

K-5th Grade
David's Kindness
Parent Devo & Bible Study

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 Samuel 9

STORY POINT: David showed kindness to Jonathan's son

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 145:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

Parent Devotional

Though King Saul was an adversary to David, Saul's son Jonathan loved him as much as he loved himself. (See 1 Sam. 18:1) Before David fled from King Saul and journeyed toward Moab, Jonathan appealed to his friend David, "If I continue to live, show me kindness from the LORD, but if I die, don't ever withdraw your kindness from my household" (1 Sam. 20:14-15a).

Following the deaths of King Saul and his son Jonathan, David was made king over Israel. The Lord was with David, and he experienced numerous military victories. David remembered the promise he made to his best friend Jonathan and was determined to keep it.

David asked a servant of Saul's family if anyone remained from Saul's family. The servant mentioned Jonathan's son. Jonathan's son Mephibosheth (meh FIB oh sheth) had been injured when he was five years old, so his feet were crippled. (2 Sam. 4:4) David brought Mephibosheth to his house. Mephibosheth fell facedown before David. As a descendant of Saul, he was right to fear the king. But David said, "Don't be afraid."

David showed kindness to Mephibosheth, promising to restore to him all of Saul's fields. He appointed servants to work the fields. The fields would provide an income for Mephibosheth. David also announced that Mephibosheth would eat meals at David's table, just like one of the king's sons. So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem and always ate at the king's table.

As you teach kids the story of David's kindness toward Mephibosheth, go beyond the lesson that we can be kind like David. Highlight King David's surprising and gracious kindness to Mephibosheth. Then point them to Jesus. In a greater way than David, God shows surprising kindness to us. (Eph. 2:7) Because of Jesus, He invites us into His family and gives us life with Him forever.

David's Kindness
2 Samuel 9

David was a good king for Israel. He defeated his enemies, and he obeyed God to do what was fair and right for God's people. One day, David thought about King Saul and his family. David and Saul's son Jonathan had been best friends. He had promised to be kind to Jonathan's family. David wondered if anyone from that family was still alive.

David said to one of Saul's servants, "I want to show kindness to someone from Saul's family. Is anyone still alive?"

The servant said, "Yes, Jonathan's son—the one whose feet were injured—is still alive."

The servant told David where Jonathan's son lived. His name was Mephibosheth (meh FIB oh sheth). David called for him to his palace in Jerusalem. When Mephibosheth arrived, he bowed down before David to show respect.

"Mephibosheth!" David said.

Mephibosheth answered, "I am your servant."

"Don't be afraid. I made a promise to your father, Jonathan, and I want to show you kindness for your father's sake."

David told Mephibosheth what he would do for him. "I will give you all the land that belonged to your grandfather, Saul. Also, I want you to eat all your meals at my table."

Mephibosheth bowed down. "Why would you show such kindness to someone like me?" he wondered.

David made sure that Saul's servants would take care of the land and farm it for Mephibosheth. From that time on, Mephibosheth lived at the palace and ate his meals at King David's table as if he were one of King David's own sons.

Christ Connection: King David showed surprising kindness to Mephibosheth even though he didn't have to. In a greater way, God shows surprising kindness to us. Because of Jesus, He invites us into His family and gives us life with Him forever.

Memory Verse:

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.

Psalm 145:13