

David's Kindness

Bible Passage: 2 Samuel 9

Memory Verse: ⁶No 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.*

Leader Notes:

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.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and small group leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Follow the Right Path:

What You Need: Pool Noodles (4 per group), masking tape, sheep hats (5 per group)

What You Do:

- Mark a taped path on the floor.
- Talk about how shepherds lead sheep on safe, good paths.
- Then give 5 kids a sheep hat to be the sheep.
- 4 kids will get pool noodles to help herd the sheep to keep them on the path.
- When you say "Go" shepherd will try herd the sheep crawling on their knees around the taped path.
- They can gently use the pool noodles to help nudge the sheep to stay on the path.
- You might want to spend some time talking about words the shepherds could use to help direct the sheep.
- Give kids about 4 minutes to move the sheep through the path.
- If time allows switch sheep and shepherds and repeat the whole process again.

What You Say: "Did your sheep follow your commands? Why/Why not? As David is growing as a king, He is learning about listening to God and following His commands. David said, God is like a shepherd. A shepherd takes care of His sheep and makes sure they do not wander into danger. God is so great and mighty He can help direct our paths. Let's find out more about David today in our Bible Story.

Worship

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible Story today."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kid's hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a book mark in 2 Samuel 9 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You Say: The Bible is God's Word. Everything we read in the Bible is true. Today's Bible story is from the Book of 2 Samuel. 2 Samuel is in the Old Testament.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible Story:

“Long before David was king, he promised to be kind to the family of Saul’s son Jonathan. After God made David king, David asked, “Is there anyone still in Saul’s family that I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” They told David that Jonathan’s son Mephibosheth was alive, but his feet were hurt and he could not walk. David sent for Mephibosheth, who bowed to the king, David said, “Do not be afraid. I will give you your grandfather’s fields, and you will always eat at my table.” Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, and he always ate at the king’s table like one of King David’s own children.”

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: Our big picture question asks, Is anything greater than God? No God, is greater than everything. We see in today’s Bible story that King David was a very good king, but David was not perfect. Only Jesus is perfect, and only Jesus is the perfect King. He rules over everything perfectly.

Practice the Memory Verse:

Open your Bible to Jeremiah 10:6. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: “Even God’s name is powerful. That means that God rules over every person who has ever lived and ever will live. That is a long time! In fact, that is forever! God is great forever!”

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leaders.

1. Pack an OCC Shoebox

What You Need: supplies to fill a girls box and a boys box, 2 boxes for each group, stickers for kids (I packed a Shoebox stickers), box labels, OCC info page for kids to take home, cards for kids to color to put in the shoe box.

What You Do:

- Show kids the items you have collected to fill a shoebox.
- Let kids know that we will start collecting items in a few weeks to fill boxes at Parkway.
- As you are packing ask them about ways they could help contribute to OCC Shoeboxes and show kindness to others around the world.
- Tell kids, just like David showed kindness to Mephibosheth, when they fill a shoe box, they give a kid in a developing country the opportunity to hear about Jesus and get gifts that show them how God provided a King for all of us.
- Kids can take one item at a time and put it in the shoebox.
- When the box is full, pass out the cards. We will collect these to go in shoeboxes that Parkway packs and sends out.
- Give kids a sticker that says “I packed a shoebox”

What You Say ” In today’s Bible story, David was thinking of how much he cared about his friend Jonathan. He wanted to do something nice for Jonathan’s family. David showed kindness to Jonathan’s son. We are showing kindness to people we don’t know by sharing things we have so they can hear about Jesus. Sending a shoebox across the world will let kids know that we are thinking about them and care about them.

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids.
- As you say the words point to them on the poster.

- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include, "No one is like you (shake your head, like saying no), Lord (point to the sky); you are great (sign for "great", both hands up like giving a double high five), and your name is mighty in power (flex your muscles)

What You Say " The Holy Spirit gave Jeremiah exactly the right words to say to God's people. God wanted them to know that God is perfect, and there is nothing and no one who can compare to Him. Only God is all powerful, perfectly holy, and eternally loving."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Pray-** "Father, thank You for your goodness to us. We know that Your grace to us is the only thing that protects us from your righteous anger toward sin. Help us to love You more each day, and obey Jesus as our King of Kings. Amen

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during your small group session. Send home the OCC Information card and tell families, we are talking about how great our God is.