Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Advent 4 (B)
Old Testament: 2 Samuel 7:1-11; 16

BACKGROUND
Today we continue our Advent journey. Advent is a time when we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. During Advent, we reflect on the hope, peace, and joy that come with the birth of Christ. We prepare ourselves for the coming of the light that will help bring God's kingdom to earth.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING
Today's Scripture comes once from the Old Testament book of 2 Samuel. In today's story, God makes a covenant with David, promising that David's offspring would continue to lead and rule Israel long after his death. The line of David would last for many, many years. We see this covenant fulfilled in the birth and life of Jesus, who comes from the house and the line of King David. This story reminds us that when God makes a covenant with us, God lives up to it. God always fulfills God's promises.

THEME
God Fulfills God's Promises

BEFORE CLASS
Read the story in 2 Samuel 7:1-11; 16 prior to the start of class. Take special note of what words, phrases, or images stand out to you as you read. You will need the story script below in order to tell the story. Gather and prep materials for your chosen activities.

BEGINNING
Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles on your class Advent wreath. What season of the church year are we in? Why are we lighting candles on the Advent wreath?

OPENING PRAYER
Faithful God, you are always with us. Be present with us now as we learn more about your great promises. Amen.

THE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11; 16
Tell students the story using the script below:
King David had just finished fighting a powerful army. One night, after the king had found rest in his palace, he asked for the prophet Nathan to join him. "Nathan," the king said, "why is it that I'm sleeping in this beautiful palace, and God doesn't have a big temple? We should build one." The prophet liked this plan.

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Later that night, God spoke to Nathan, telling him something to say to King David. God said to tell David, "Are you the right person to build a temple for me? I've never lived in a house before! I have always moved and lived in a tent, and have never complained. I have never asked for a special place to live."

God told Nathan to say to David, "This is what God says: you are the king of Israel! I have always been with you, and have helped protect you from your enemies. One day I will help everyone live in a happy place, a place where they won't be attacked. I promise to keep you safe from your enemies! I also promise that your kingdom will last forever—your family tree will last for many, many years!"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder why we would hear this story today. What do you think?
- I wonder how David felt when God made this special promise with him. How would you feel?
- What are some promises that you make to people? What are some promises that people make to you?
- Is it easy or hard to keep promises we make? Why?

ACTIVITIES

Option 1

Give students paper and crayons. Invite them to draw a picture of their family. Is it big? In the story, what promise does God make to David and his family?

Option 2

Have students sit in a circle. Find a "talking stick" or other object (like a ball, pencil, etc.) to pass around the circle. Ask each person to think of one promise that God might make to us. Give the object to one student, and invite them to share their promise. Then, ask them to give the object to another person, who shares their promise. Continue sharing the object around the circle as everyone shares their promises.

Option 3

Make paper crowns to help remember the story of King David. Invite students to color pictures and symbols that remind them of the story on the crowns.

GETTING CLOSURE

Gather around your class Advent wreath. What are some of God's promises that are fulfilled at Christmas? How do we prepare ourselves for the fulfillment of these promises?

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, you make and fulfill promises to all people. Help us trust and hope in your promises to us. Amen.

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