
AND LET THEM **MAKE** ME
A SANCTUARY, THAT I MAY
DWELL IN THEIR MIDST.
Exodus 25:8
MAKE WAY
MAKE WAY *IN US*
MAKE WAY *THROUGH US*

God Has a Greater Plan | 2 Samuel 7:1-17

ICEBREAKER

What is something you planned that turned out completely differently than you expected, but ultimately worked out for the better?

OR

If you could know exactly how one area of your life would turn out, what would you want to know, and why?

SMALL GROUP WEEK 5 VIDEO (4:46)

Scan QR code below or on your HOST RESOURCES Card to watch this week's video. Before beginning the rest of your discussion, take time as a group to respond to the question in the video.

INTRODUCTION

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17

We naturally desire to make plans for our lives, often with good intentions and maybe even a desire to honor God. But what happens when God's plans look different from our own? In 2 Samuel 7, David desires to build a house for God, only to discover that God has something far greater in mind. David's story reminds us that our relationship with God isn't measured by what we accomplish for Him, but by our willingness to actively surrender, trust His promises, and faithfully follow His leading. God doesn't

depend on us to accomplish His will, but He does invite us to be part of the story through faithful obedience!

What stood out to you most from this week's message?

INTO THE WORD

Read 2 Samuel 7:1–7 and Proverbs 19:21.
How can we recognize when we're pursuing our own good intentions rather than following God's direction? What makes it difficult to surrender a plan or expectation, especially when we believe it's something God would want?

> **Host Guidance:**
> God has given us the freedom to make decisions, but we can easily become more focused on our own plans and desired outcomes than on seeking His direction. Even our best intentions need to be surrendered to His wisdom. This can be difficult because we can't see the whole picture and often want to maintain control over the outcomes. Rather than simply asking God to bless what we've already decided, we should cultivate a posture of prayerful surrender—regularly seeking His guidance, trusting His wisdom, and remaining willing to follow wherever He leads, even when His plans differ from our own.

Read 2 Samuel 7:8–9, Deuteronomy 7:7–9, and Titus 3:4–7.
How do these passages challenge the tendency to measure our relationship with God by what we accomplish or do for Him? What difference would it make in your daily life to recognize that God was at work long before you desired to do anything for Him?

> **Host Guidance:**
> Before David could accomplish anything for God, God reminded him of everything He had already done. Similarly, our relationship with God begins not because of anything we have done or accomplished, but only through the grace He offers through Jesus, because of the cross. Our faithfulness is then the response to the love He has already poured out for us. As a group, discuss how this truth can and should impact the way we obey Him, serve others, and live generously.

Read Psalm 37:3–5 and 1 Corinthians 3:6–7.

Where do you see the difference between being responsible for your faithfulness and trying to control the results? How might trusting God with the outcome change the way you approach a current responsibility, relationship, or uncertainty?

Host Guidance:
Scripture calls us to act faithfully while recognizing that God ultimately determines the outcome. We can make wise decisions, invest in others, and take meaningful steps of obedience, but we cannot control every result. Surrender isn't passivity; it's faithfully doing what God asks while trusting Him with what only He can accomplish.

Read 2 Samuel 7:11–16, 2 Corinthians 1:20, and Hebrews 10:23.
Take some time as a group to share ways that God has shown His faithfulness to you over the last decade - even if the outcomes were different than you originally hoped or planned for. How does remembering God's faithfulness in the past strengthen our confidence in His promises for the future? What does it look like to allow God's promises, rather than our circumstances or fears, to guide our decisions?

Host Guidance:
God's promise to David extended far beyond David's lifetime and ultimately pointed toward Jesus, the eternal King. David couldn't fully accomplish or even see everything God had promised, yet he could trust the One who made the promise. Our confidence to obey doesn't come from knowing how everything will unfold, but from knowing God's character and trusting that He is faithful.

Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29, 1 Chronicles 22:5–10, and Ephesians 3:20–21.
What can we learn from David's responses to God's plan? How can these passages challenge the way we think about success, significance, and lasting impact?

Host Guidance:
Although David wouldn't build the temple, he responded to God's greater plan with humility and gratitude rather than disappointment. He recognized that God's purposes extended far beyond what he could accomplish himself and faithfully prepared the way for Solomon to build the temple. Like David, we may not always see the full impact of our obedience, generosity, or investment in others. True significance isn't measured by what we accomplish, but by our faithfulness to God's greater purposes, trusting that He can do far more than we could ever ask or imagine.

EMBRACE AND EMBODY

David began with a desire to do something great for God but discovered that God's plan was greater than anything he could accomplish. His story reminds us that making way for God isn't about proving our devotion through achievements or controlling what happens next. It's about responding to His faithfulness with trust and obedience, confident that He is working beyond what we can see.

Create space for the group to reflect on and share the following:

- What outcome(s) are you trying to carry today?
- What would it look like to surrender the outcome(s) to God while continuing to take your next right step of obedience?

PRAYER PROMPT

Invite group members to spend a few moments quietly reflecting on the previous questions. Then close by praying together, thanking God for His faithfulness and the promises we have through Jesus. Ask Him to help each person recognize their responsibility to obey while trusting Him with the results. Pray that, as Fairhaven continues to make way, God would work in and through our collective faithfulness so more people can experience the hope of Jesus.

This Week's Next Right Step — Worship God:
Take time this week to make a list of plans that you have made in various areas of your life - spiritual, family, work, recreation - and then in an active of worship, choose to surrender these plans to the LORD. If you aren't sure what to say, you can simply pray, "Father, I surrender these plans to You. Your will be done. In Jesus' name, Amen." Then post the list somewhere you will see it - your Bible, your vehicle, on your fridge, etc. - and when you're reminded of your list, resolve to keep trusting Him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This week, encourage your group members to attend Commitment Sunday on November 15 during normal worship services at their campus.
- Don't forget to post a weekly photo of your group in your campus Facebook group for a chance to win a pizza party.

Don't forget to take attendance for your group!