

DEEP PREP GUIDE

#DTR | OCTOBER 26 | BIG GOD STORY

BOTTOM LINE:

God is faithful.

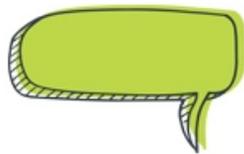
STORY TEXT:

2 Samuel 7:1-17

You may have never heard the phrase “DTR”, but you surely have probably experienced it before. DTR stands for “define the relationship”. I first encountered this phrase in college, namely, to talk about romantic relationships. The idea of a “DTR” is that the people in relationship talk about feelings, experiences, and hopes (or lack thereof) regarding where the relationship is at, and the future of the relationship. Simple, right?

Believe it or not, God has plenty of “define the relationship” moments between Him and His people. 2 Samuel 7 is a significant and seminal moment in the history of God’s story of the world. It outlines the covenant between God and His people through the lineage of David. While it’s a significant story in the history of our faith as God’s people, the story also guides our way of how we see God deal with us as His people.

By now in the school year, hopefully you’ve started to get a gauge on where students are at in their relationship with God. If you don’t yet have that yet, I hope you’re get there tonight. A significant piece of how we do ministry at Prince of Peace is through conversation. If we want students to take on authentic faith, then we need to have authentic faith conversations. Our story in 2 Samuel gives us the framework for how God deals with us: faithfulness.

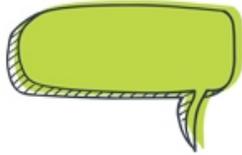


TENSION

The most predominant question as to how God cannot exist is when we talk about evil in the world. How can a God exist alongside such horrible evil in the world? How can God “sit” idly by as evil seems to flourish in such large proportions? Even if God is there, is He powerful enough to eventually stop it?

The tension is, where is God? This real tension is lived through every student in very different ways. It’s lived through broken family situations; friendships run amuck, addictions wreaking havoc on students’ physical, emotional, and spiritual lives. So, the tense question remains,

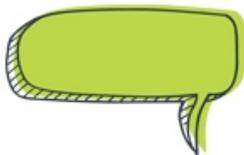
where is God? The history of God's people is asking a similar question, if not in similar language, but with a similar yearning. God's people long to see how God will show up. Will He show up in a miracle? Will He show up to our leader? Will he show up to defeat our enemies? Will he just show up today? There's tension through and through with the story of God with His people. We find truth in our story that crosses the bridge of history leading us all the way to today, and will sustain us as God's people forever.



TEXT [CONTEXT]

As was shared, this story of David is a significant story in the history of God's people. This is an unconditional covenant made between God and David through which God promises David and Israel that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah and would establish a kingdom that would endure forever. The Davidic Covenant is unconditional because God does not place any conditions of obedience upon its fulfillment. The surety of the promises made rests solely on God's faithfulness and does not depend at all on David or Israel's obedience.

The promise that David's "house," "kingdom," and "throne" will be established forever is significant because it shows that the Messiah will come from the lineage of David and that He will establish a kingdom from which He will reign. The covenant is summarized by the words "house," promising a dynasty in the lineage of David; "kingdom," referring to a people who are governed by a king; "throne," emphasizing the authority of the king's rule; and "forever," emphasizing the eternal and unconditional nature of this promise to David and Israel.



TRUTH

The story of God is a very simple if we look at it as if our lives were a timeline: God is faithful to his presence in our lives.

Our response is the next step. God is faithful, what is our response? We respond to a faithful God with acts of faithfulness to the relationship. You can't count on a relationship being a one-way relationship with friends or family, why would we expect it of God? If the story of God faithfully giving us his presence as His beloved people, then we respond as a part of that relationship. In other words, we need to start being consistent with showing up with our relationship with God.

God defines the relationship as one that is rooting in “showing up”. God shows up for us, how do we show up for God? What is an act of faithfulness that we can give to God as a sign that we want to show up for our relationship with Him?