

CORNERSTONECONNECTIONS
DECEMBER092023

when will I be king?

Scripture Story: 2 Samuel 2–5:5.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets* (or *Beginning of the End*), chapter 69.

PREPARING TO TEACH

I. SYNOPSIS

David had been preparing to be king since he was a teenager. Samuel had anointed him and declared him Saul's successor, but David's road to the throne was long and filled with challenges. There were high points, such as his victory over Goliath and his friendship with Saul's son Jonathan. There were long years of low points, when David and his band of followers lived as outlaws in the hills, fugitives from an angry king. Even after Saul's death, David did not have an easy path to the throne. For many years he fought to win his claim to the throne of all Israel.

Through it all, David trusted God. He trusted that God's promise for his life would be fulfilled, even when it seemed least likely. He remained open to God's leading even in difficult times. And his faith was finally rewarded. At the age of 37, having spent his entire youth and young manhood in a quest for the throne, he became king of the united 12 tribes of Israel, and began the most successful reign in the history of the Jewish monarchy.

This week's lesson focuses on how we, too, can trust in God's promises and God's plan for our lives even when the road is long and difficult. High school-aged Christians will be able to relate to the young David being anointed by Samuel, with a sense that God has a calling and a purpose for their lives. But when that purpose seems a long way from being fulfilled, and faith grows weak, how do we hold on and keep trusting God? That question is at the core of David's story this week.

II. TARGET

The students will:

- *Know* that David's experience of trusting God through difficult times can be an example for them.
- *Feel* confident that God has a plan for their lives.
- Choose to trust in God's plan even when it seems difficult or impossible. *(Respond)*

III. EXPLORE

The Church, Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, No. 12: "The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, for service to humanity, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word revealed in the Scriptures. The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. (Gen. 12:1-3; Exod. 19:3-7; Matt. 16:13-20; 18:18; 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38-42; 7:38; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18; 1 Peter 2:9.)"

TEACHING

I. GETTING STARTED

Activity

Refer the students to the What Do You Think? *section of their lesson. After they have completed it, discuss their responses.*

Invite students to share stories of times they had to wait for something. Encourage them to begin with trivial experiences if that's what they're comfortable with—waiting in line at a store or a doctor's office, waiting for Christmas or birthdays as a child, et cetera. If the discussion doesn't automatically go deeper, ask: Have you ever had to wait for God to answer a prayer? Are there prayers you are still waiting for God to answer? How does it affect your faith when you wait for God to help you with a situation and it seems you don't get a response right away?

Remind students that David's journey from anointing to becoming king of all Israel probably took as much as 20 years. In our world of instant gratification, especially with the short-term vision of youth, it's hard to imagine waiting that long for God's purpose in our lives to be worked out. But it's comforting to remember that God *will* prevail even if the difficulties we're in right now seem overwhelming.

Illustration

Share this illustration in your own words:

Throughout history men and women have had to wait to inherit their thrones either because of war or long life of the ruler on the throne. Queen Elizabeth I of England, daughter of Henry VIII, spent her childhood and youth in a state of uncertainty. Depending on her father's marriages and the changing politics of England, Elizabeth was sometimes recognized as heir to the throne, and other times treated as though she were not a royal princess at all. When her half-sister Mary ruled England, Elizabeth spent some time in prison. When Mary died and a messenger came to announce to the 25-year-old Elizabeth that she was finally queen of England, Elizabeth quoted Psalm 118: "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

II. TEACHING THE STORY

Bridge to the Story

Share the following in your own words:

We live in a society in which everything is instant. We get impatient if it takes longer than a minute to microwave our lunch, longer than a few seconds to download a page on the internet. Television has presented us with a world in which complex problems are solved in 30 or 60 minutes, while "real" news is compressed into 15-second sound bites. We want what we want, when we want it—*right now!*

One thing that can never be rushed is the process of growing into the person God has destined us to be. For David, it took 20 years of fighting, running, and hiding before he was crowned king. Other biblical characters experienced the same kind of waiting period before they realized their destiny. We, too, may have to wait to see God's will worked out in our lives, but that doesn't mean God isn't working with us. He always has a plan!

Out of the Story for Teachers

After you read the Into the Story *section with your students, use the following in your own words to process it with them.*

- After Saul's death, what obstacles did David still face on the way to the throne?
- How much time passed between Saul's death and David's coronation as king of both Israel and Judah? Draw a timeline of the events that happened during those years.
- How do you think David felt during the years that he fought a civil war to win power over all Israel?
- How do you think David felt on the day when he was finally crowned king of a united nation? What do you think he might have said to God in prayer on that day?
- What kind of obstacles do young Christians today face in achieving their destiny? What might stand between you and the "throne" God has planned for you? How can you deal with these kinds of obstacles?

Sharing Context and Background

Use the following information to shed more light on the story for your students. Share it in your own words.

The idea of kingship was still a new one for the nation of Israel. In fact, the idea of being a "nation" was pretty new too! David was only the second king of Israel. Before the time of Saul, Israel was a collection of tribes with no central government. The only real figures of central power and authority were the judges, prophets, and priests that God used to bring His word to the people.

But the Israelites wanted a king. They wanted to be a powerful nation like the countries around them. Although this wasn't God's original plan, He allowed the prophet Samuel to anoint Saul as the first king of Israel. When Saul proved unfaithful to God, Samuel anointed David—the youngest son of an obscure family, with no connection or claim to the throne—to succeed Saul.

But that promise took years to fulfill. At first David was the younger son who stayed at home while his brothers went off to war. Later he was the young hero who killed a giant; the musician whose playing soothed the king's nerves; the best friend of the king's son; married to (and then divorced from!) the king's daughter; and finally an outlaw on the run, head of a group of desperate men who lived in hills and caves. David's teens and 20s were filled with narrow escapes, desperate measures, and brushes with death.

Most of us don't live at that level of excitement, but we can relate to the boy who was anointed by Samuel, looking forward to being king. We all have our hopes and dreams for the future. God assures us that He has a plan for our lives, yet we often don't see how it's ever going to be accomplished. From the story of David we can learn about patient faith and trust in God.

Tips for Top-Notch Teaching

RABBI 101

Drawing a Timeline

It's often difficult for students to get a sense of events happening in history, especially when a Bible passage (like this week's) covers a long period of time with many events. You can show students how to draw a timeline by demonstrating on the chalkboard or whiteboard, using your own life or anyone else's life as an example. Draw a horizontal line, and mark key life events on it in the order they occurred. Students can practice by drawing a timeline of important events in their own lives. Then apply the skill to the Bible story. Individually or as a group, draw a timeline of the events that happen in this story. This will help students to grasp the outlines of the story and to see cause and effect in the story's events.

III. CLOSING

Activity

Close with an activity and debrief it in your own words.

cornerstoneconnections

Teaching From . . .

Refer your students to the other sections of their lesson.

- **Key Text**
  Invite the students to share the key text with the class if they have committed it to memory.
- **Flashlight**
  Read the Flashlight *statement, pointing out that most of the time it is from the commentary on this week's story found in the book* Patriarchs and Prophets. *Ask what relationship they see between the statement and what they have just discussed from* Out of the Story.
- **Punch Lines**
  Point out to your students the verses listed in their lesson that relate to this week's story. Have them share the verse that spoke most directly to them and allow them to explain why they chose it.
- **Further Insight**
  Ask them how the quote in Further Insight *conveys the point of the story in this lesson.*

Besides being king of Israel, David was known as a poet and musician who composed many of the psalms in our Bible. If you read the Psalms you'll see that the full range of human experience is represented there—joy, faith, despair, anger, fear. David wrote about the highs and lows of his experience.

If you were to write a psalm that expressed where you are in your life path and your walk with God right now, what would it say? Take a few minutes to write a short prayer to God that tells what you are feeling and what you need from God right now. This is not to be shared with anyone unless you want to. When you've written your psalm, keep it in your Bible and share it with God in your private prayer time. Remember that whether you feel glad, sad, mad, afraid, impatient, or alone, it's OK to tell God what you really feel—just as David did. He is watching, He is listening, and He *does* have a plan for your life!

Summary

Share the following thoughts in your own words:

David waited, worked, and fought to become king of Israel from the time he was a teenager till he was in his late 30s. He never stopped believing that God had a plan and that God was on his side, even when things got difficult. His faith was eventually rewarded when he sat upon the throne of Israel.

As a young person, you can be assured that God has a plan for your life. As He says to the people of Israel in Jeremiah 29:11, He has plans to give you hope and a future. But those plans may not always seem obvious to you. Sometimes the path in front of us gets dark, and we have nothing but faith to move us forward. When you get discouraged and begin to doubt that God is working in your life, remember David and his long road to the throne. Even in the darkest hours, when he was living in caves and on the run for his life, David was in God's care, in God's plan. And so are you.



Remind the students about the reading plan that will take them through the inspired commentary of the Bible, the Conflict of the Ages series. The reading that goes with this lesson is *Patriarchs and Prophets* (or *Beginning of the End*), chapter 69.

CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

DECEMBER 09 2023

STUDENT LESSON

Scripture Story: 2 Samuel 2–5:5.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets* (or *Beginning of the End*), chapter 69.

when will I be king?



Photo by The Crystal Lenz

flashlight

"The hour for the coronation was appointed; the man who had been expelled from the court of Saul, who had fled to the mountains and hills and to the caves of the earth to preserve his life, was about to receive the highest honor that can be conferred upon man by his fellow man. . . . The time had come, and David, by solemn rite, was consecrated to his office as God's vicegerent. The scepter was placed in his hands . . . , and the people gave their pledges of loyalty. The diadem was placed upon his brow, and the coronation ceremony was over. Israel had a king by divine appointment. He who had waited patiently for the Lord, beheld the promise of God fulfilled" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 701).

keytext

"When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel."

(2 Samuel 5:3, NIV)

what do you think?

Which statement best describes your attitude when you have to wait a long time for something?

____ I feel frustrated and angry, and everyone knows it.
____ I feel angry, but I keep the anger inside and it stresses me out.
____ I really don't care.
____ I feel excited because I know the thing will be worth waiting for.
____ I try to change the situation to see if I can make things happen faster.
____ I lose interest and move on to something else.

did you know?

What did it mean to be a king in Bible times? A king was far more than just a head of state, much more powerful than a president or prime minister today. While a king in the ancient world would usually have advisors or counselors, he wasn't required to take their advice. He was considered "above the law." Everything in the nation was believed to be the king's property—including all the people—and the king was free to use the land, its resources, and its people as he chose.

The idea of having a king was new for the people of Israel. Until Saul was chosen king, the Israelites had had no single, all-powerful ruler except God. The role of king placed a huge amount of power in the hands of one man. He couldn't be voted out of office—removed only by death! When David was crowned king, people in Israel hoped to have a king who would rule justly and follow God's laws, rather than one who would abuse his power and make his people suffer as so many kings at that time did.

INTO THE STORY

"In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. 'Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?' he asked.

"The LORD said, 'Go up.'

"David asked, 'Where shall I go?'

" 'To Hebron,' the LORD answered.

"So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns. Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the tribe of Judah. . . .

"Ish-Bosheth son of Saul was forty years old when he became king over Israel, and he reigned two years. The tribe of Judah, however, remained loyal to David."

"The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker. . . .

"Abner conferred with the elders of Israel and said, 'For some time you have wanted to make David your king. Now do it! For the LORD promised David, "By my servant David I will rescue my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and from the hand of all their enemies." '

"Abner also spoke to the Benjamites in person. Then he went to Hebron to tell David everything that Israel and the whole tribe of Benjamin wanted to do. When Abner, who had twenty men with him, came to David at Hebron, David prepared a feast for him and his men. Then Abner said to David, 'Let me go at once and assemble all Israel for my lord the king, so that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may rule over all that your heart desires.' So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace."

"All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, 'We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, "You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler." '

"When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel."

(2 Samuel 2:1-4, 10; 3:1, 17-21; 5:1-3, NIV)

OUT OF THE STORY

If God had chosen David as king, why did David have to fight a long and bloody civil war to secure his right to the throne?

Do David's actions throughout this story indicate that he was, in fact, following God's will? Why or why not?

What was David's attitude toward his defeated enemies? What does this tell us about David?

How do you think David felt about finally becoming king after waiting so long?

What type of leader do you think David was, considering that the elders of Israel asked that he become king over them as well as over Judah?

How do you think David was able to maintain his faith in God, and his trust in God's promise, when he had to wait so long and fight so hard to become king?

punch lines

"After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do' " **(Acts 13:22, NIV).**

" 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' " **(Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).**

"Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" **(Isaiah 40:31, NKJV).**

"Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness" **(Psalm 72:1, NIV).**

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" **(Romans 8:28, NKJV).**

further insight

"Faith is trusting God—believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good. Thus, instead of our own, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness."—Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 253.

Sabbath

Read 2 Samuel 5:3.

David was called by God as a young boy to become Israel's king, yet he had to wait for many years and experience many hardships before he finally wore the crown. What do you think kept him going during his years as an outlaw? What obstacles did he still face even after he was crowned king of Judah?

During those years, David's faith must have wavered at times. It seemed as if God's promise was so far from being fulfilled. Yet the difficult experiences of those years prepared him to become the king Israel needed.

How do you feel when you pray and do not seem to see results? Why does God's plan sometimes include waiting, struggling, and learning?

Second Samuel 5:3 tells us that after David's long years of struggle and hardship he finally received his promised reward: he became king of all Israel. We, too, will receive God's blessings if we learn to wait patiently for Him.

Sunday

Read Romans 8:28.

When we read the stories of King David, we step into a world very different from our own. It's often more like a fantasy novel than like the world we know: a world where kings rule by absolute power and disputes are settled by hand-to-hand combat. A world where a young man's destiny can be changed forever by a prophecy that takes half a lifetime to fulfill.

Yet in this remote and ancient world, God taught His people lessons that are still relevant today. How clear is your sense that God has a plan for your life? Even if it isn't clear, or easy to trace, in what ways are you able to believe that it is there?

Like David, we may spend years preparing for our destiny, but those are never wasted years. God is with us as He was with David throughout the years in the wilderness—teaching, guiding, training.

Monday

Read Jeremiah 29:11.

The fulfillment of the prophecy Samuel made when David was a teenager finally came about on the day that David was crowned king of the united kingdom of Israel and Judah. God kept His promise, just as God always does.

How does the story of David help you trust God's promises?

It may take a long time before others see and recognize what God has seen in you all along—the person you are capable of becoming. During the years David was a shepherd boy, an outlaw, and a pretender to the throne, God always saw him as a king. Eventually, others recognized the person God had created David to be.

Tuesday

Read Isaiah 40:31.

Read the *Flashlight* section of the lesson. As Ellen White describes in this passage, life takes unexpected twists and turns. Just look at the lives of celebrities who can be popular and adored one minute, hated or forgotten the next. But when we, like David, allow God to take control of our lives, we can be assured that life's twists and turns will always end up being for our good. Can you think of some "ups and downs" in your life that have worked out for the best in the end?

Wednesday

This week's *Punch Lines* come from various places in the Bible. Choose the one that speaks most directly to you and look it up, noting the context in which it is written. How does that verse, its context, the account of King David's life, and yours all relate to one another?

Thursday

Read 2 Peter 3:9.

Can you think of an area in your life where it's hard for you to trust God's promises? Maybe you've prayed for help in a situation but don't see any immediate results. As you think of David's long journey to the throne, write a brief prayer telling God what you want to happen in your situation, and promising to trust Him with the future outcome. (Use the Notes pages in the back of your study guide.)

Friday

Read Jeremiah 1:5.

David was probably just about the age you are now when he was anointed by the prophet Samuel and began his journey to the throne. By age 30, he was king of Israel.

Where do you imagine yourself at age 30? Take a little time to picture your own future. Do you believe that God has a plan for you? Do you have a sense that He is calling you toward a particular role, or is the future still very unclear for you? Do you trust Him to lead you in the direction that's best for you?

this week's reading*

Patriarchs and Prophets (or *Beginning of the End*), chapter 69.

**Beginning of the End* is a special adaptation of *Patriarchs and Prophets*, created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press®. Get more information about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.