

**GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID****1 Kings 11–12; 15:1-5; 2 Chronicles 21:1-7; 2 Kings 20:1-11**

**Memory Verse:** *But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one* (2 Thess. 3:3 ESV).

**Background Helps:**

In this week's readings, the emphasis is again on God's steadfast love and faithfulness in his covenant with David. Notice the following:

- Despite Solomon's unfaithfulness to the Mosaic covenant (1 Kings 11:1-10) and his son Rehoboam's foolish decision to follow the counsel of the young men (12:1-15), the LORD did not tear the kingdom completely away from Solomon and his descendants. Why not? Because of God's covenant with David (11:12-13, 29-39; 12:16-20).
- Similarly, Rehoboam's son, Abijam (Abijah), was a wicked king, unfaithful to God's covenant. "Nevertheless, for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him, and establishing Jerusalem" (15:4 ESV).
- Skipping a couple of generations and the good reigns of Asa and Jehoshaphat, we come to the wicked reign of Jehoram, king of Judah (the southern kingdom), who walked in the evil ways of King Ahab of Israel (the northern kingdom). Once again, "the LORD was not willing to destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and since he had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever" (2 Chron. 21:7 ESV).
- Much later, during the reign of good King Hezekiah of Judah, the LORD delivered the city of Jerusalem from the invasion of the king of Assyria, defending "this city [said the LORD] for my sake and for my servant David's sake" (2 Kings 20:6 ESV).

In all of these passages we see God's loyalty to his covenant with David.

**Lesson Helps:**

In a lesson covering multiple events and Scripture passages, the teacher can take one of two alternative approaches: (1) Teach a lesson based on all or most of the material found in the chapters, writing an appropriate lesson aim. For example: My students will learn about God's faithfulness to his covenant with David in spite of the unfaithfulness of David's successors, so that they will rely on God's faithfulness even when they have been unfaithful to him. With this aim you can cover most of the material in the daily Bible readings. Give your students hope that the Lord is steadfast in his love and faithfulness and, even if they have failed him in the past, they can turn back to him now because he is faithful.

(2) Or, rapidly survey the passages and events in the assigned chapters, and then focus on one narrower passage from which you derive your lesson aim. For example:

- My students will learn about God's faithfulness to his covenant with David in spite of Solomon's unfaithfulness, so that they will rely on God's faithfulness even when they have been unfaithful to him. Base this lesson on 1 Kings 11: Solomon's unfaithfulness to the covenant but God's determination to not give up on David's line. This lesson might be good for teens and young adults who are facing sexual temptation as Solomon did. If they have fallen in the past, the faithful God is willing to restore them.
- My students will learn about God's faithfulness to his covenant with David in spite of Rehoboam's foolish decision to follow the counsel of the young men, so that they will rely on God's faithfulness even when they have made foolish decisions in their own lives. Base your lesson on 1 Kings 12:1-24. Again, this lesson might be good for young people, encouraging them to follow the advice of mature adults rather than immature peers. But, even if they have made foolish decision in the past, they can still turn to the faithful God and he will bless their future.

No matter which approach or lesson aim you choose, be sure to include the memory verse, which assures us of God's faithfulness even when we are under attack from the evil one.

**Home Assignment:**

 Read 1 Kings 16:29–19:18; 2 Kings 13:1-5, 22-23.

 Memorize Matthew 6:24 ESV.