God Is Establishing His *Kingdom*

Week 17

Day 1 — God's Plans Are Greater Than Our Expectations -1 Samuel 16:1–5

Samuel is grieving over Saul, but God tells him to stop mourning and go to Bethlehem to anoint another king. Israel's story is not over just because its first king has failed.
We often become so focused on what went wrong that we struggle to recognize what God is doing next. Yet God's purposes are not defeated by human failure. He calls Samuel to obey, even though the future is not yet fully visible.
This doesn't mean every disappointment will unfold as we hope. It means we can trust God's wisdom and continue walking faithfully through uncertainty. Sometimes the next step of faith is simply getting up and going where God directs.

Prayer

Father, help me trust Your plans even when I don't understand them. Give me the courage to move forward in faith and the humility to follow Your direction. Amen.

Reflection questions

- What disappointment am I allowing to keep me from moving forward in faith?
- How can I remain open to God's direction when my expectations change?

God Is Establishing His *Kingdom*

Week 17

Day 2 — God Looks at the Heart - 1 Samuel 16:6–13

When Samuel sees Eliab, he assumes that the impressive-looking son must be God's chosen king. But God corrects him: people look at outward appearance, while the Lord looks at the heart. David is not even initially presented among his brothers. He is out tending sheep, doing ordinary work, when God calls him into an extraordinary purpose. Our world often measures worth through appearance, achievement, popularity, and status. God reminds us that character matters more than image. He cares about the person we are becoming when nobody is watching. This also challenges how we treat others. Rather than judging people by what we see, we can learn to recognize their dignity and character.

Prayer

Lord, search my heart and shape me into someone who honors You. Help me care more about Your approval than outward recognition. Teach me to see others through Your eyes. Amen.

Reflection questions

- Am I more concerned about appearing godly or actually growing in godliness?
- Is there someone I have underestimated because of their appearance or position?

God Is Establishing His *Kingdom*

Week 17

Day 3 — Faithfulness Before the Spotlight - 1 Samuel 16:14–23

David has been anointed as the future king, yet he returns to serving. He plays his harp for Saul, bringing relief to a troubled king. David's journey reminds us that being chosen for a purpose doesn't mean every responsibility changes overnight. There is value in the quiet seasons when we learn to serve, grow, and develop our gifts. We may dream about future opportunities while overlooking the people and responsibilities God has already placed before us. But faithfulness is not measured by how visible our work is. It is measured by whether we honor God with what we have today.
The habits we build in private often shape how we respond when greater responsibility comes.

Prayer

God, teach me to serve You faithfully in the small things. Protect me from chasing recognition, and help me use the gifts You have given me to serve others with humility. Amen.

Reflection questions

- What ordinary responsibility can I approach with greater faithfulness this week?
- Would I still serve God if nobody noticed or praised me?

God Is Establishing His *Kingdom*

Week 17

Day 4 — God Is Greater Than Our Plans for Him - 2 Samuel 7:1–3

David lives in a palace and notices that the ark of God remains in a tent. He wants to build a house for the Lord, and Nathan initially encourages him. David's desire appears honorable, but God has a different plan. The following verses reveal that God, rather than David, will establish a house—a lasting dynasty—for David. This passage teaches us that sincere intentions do not automatically mean we understand God's direction. We can genuinely want to serve Him and still need to listen, wait, and adjust our plans. Faith is not simply asking God to bless what we have decided. It is being willing to let Him redirect us. Our plans become healthier when we hold them with open hands.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving me opportunities to serve You. Help me surrender even my good plans to Your wisdom. Let my desire to honor You be greater than my desire to do things my own way. Amen.

Reflection questions

- - Is there a good plan I need to surrender so I can remain open to God's direction?

God Is Establishing His *Kingdom*

Week 17

Day 5 — God Is the One Who Builds His Kingdom - 2 Samuel 7:4–11

God reminds David that He has been with Israel since bringing them out of Egypt. David did not establish God's faithfulness; he has been living within a story God began long before him.
The same is true of God's Kingdom today. We are invited to participate in His work, but we are not its source or its savior. Our church's ministry, our service, and our witness matter, yet their lasting fruit depends on God's grace and power.
This truth frees us from pride when things go well and despair when progress feels slow. We can work wholeheartedly without imagining that everything rests on our shoulders.
God is faithful across generations. We serve our part, trusting Him with the bigger story.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for being faithful through every generation. Keep me from believing that everything depends on my strength. Help me serve diligently while trusting You to accomplish what only You can do. Amen.

Reflection questions

- Where have I been acting as though everything depends on me?
- How can our church serve faithfully while trusting God for the results?

God Is Establishing His *Kingdom*

Week 17

Day 6 — A Promise That Points to Jesus - 2 Samuel 7:12–17

God promises David that his offspring and kingdom will endure. This covenant becomes a defining thread throughout the Bible, shaping Israel's hope for a righteous King from David's line. David's immediate descendants do not fulfill this promise perfectly. Israel's later kings fail, and the kingdom eventually falls. But God's promise continues to point forward to Jesus Christ. The New Testament identifies Jesus as the Son of David. In Luke 1:32–33, the angel announces that Jesus will receive David's throne and reign forever.
This is the wonder of God's faithfulness: human failure does not erase His purposes. Jesus is not merely another earthly ruler. He is the King whose reign has no end, and His Kingdom gives us a lasting hope beyond the rise and fall of human powers.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for being the promised King whose Kingdom will never end. Help me trust Your promises and live under Your rule. May my hope rest in You rather than in temporary things. Amen.

Reflection questions

- How does Jesus' eternal Kingdom change what I place my hope in?
- What is one way I can live more intentionally under Jesus' rule?

God Is Establishing His *Kingdom*

Week 17

Day 7 — Responding to God's Grace With Gratitude - 2
Samuel 7:18–29

After hearing God's promises, David sits before the Lord and asks, “Who am I, O Lord God?” His response is one of wonder. He recognizes that God's grace is far greater than anything he could earn or achieve.
David doesn't respond by boasting about his future dynasty. Instead, he praises God, remembers His greatness, and asks Him to fulfill His word.
We can learn from David's response. When we recognize God's grace, gratitude becomes more natural than pride. Prayer becomes an opportunity to remember who God is and to place our future in His hands.
We don't have to earn God's faithfulness through impressive achievements. We respond to His grace with trust, obedience, and worship.

Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for Your promises and steadfast faithfulness. Give me a humble heart that responds to Your grace with worship, gratitude, and trust. Help me build my life on what You have spoken. Amen.

Reflection questions

- When was the last time I paused to thank God for His faithfulness?
- How can I respond to God's grace with greater humility and trust this week?