

# GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID

**W**hen David was 30 years old,

he became king of Israel. David was a good king.

He followed God. He listened to God. He talked to God. He even wrote songs about God! We call them psalms, which is a Greek word that means “songs.”

God helped David. First, He helped David defeat the Philistines to keep Israel safe. Then, God helped David capture **JERUSALEM**, a big city that was right in the middle of the land God had promised them.

With God's help, David made Jerusalem the new capital of Israel and the place the Israelites would worship God.

David promised he would always follow God. And in return, God made a **PROMISE** to David.

*Do you remember the promises God made to Abraham?* Abraham's kids would become a great nation, they would have their own land, and from Abraham's family—the Israelites—would come a blessing for the whole world.

With David as king, Israel really **DID** become a great nation. They were safe in the land God had promised. They didn't know exactly how Israel would bless the “whole world,” but they had some clues. Then God gave David his own **SPECIAL** promise. God promised David that someone from his family would rule over God's people. Not for a year . . . or ten years . . . or even 100 years.

Forever.





**T**hat sounds a little crazy, doesn't it? How could one family stay on the throne **FOREVER**? Even David wasn't sure how that would work!

*And did it have anything to do with the blessing for the whole world? A forever kind of blessing might need a forever kind of king, right?*

God's rescue plan was getting interesting!

David was a good king, but he wasn't perfect. David sinned too. In fact, David did something **REALLY** terrible.

When King David was older, he was looking out from the roof of his palace one day when he saw a woman. The woman's name was **BATHSHEBA**, and she was so pretty that King David decided he wanted her to be his wife.

*That's not a terrible thing, right?* Not all by itself. What made it terrible was that Bathsheba was **ALREADY** married. She was someone else's wife! Besides, David was **ALREADY** married. He even had kids.

But King David was feeling selfish. He thought to himself, *I'm the king, and the king should get whatever he wants.*

David wanted Bathsheba to be his wife, even though she was someone else's wife. *But what would he do about Bathsheba's husband?*

*Have you ever done something bad and then because of that bad thing ended up doing something even **WORSE**?*

That's what King David did. He wanted to be married to Bathsheba, so he had Bathsheba's husband **KILLED**.

You probably just spit out your milk and yelled, "He did **WHAT?**" It was a terrible thing. King David hoped nobody would ever find out what he had done.



# GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID

## FAMILY CONNECTION

2 SAMUEL 7

### TRICKY BITS

*If we love and follow God, why do we still make mistakes?*

Because of God's big love, He created us with free will, which means we are free to make our own choices. Without free will, we would be controlled by God to do whatever He wanted us to do. But that's not the kind of relationship God wanted with His children. We all mess up sometimes. Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven and learn through our mistakes how to live God's way.

### TALK

Why did God keep His promise even though David messed up?

What should you remember the next time you make a mistake?

Dear God ...

### PRAY

Dear God, thank You for never giving up on us! When we mess up, we trust You to help us make things right with others and with You. Amen.



**B**ut God knew. God sent a **PROPHET** named Nathan to tell David He knew about his big sin. David didn't make excuses. He didn't say, "But I'm the king!" David fell down on the ground and said he was sorry. He asked God to forgive him—to make his heart clean again.



God **FORGAVE** David. But King David's sin hurt his whole family. The son he had with Bathsheba got sick and died. Another one of David's sons became so angry that he tried to kill David so he could become king himself!

When King David didn't follow God, it hurt a lot of people. But God still kept His promise to David. Another one of David's sons became king after David died, and David's grandson after that, and on and on.

Even though David messed up, God kept His **PROMISE**.

We all mess up—in little ways and in big ways. But when we make a mistake, God never gives up on us. God loves us **ALWAYS**. Even when we mess up!

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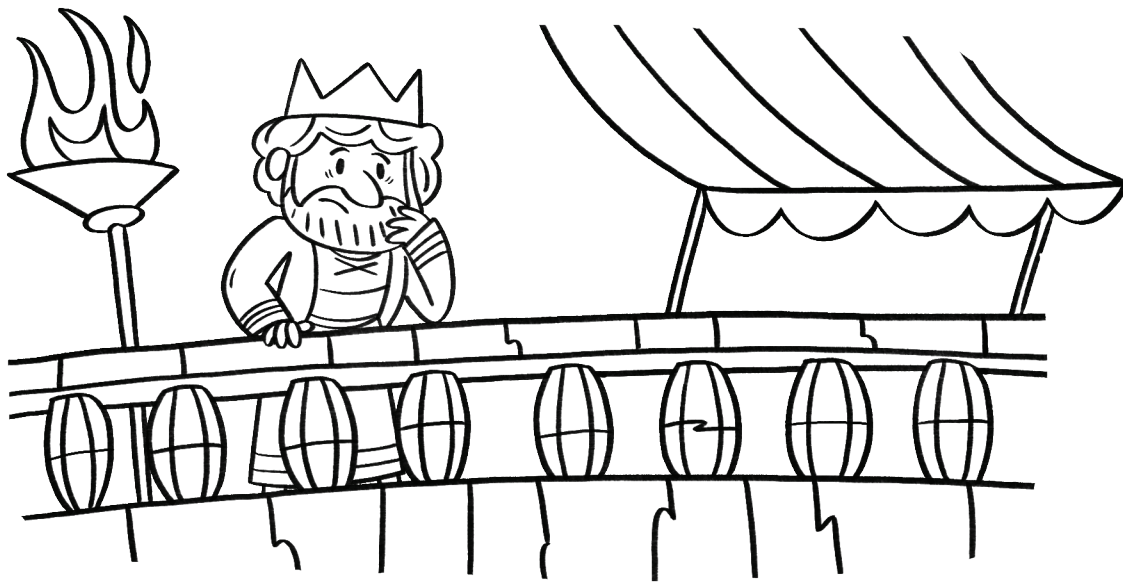
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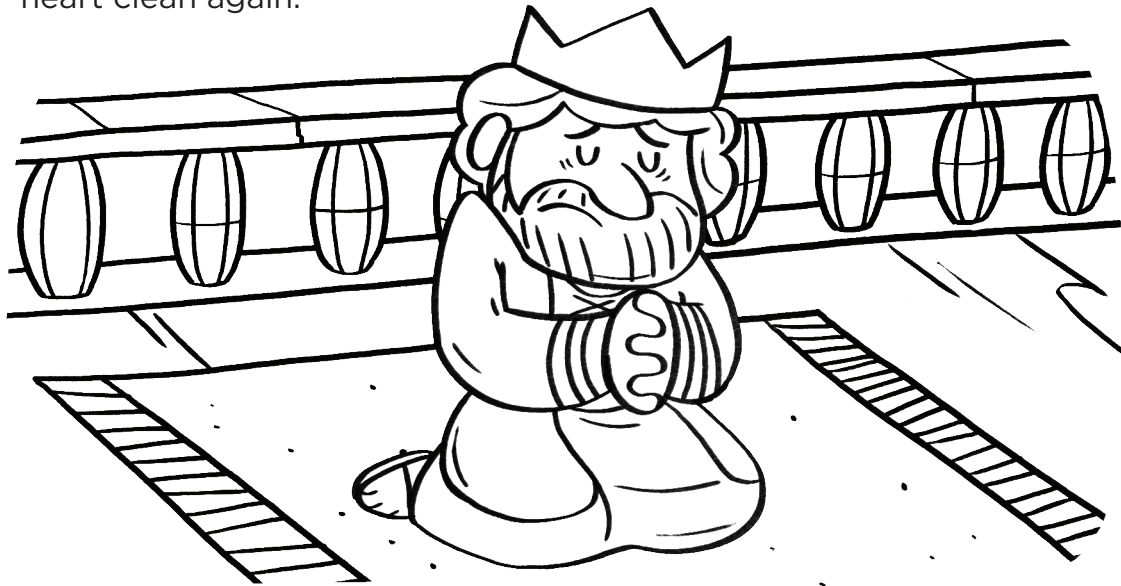


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