



DAVID'S KINDNESS

2 SAMUEL 9

Instructions

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

Tell the Bible Story

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.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to 2 Samuel 9. Explain that the events in 2 Samuel begin with the death of King Saul and record the life of King David.

Ask the following questions and lead your kids to discuss:

1. How did David show kindness to Jonathan’s son?

Lead your kids to discuss details from the Bible story. David restored to Jonathan the lands belonging to Saul, and he invited Mephibosheth to eat at his table as if he were one of David’s sons.

2. How does God show kindness to us?

Allow your kids to discuss ways they have experienced God’s kindness in their lives. Emphasize the good news of the gospel. God showed His kindness and love by sending His Son, Jesus. He saved us—not because we deserved it, but because He is compassionate and merciful.

3. How can showing kindness help people understand God's kindness?

Guide your kids to discuss ways they can show kindness (smiling, encouraging others, sharing, showing patience, helping others, and so on). Help your kids recognize that choosing kindness often means putting others first. The Bible instructs us to be kind; Jesus showed the greatest kindness by giving up His life for us.

SAY:

As king, David led the Israelites in many military victories. Israel was strong, and God blessed David. One day, David thought about his friend Jonathan, who had died. David showed kindness to Jonathan's son. Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, and he ate at King David's table.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help your kids use the table of contents and large chapter numbers to find 2 Samuel 9. Ask the kids which Bible division 2 Samuel is in (Old Testament History) and consider asking about other books that are part of that division (Joshua–Esther).

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Who was Mephibosheth?

Saul's grandson, Jonathan's son; 2 Sam. 9:6

2. What did David do for Mephibosheth?

Showed kindness, gave land, and invited him to eat at David's table; 2 Sam. 9:7

3. Why did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

David and Jonathan were best friends, and Jonathan had asked David to promise to love and care for Jonathan's family; 1 Sam. 20:14-15; 2 Sam. 9:1

4. Why do you think God wants us to show kindness to others?

Guide your kids to see that God's kindness to us by sending Jesus is much greater than any kindness we could show. By showing kindness, we offer the world a small picture of what God's love and kindness look like.

5. When is it easy to be kind? When is it difficult?

Guide your kids to think about how it is easy to be kind toward people who are kind

toward you. Help them see that Jesus was kind toward us by dying on the cross even when we were enemies of God. His kindness is perfect, and we can trust God to help us show extreme kindness.

6. Whom could you show kindness to this week?

Guide your kids to think about the name or names of people they know whom they could show kindness to. Encourage the kids to come up with real steps they could take to show Jesus' love.

SAY:

David showed kindness to Jonathan's son. Even though Mephibosheth did not have anything to offer a powerful king, David still showed him kindness. This points us to Jesus, who showed us kindness even though we were sinners.