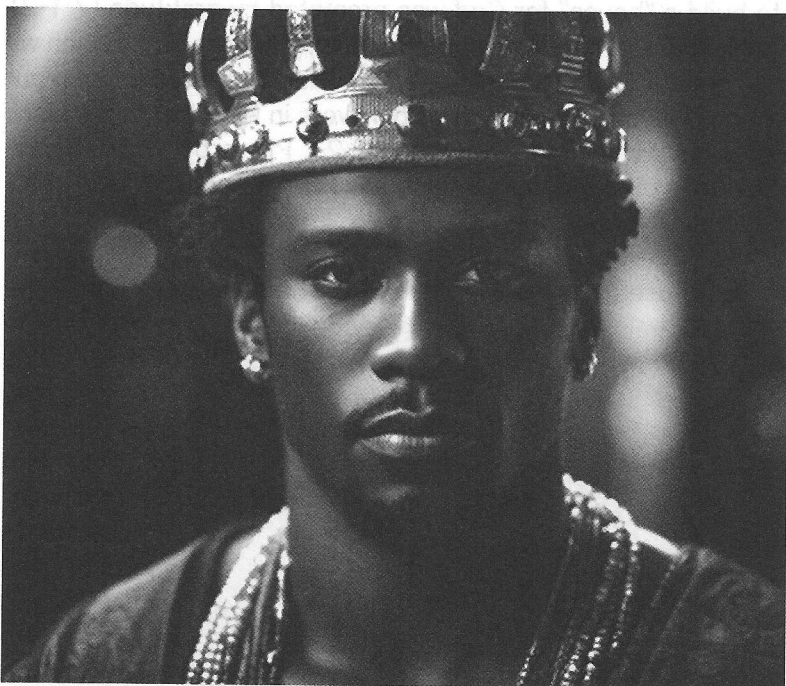
From his youth, David used the many gifts and talents God gave him to be



a blessing to others. Those gifts and talents included serving his family as a shepherd—guarding the family's sheep from lions and bears; creating beautiful music as a musician for King Saul; serving his country, Israel, as a mighty warrior and commander of soldiers de-

fending the people against enemies like Goliath the giant; and, ruling over Israel as God's choice for King after King Saul's death. David was obedient to God in using his gifts and talents, and God blessed him as a shepherd, musician, warrior and king. However, not everything David did pleased God. Even when David made bad decisions, he was quick to ask God for forgiveness and was known as a man "after God's heart," wanting to please God. God loved David, but God did not always give David everything David desired.

God's response to David was more complicated than yes, no, or wait. David wanted to build a temple where the people of God could worship God and God would be present in this house of worship for the people. As king, David had the people, materials, and his own vision of the appearance of "God's house," but God chose



to bless David another way and let David's son Solomon build the place of worship when Solomon became king after David's death. Instead, God chose to honor David by declaring that Israel's messiah (Jesus) would descend

from David (become a part of David's family tree). Not only would David's name and legacy be remembered throughout time, but David would become part of God's plan for eternity and the salvation of all people from their sin. The "house" that God build through the generations following David is a house of God that will last forever.

God's plan to build a "house" out of David was God's response to David's acknowledgment that God, not David, was the reason for David's success. God also promises to give David rest from his enemies, a blessing for the present.

KEEPIN' IT TOGETHER (5 Minutes)



God gives gifts and talents to His people to use to build His kingdom on earth and for eternity. Jason in the "Keeping it Current" section desired to help other people by attending seminary to be trained to minister to people's spiritual needs and lead a congregation in helping people in the church and community. Instead, he used his college training, resource

people in the community, and his volunteer experience to help the homeless become housed. This was not part of Jason's initial plan, but his work helps many to have a better quality of life and probably a longer lifespan. These cement houses are constructed to last longer than any of the brick or wood homes currently built, but like all things made by men, they will not last forever.

King David's plan involved building a beautiful house of worship for God, but God substituted the blessing and privilege of having Jesus as part of David's family lineage or family tree so David's house would be established forever. David, through his son King Solomon, received a role for his family in building a beautiful house of worship for God, but it was eventually destroyed. However, the house that God built through King David's descendants will last through eternity, longer than the cement houses built by Jason or the house of worship by King David's son Solomon.

iTHINK! (5 Minutes)

- What is the best thing that you think you can offer God?
- Have you ever planned to give someone a gift, and they refused your gift in order to give you a better gift that you planned to give them? How is this different from how we normally give and receive gifts from people?
- Write a thank you letter to God for following through on God's promises to you.