

1 Chronicles 17

Aim of lesson

To show that God loved David so much that he promised to establish his family and his throne for ever, and to show the way in which David prepared for the building of the temple.

Background study

1 Chronicles 21 and 28:19. Recall God's promises to the Patriarchs: to Abraham (Genesis 18 and 22), renewed to Isaac (Genesis 26:3-5) and to Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15). God's promise to David fulfilled: in Solomon building God's House (1 Kings 5:5) and in Christ (Luke 1:32-33). Psalm 72, dedicated to Solomon, is prophetic of Christ's reign on earth.

Suggested outline of lesson

David wanted to please God more than anything else. He was now well established as king, and he lived in a grand new cedar palace. This royal house had been built for him with the help of his ally, king Hiram of Tyre, who had sent him the necessary cedar trees and also skilful masons and carpenters to construct it. When David looked around at his splendid home, he was disturbed by the contrast he saw between the tent that housed the ark of God and his own magnificent palace. He thought that now was the time to build a permanent temple to replace the tabernacle.

A house for God

Full of enthusiasm, David told Nathan, the prophet, of his plan. Nathan, too, thought it was a good idea. In his imagination David could already visualize the impressive new temple standing in the centre of Jerusalem, filled with people worshipping God. Imagine, then, David's disappointment when Nathan brought him a message from the Lord to say that he was not to proceed with his plan.

A house for David

Although David's hopes were not to be realized, God's message to him, however, was such that he felt honoured and content. God reassured him of his continued presence and favour, and promised his eternal blessing. In promising to build David a house, God was not referring to a building. Show how the word "house" can be used to mean a royal family line, e.g. the House of Windsor, or a group of people bound by a common loyalty, e.g. a house within a school. Quote Luke 2:4 to show that the word "house" referred to David's family. As for the temple, God promised that one of David's sons, who was to be king after David, would build it, and that the kingdom would flourish for ever. Remind the children of the earlier promises that God had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. David's family was descended from these men, so all the promises can be linked together, and will come to pass in the future, when God will bless all his faithful people. Note, from David's reply,

his gratitude to the Lord for honouring his family with such wonderful promises, his reverent recognition of God's great power, and his humble acceptance of God's ruling that he should not build the temple.

Preparation

David was conscious, however, that Solomon, chosen as his heir, was young and inexperienced for the task. He therefore took it upon himself to advise and assist in the preparation for the work. Because the design for this great temple was given to David by God himself (28:19) he knew the vast quantities of rich materials which would be required, and the expert craftsmen needed to execute the intricate work. Try to help the children understand the huge scale of the operation.

David's instructions to Solomon reveal his fervour and joyful dedication, which surely must have fired Solomon with similar enthusiasm. David pointed out that he had wanted to build the temple himself but, because he was a warfaring man, God had denied him the privilege and allotted the task to Solomon his man of peace. David gave to Solomon all the instructions he had received, together with the necessary materials. He also gave Solomon his blessing, urged him to begin, and to be ever conscious that it was God's work in which he was engaged.

Relevance to the children's lives

In this lesson we have seen how lovingly and carefully David prepared for the building of the temple of God. He was satisfied only with the best of everything - beautiful wood, precious metals, skilled craftsmen, etc. Think of ways in which we can show the same conscientious spirit in the things we do, at home and at school.

Worksheets

God's message reads 'He is the one who will build a house for my name and I will establish his throne for ever'.

The jumbled words are:

cedar			
masons		carpenters	
iron	silver	bronze	gold
Nathan the prophet			

Prayer

Read together the prayer of David in 1 Chronicles 29:11-13.

Memory verse

"I declare to you that the Lord will build you a house" (1 Chronicles 17:10).