

## Unit 11 • Session 4

# David's Kindness

### 2-3rd Lesson

#### BIBLE PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 9

#### STORY POINT:

David showed kindness to  
Jonathan's son.

#### KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 145:13

#### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

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

#### INTRODUCE THE STORY

Opening Activities  
(20 MINUTES)



#### TEACH THE STORY

Large Group  
(20 MINUTES)



#### APPLY THE STORY

Small Group  
(20 MINUTES)



#### Opening Activity Supplies

"Color by Number" activity  
page (1 per kid)  
Pencils, markers

#### Large Group Supplies

Lunch box  
Bible

#### Small Group Supplies

Bibles (2-3 per group)  
Cardstock, Construction  
paper (1 each per kid), glue,  
scissors, markers, pencils  
Journal page (1 per kid)

## LEADER Bible Study

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.

# The BIBLE Story

## 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."

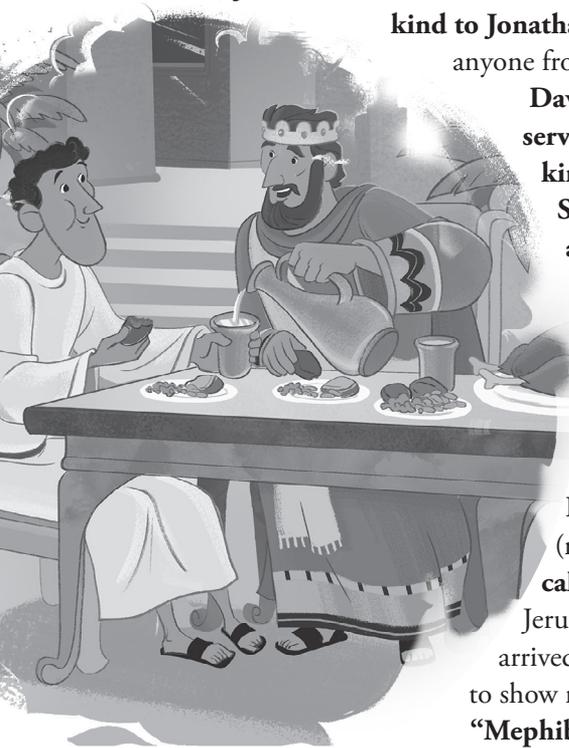
The servant told David where Jonathan's son lived. His name was Mephibosheth (meh FIB oh sheth). David called for him to his palace in Jerusalem. When Mephibosheth arrived, he bowed down before David to show respect.

**"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.*

# INTRODUCE the Story



## Opening Activities

**SESSION TITLE:** David's Kindness

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Samuel 9

**STORY POINT:** David showed kindness to Jonathan's son.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 145:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

### Intro Music

### Intro/Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to answer this question: If you could invite anyone over for dinner, who would you invite? Why?

### Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete "Color by Number" on the activity page. Guide kids to color in the spaces marked with even numbers to reveal a hidden word (kindness). Then kids should circle its definition.

**SAY** • What is kindness? [Allow kids to respond.] Yes, kindness is "the quality or state of showing a gentle nature and a desire to help others." Today we will hear a story from the Bible about a time King David showed surprising kindness to someone.

### Transition to teach the story

- "Color by Number" activity page
- Pencils or markers

**Note:** The activity page can be used as an opening activity, but it needs to be sent home with the parents.

# TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** David's Kindness

**Large Group**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Samuel 9

**STORY POINT:** David showed kindness to Jonathan's son.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 145:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

## Countdown video

### Countdown

Show the countdown video as you transition to the Large Group game.

## Eliminator Game

4 Eliminator buzzers

**LEADER •** Hey everyone! Welcome to KidCity! We have some brand-new kids in here this morning. Let's give them with a big round of applause! (Pause) Each of you has your own buzzer with your own unique color (red, blue, yellow and green). That color is the team that you are on. Can you each take turns buzzing that for me one time just to make sure it works? (let each kid press their buzzer one at a time) Great! We are going to play the game called Eliminator.

**LGL will select four kids to play the game (choose 2 boys and 2 girls)**

Up on the screen you're going to see a spinning wheel and 4 different pillars of light. Each pillar is a different color and matches each of your buzzers. When we start, I'm going to have the RED player press his/her buzzer and that will let our tech know when to stop the wheel. Any color that the red ball stops on will eliminate one of the colored lights of that team's pillar. But be careful, you could accidentally stop on your OWN color, too! Then, the BLUE player will get to stop the wheel, and then YELLOW and then GREEN.

If your pillar runs out of lights, you are out of the game. We will do this over and over until one player is left and they will be the Eliminator Champion. OK, get your buzzers and buzzer fingers ready! Let's play Eliminator!

"Movin Me"  
song

"God is on the  
Move" song

### Sing (4 minutes)

**LEADER** • When we allow God's love to move in us, we feel encouraged to show others Jesus. Let's sing together now! Sing "Movin Me" and "God is on the Move".

LGL enters  
carrying a  
lunch box

**LEADER** • Before we get started, I have a story for you. Ok, so Friday I was sitting at the lunch table about to enjoy my amazing lunch. Let me tell you a few things that were in my lunch box: I had a Lunchables - the chicken nuggets one, Pringles, Oreos, a Go-Gurt (that was still cold) and a bottle of water - because, you know, I'm a healthy person!

Anyway, then I notice that someone sat across from me. I look up and it's Kenny - the guy who is always mean to me and makes fun of me all the time. I start to open my Lunchables and I see that he didn't have any food. I ask him why and he said that he lost his lunch. So...I gave him my lunch.

You know, some people might hear a story like that and think, *You just gave him your lunch? That makes no sense. He is mean to you! He didn't deserve your lunch.* But showing kindness isn't about who deserves it, it's about spreading the goodness and grace of Jesus. You know, I think I know just the story to help me explain.

## Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Our story today is from the Bible about David. He did something very kind for someone who did not deserve it.

[CG Big picture question](#)

David was a great king, but he was not a perfect king. Only Jesus is our perfect King. ***How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.*** Jesus always does what is good and right. He has all power and all authority, so His perfect plans will always come true.

## Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to the story and tell kids about how all the Bible stories point to one big story about God's love for us.

[CG Giant timeline](#)

**LEADER** • Saul disobeyed God, so **God chose David to be king instead of Saul.** That made Saul jealous, so he wanted to kill David. **David showed mercy even though Saul hated him.** David consistently trusted God. In fact, David was known as a man after God's own heart, and **God promised that the Messiah would come from David's family.** This week we will learn what David did when he learned about Saul's grandson who was alive after the rest of Saul's family had been killed.

["David's Kindness" video](#)

## Watch the Bible story (10 minutes)

[CG Story point](#)

Show the Bible story video "David's Kindness."

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • King David showed surprising kindness to Mephibosheth (meh FIB oh sheth) 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.

Even though we all sin and we're separated from God, He still sent Jesus to die for us and make the way for us to live with Him forever. 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.



### Missions moment (3 minutes)

Show the “Meet the Harrell’s” missions video.

**LEADER** • The Harrell family obeyed God and went to Mozambique more than 16 years ago as missionaries to tell people about Jesus. It has taken a long time for them to see anyone choose to follow Jesus, but they are finally seeing people believe! Watch this video to see the ways God has been faithful to the Harrell's.

[“Meet the Harrell’s” missions video](#)

### Key passage

Show the key passage. Open the Bible to the bookmark and read Psalm 145:13.

**LEADER** • David wrote Psalm 145. In it, he talks about God's wonderful kingdom. David explained that God's kingdom lasts forever. It never ends and will fill the whole earth. And who is the King of God's perfect, everlasting kingdom? [*Allow responses.*] That's right—it's Jesus, the perfect King of kings!

• Bible

• [CG Key passage](#)

## **Pray**

Pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • God, thank You for Your goodness to us. We know that we do not deserve Your grace, but you love us more than we could ever imagine. Help us to love You more each day, and obey Jesus as our King of kings. Amen.

## **Dismiss to apply the story**

# APPLY the Story



## Small Group

**SESSION TITLE:** David's Kindness

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Samuel 9

**STORY POINT:** David showed kindness to Jonathan's son.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 145:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Display the key passage slide and open Bibles to Psalm 145:13. Lead everyone in reading the verse aloud together. Then guide kids to “popcorn” the passage. Explain that when you point to a kid, she should say the next word of the key passage.

Point to one kid to begin. Then point randomly to other kids until the group says the entire passage. Allow kids to look at the key passage as they master the verse.

**SAY** • David was a kind king, but the Bible tells us about an even greater King—Jesus! Let's answer our big picture question and answer: *How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.*

### CG Key passage

#### Bibles

## Activity choice

**OPTION 1:** Is there anyone who ... ?

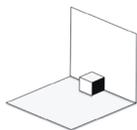
Instruct kids to sit in a circle. Choose one player to stand in the center. This player is *It*. *It* should begin, “Is there anyone in your family who ...” and then complete the question with a statement such as “... has a birthday this month?” or “... likes to play football?”

Any kids who have a family member meeting the criteria should stand up and find an unoccupied seat. *It* should also find a seat. The player left without a seat becomes *It* and asks a new question. Play several rounds.

**SAY** • In the Bible story we heard today, King David asked, “Is there anyone from Saul’s family who is still alive?” Who can tell me what happened next?

### LOW PREP

- Cardstock
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons



**OPTION 2:** Surprising kindness cards

Invite kids to make pop-up cards. Provide a piece of cardstock for each kid. Instruct kids to fold the cardstock in half. Demonstrate how to cut two parallel slits at the center of the fold. The cuts should be about one inch long and one inch apart. Open the card and push the paper toward the inside to form the pop-up tab.

Direct kids to glue the cardstock to a piece of construction paper slightly larger than the cardstock to cover the front and back of the card.

Allow kids to draw and cut out an image on construction paper to use as the pop-up feature. Kids should glue the image to the front side of the pop-up tab.

Encourage kids to decorate their cards and give them to someone in church, at school, or in their neighborhood this week. Challenge kids to use the card as an opportunity to

share how God shows surprising kindness to us.

**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!

### **Journal and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for showing great kindness to His people. Ask God to open kids' eyes to people in need, and pray that kids would show God's love to others as they choose to show kindness.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "The Greatest Kindness" on the activity page. Kids should use the words in the word list to fill in the Christ connection.

· Pencils  
· Journal Page  
· 1 per kid