



## David's Kindness

**Bible Passage:** 2 Samuel 9

**Memory Verse:** <sup>6</sup>No one is like you, LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. **Jeremiah 10:6**

**Bottom Line:** I believe in and love Jesus because He has been kind to me.

**Big Picture Question:** Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.

**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.*

### 10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Needle in a Haystack Minute to Win it

**What You Need:** 2 small bowls, 2 plates, rice, colored rice, tweezers, zip top bags

**What You Do:**

- Set out 1 bowl and plate per team. Fill one bowl with white rice and add 10 pieces of colored rice.
- Separate kids into 2 teams.
- Set your timer for 1 minute.
- Kids will use tweezers to extract the colored rice from the bowl. Players cannot use anything but the tweezers to sort and pick up the rice.
- Keep playing till everyone has a turn. (in between each player, add grains of colored rice as needed)
- Award points for each grain of rice removed
- Most players should be able to get 4-5 grains of colored rice.

**What You Say** "This summer we are playing a different game each time you come to small group. As we play we should get to know each other's names and see if there is a way we can learn from our Bible story as well. It's time for large group, let's clean up and get ready to see what story we have today."

### 10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

### 15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

#### CONTEXT

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.

## TEACHING FOCUS (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.

## TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- David did not want to hurt Mephibosheth; David wanted to show him great kindness.
- Do you know another word for undeserved kindness? *Grace* is undeserved kindness!
- In a greater way, God shows surprising kindness to us by sending Jesus.
- **BL: I believe in and love Jesus because He has been kind to me.**
- When we trust Jesus, God forgives our sin. God gives us new hearts that love Him, and He fills us with the Holy Spirit, who guides us and helps us obey God.
- Because God has been kind to us, we can be kind to others.

## 25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

### Discussion Questions:

- Who was Mephibosheth? (*Saul's grandson, Jonathan's son; 2 Sam. 9:6*)
- What did David do for Mephibosheth? (*showed kindness, gave land, and invited him to eat at David's table; 2 Sam. 9:7*)
- 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*)
- Why do you think God wants us to show kindness to others? *Guide 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.*
- When is it easy to be kind? When is it difficult? *Guide 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.*
- Whom could you show kindness to this week? *Guide 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.*

**Activity: Pack school supplies for an OCC Shoebox**

**What You Need:** ziptop bags, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, crayons, etc, “I packed a shoebox” stickers, OCC fliers for kids to take home.

**What You Do:**

- Each small group will pack 25 bags of school supplies to go in shoeboxes at the packing party on November 6.
- We will have instruction sheets for you to follow as you pack each box.
- If you still have time ask kids to write a card to the kids receiving a shoebox. We will put those in the shoeboxes as well.
- As you are packing remind kids that shoeboxes go to kids in developing countries so that missionaries have the chance to share about Jesus with them.
- Just like David showed kindness to Mephibosheth, when we pack a shoebox we are showing the same kind of kindness and helping others have the chance to know about Jesus too.
- You can also talk to kids about how they can find ways to help contribute so we can pack more shoeboxes. Pencils, crayons, markers, erasers, pencil sharpeners all help us fill a box with needed supplies for a kid in a developing country.
- Give each kid a sticker and flier to take home.

**What You Say** We heard in our Bible story today about how David showed kindness to Jonathan’s son. This was surprising kindness because David didn’t have to show kindness to Mephibosheth, but he wanted to. Think about how God shows surprising kindness to us. As sinners, we were His enemies. But because of Jesus, He invites us into His family and gives us life with Him forever. **BL: I believe in and love Jesus because He has been kind to me.**

**Activity: Memory Verse Activity**

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster, Memory Verse Name Tags (printable -1 set per week)

**What You Do:**

- Put one name tag on each kid.
- Challenge kids to work together to put themselves in order without speaking.
- Play a second round where they can speak.
- Then allow volunteers to say the verse from memory.
- Praise each kid’s effort and encourage all the kids to continue working on the verse over the week.

**What You Say** ” In this memory verse, God’s Word tells us that no one is like Him. That means that no matter how strong, wise, kind, or powerful anyone else might be, God is stronger, wiser, kinder, and more powerful. Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.”

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Say:**

“God, You are good and king. WE confess that we are not always kind. Forgive us, Lord. Your love is in us through Your Spirit. Help us love others well by showing kindness and sharing the gospel. Amen.

**5 Minutes HOME:** PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Question. Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone. **BL: I believe in and love Jesus because He has been kind to me.**