

Leading in Prayer

“And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.”
- Psalm 78:72

What We Have Learned in This Series:

1. A leader is humble before his God and before his people. (Ps. 131:1)
2. Because of his faith, a leader finds peace within himself and then offers peace to others. (Ps. 131:2)

Let's Review — David Led Them In . . .

Unity — 2 Samuel 2	Hope — 2 Samuel 5
Trust — 2 Samuel 3-4	Worship — 2 Samuel 6

Peace and Rest — (2 Samuel 7:1)

“After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him...”
- 2 Samuel 7:1

- David and Israel were living in times of stability and peace.
- It's been a long time coming!

A Man's Dream — (2 Samuel 7:2-3)

- David realized that he lived in a palace while God lived in a tent.
- He decided to build a temple for God.
- His godly counselor, Nathan, encouraged him to fulfill that dream.

LESSON: In good times, David dreamed of honouring God. Do you?



A Prophet's Vision — (2 Samuel 7:4-17)

God said to Nathan . . .

- *I've been living in a tent for a long time.*
- *I've not asked for a temple.*
- *David isn't the one chosen by Me to build the temple.*
- *I have a plan for someone else to build a temple for me.*
- *I will establish the “house of David” forever.*

- Nathan told David everything that God said! (Oops!)

“Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.” - 2 Samuel 7:17

LESSON: Sometimes our “dreams and plans” come from God and sometimes they come from within our own hearts. (Discern!)

A Godly King's Response — (2 Samuel 7:18-29)

God said “no” to David and this is how David responded:

- You are God and I am your servant.
- You have blessed me beyond anything that I deserve.
- You know what is best for me.
- You have done a “great thing” for me by saying No and by communicating it clearly to me!
- Your actions have shown your greatness and your love.
- You have chosen something for me, although different from what I requested. Thank you, and please keep that promise.
- You are God and I am your servant.

LESSON: It is wise to thank God for saying “no” and to express our trust in Him as our God.

Some Lessons to Consider:

1. Often, we are too self-focused when we pray and therefore don't consider doing great things for God.
2. Often, we pray too small; we dream too little; and we react too much when we don't get our way.
3. Often, our plans — even approved by Godly friends — are not God's plans and we must be willing to adjust.
4. When God says “no” it is probably not discipline but redirection!
5. We need to trust God when He says No!
“He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.’ But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? ...” - 2 Samuel 12:22,23
6. God honours us for wanting to do great things in His Name.
“But the LORD said to my father David, ‘Because it was in your heart to build a temple for my Name, you did well to have this in your heart.’” - 1 Kings 8:18
7. Not everyone is called to build temples! Find what God has designed for you to do and do it with all of your heart.

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