

Study 8



Warm Up

1. Greeting / Refreshments / Get Acquainted
2. Prayer & Praise List / Group Fund
3. Testimony Sharing



Overview of Today's Study

Text: 1 Chronicles 17:1-20

Lesson Title: *When God Says No*

Lesson Main Idea: In recent weeks we have observed God's use of events and circumstances to develop David's close connection with the LORD. We have seen the record of David's growth in political, social, and military wisdom. We have also observed the proof of his close walk with God by the way David responded to fear, to sorrow, to intense opposition, and to perplexing opportunities. Today, we will once again see David's close connection in action. This study will show believers how to respond in life when God redirects our good intentions.

🔑 Today's Key Question 🔑

How should Christians respond when God alters the course of their lives?





Connecting the Study

Last time we studied David leading Israel in spiritual matters. David desired all Israel to share the closeness to God that had meant so much to him through the years and so they brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem the capital. God continued to bless David and enabled him to build a tremendous king's palace of the finest cedar. This huge blessing stirred David's heart to want to do something for the LORD in return. David decided to build a permanent resting place for God's presence; he wanted to build a house for God.



Bible Study

1 Chronicles 17:1-20

A. What do these verses tell us? (What happened? What was taught?)

17:1 Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains. **David is pondering the blessing of his great cedar home and compares its splendor to the not-so-luxurious tent the Ark of the Covenant and God's very presence has been being kept under. So David is moved to want to do something great for God.**

Group Questions

- Was something wrong with David or his motive to build a house for God? (No – absolutely not. **2 Chronicles 6:8** records God's affirmation of David for even having **the thought**. But the LORD said to David my father, Forasmuch as it was in thine heart to build an house for my name, thou didst well in that it was in thine heart:)

17:2 Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee. **David is even encouraged from a spiritually mature believer who knows David well to move forward with what's on his heart.**



Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

17:3-6 And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, 4 Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in: 5 For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another. 6 Wheresoever I have walked with all Israel, spake I a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, Why have ye not built me an house of cedars? **Just a few hours later, God reveals to Nathan what His intentions for David are, or better put, are *not*.**

Group Questions

- Should David have trusted Nathan's encouragement? (David had no reason not to.)
- Was Nathan's connection to God "broken"? (Scripture doesn't indicate that. In fact, God gave a lengthy, caring message to Nathan to communicate to David. It is unlikely Nathan was "on the outs" with God.)
- When determining a course of action for your life, how much weight should a believer give another believer's advice? (**First**, consider the source; are they in a growing relationship with Christ? **Second**, are they trying to help you glorify God or are just make you happy? **Third**, it is vital that your own relationship with Christ be on the grow. If it is not, you will not be able to get your own sense of direction from the Holy Spirit.)
- Had Israel been slack by only making tents and by not building a permanent place for the Ark? (No. They were told to make a tent for the Ark in Exodus 25, they were obediently following instructions.)
- Why do you think God let Nathan encourage David to move forward with plans to make God's house and then only a few hours later to tell Nathan the opposite? (Maybe to test David's response – after all, there had not been many trials and tests lately.)
- Was there anything wrong with David's aspiration to build a house for God? (No. It was all for God's glory and honor.)
- Was David's plan rejected because he had lost favor with God or was in some sort of sin? (No. It simply was not God's plan for David to build a place for God.)



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17:7-15 Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel: 8 And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth. 9 Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning, 10 And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house. 11 And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever. 13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee: 14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore. 15 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David. **God very gently reassures David of their close relationship and reinforces the truth of this closeness by recounting the many blessings God had poured out on David. God doesn't owe David any details about the future but even graciously dispenses information about a son that would be established as King of the great nation of Israel and that this son would build a place for the LORD. In addition, David is informed that his son will be safe in God's kingdom forever and that the throne will be established forever.**

Group Questions

- What qualities about God can be seen from these verses? (**God's grace** just for choosing David. **God's tenderness** in the way He communicates and executes His will for our lives. **God's loyalty** as He perfectly keeps His word to David and all believers. **God's desire for relationship** over pomp and circumstance, He was willing to reside in a simple tent if He could stay close to His believers. **Others?**)

17:16-20 And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said, Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me



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hitherto (**this far**)? 17 And yet this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast also spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O LORD God. 18 What can David speak more to thee for the honour of thy servant? for thou knowest thy servant. 19 O LORD, for thy servant's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all this greatness, in making known all these great things. 20 O LORD, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

Group Questions

- What was David's first response to the revelation from God that he was not to build a house for God (17:16)? (David got alone with God.)
- What did David do next (17:16-19)? (David humbled himself before God by stating his unworthiness to have received such immense blessing throughout his life.)
- What does David do after his humble expression before God (17:20)? (David thankfully cooperated with God and praised Him for the awesome promises made.)

B. What do these verses mean? (What was one or more principles/lessons the writer or God was trying to communicate?)

1. Sometimes the **advice** from a **godly** believer will not **fit** God's **plan** for you.
2. Not all well intended **plans for God** are God's intended **plan for you**.
3. When God says "no" it is not necessarily **discipline** or **rejection**; sometimes it is simply **redirection**.
4. When God **redirects** my life, it is because He has a **better** way and He expects me to **support** it.
5. When being redirected by God, I should **get alone** with Him, **humble myself** before Him, and **thankfully cooperate** with Him.



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C. How should these verses impact my life? (marriage, family, work, ministry, social life, friendships)

Application Questions

1. Rate yourself. When being redirected by God, how well do I follow David's example in the following areas:
 - a. I get alone with God (not so good good very good)
 - b. I humble myself before God (not so good good very good)
 - c. I thankfully cooperate with God (not so good good very good)
2. What can I do on a daily basis that could improve my responses?
3. When advising a fellow believer, what is my objective? Is it to validate my own worth by the giving of advice; is it to help my fellow believer to improve their situation; or is it to help my fellow believer to best glorify God?
4. Is God using me in another's life right now? Why or why not?
5. Is God redirecting a good intention of mine right now?

