

Unit 11 • Session 4

David's Kindness

2-3's Lesson

BIBLE PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 9

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

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 145:13a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.



INTRODUCE THE STORY

Opening Activities
(30 MINUTES)



Opening Activity Supplies

2 people figures,
gauze bandage,
crown, toy food,
toy dishes

TEACH THE STORY

Large Group
(15 MINUTES)



Large Group Supplies

Bible
bookmark

EXPERIENCE THE STORY

Small Group
(15 MINUTES)



Small Group Supplies

Story point poster
Key passage poster
Bible story coloring
page
Bible story picture
crayons

LEADER Bible Study

Though King Saul was an adversary to David, Saul's son Jonathan loved him like a brother. (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 preschoolers 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 God's people. He won battles against his enemies and God helped him do what was fair and right for the Israelites. **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?"

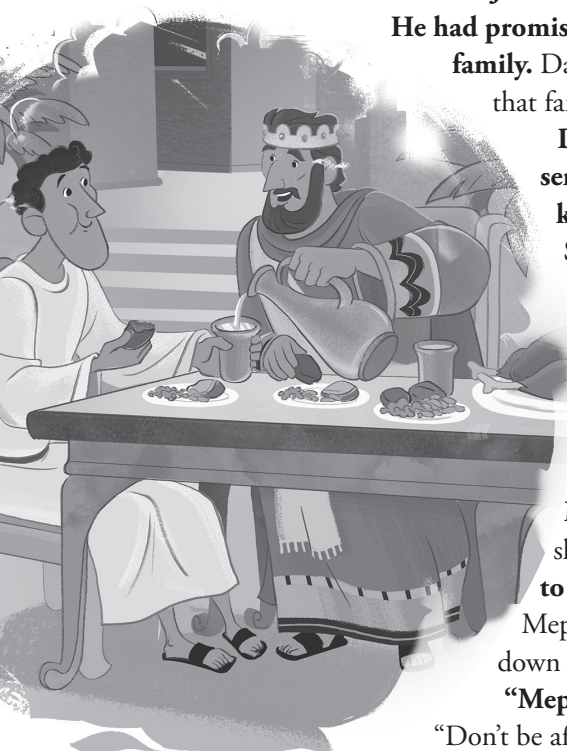
"Yes," said the servant. "Jonathan's son—the one who cannot walk—is still alive."

Jonathan's son was named Mephibosheth (meh FIB oh sheth). **David called for him to come to Jerusalem.** When Mephibosheth got there, he bowed down before David.

"Mephibosheth!" David said.

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

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



“Why would you show such kindness to someone like me?” Mephibosheth wondered.

David told some servants to 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.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Emphasize kindness:** Invite preschoolers to give a thumbs-up each time the word *kind* or *kindness* is said in the Bible story.

INTRODUCE the Story



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Opening Activities

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Welcome time

Play intro music as you greet preschoolers.

Intro music

Look at a sensory box

Use a sensory box. Place sensory items inside for preschoolers to explore, such as people figures to represent David and Mephibosheth (meh FIB oh sheth), a gauze bandage, a crown, toy food, and toy/ paper dishes. Retell the Bible story as preschoolers explore the box.

SAY • David remembered his promise to Jonathan. David showed kindness to Mephibosheth and let him eat at the king's table. **JESUS IS OUR KING.** One day, we will eat with Jesus at His table.

Guess emotions

Tell preschoolers you will make a face and they should guess how you are feeling based on your facial expression. Examples of emotions to show on your face are happy, sad, mad, worried, silly, bored, scared, shy, and sleepy. After preschoolers correctly guess an emotion, invite them to show the same emotion.

2 people
figures, gauze
bandage,
crown, toy
food, toy dishes

**LOW
PREP**

SAY • Friends, you are all very good at guessing emotions. Do you remember the last time you were surprised? What was it that surprised you? In today's Bible story, King David surprised someone by showing kindness to him. Listen to the Bible story to discover who this person was!

Kindness Tasks

Gather the children in the activity area. One at a time, give each child a task to complete that shows kindness through helping. Start each statement with "Could you be kind and go _____?" Task ideas: pick up crayons, tidy up the books, push the chairs in, put away the toys, clean up the play kitchen area, put away the blocks, etc.

Say. Friends, one BIG way we show kindness to others is by helping! I will call out a task and point to a friend. If I point to you, please show us how you might complete the task with kindness. Are you ready? Let's go!

Thanks so much for all your help. That's a BIG way to show kindness. When we remember that when Jesus is our friend, He gives us the power to be kind.

[Countdown video](#)

Transition to tell the story

Show the countdown video. Invite preschoolers to hold hands with a friend as they move to large group for worship and the Bible story.

["Everlasting Kingdom" song](#)
["Crown Him with Many Crowns" song](#)

Sing

SAY • Because God's kingdom lasts forever, we will sing to Him forever! Let's sing about God now! Sing the key passage song, "Everlasting Kingdom," and the theme song, "Crown Him with Many Crowns."

TEACH the Story

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Large Group

Introduce the Bible story

Place a bookmark at 2 Samuel 9 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • Today's story is from 2 Samuel in the Old Testament.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story about God's love for us.

Watch the Bible story

SAY • **David showed kindness to Jonathan's son Mephibosheth** (meh FIB oh sheth). David did not

have to show such surprising kindness to Mephibosheth, but he did because he loved his friend Jonathan, Mephibosheth's father. God shows us even more surprising kindness, and He does it because of His Son, Jesus. When we put our trust in Jesus, God invites us into His family.

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question is, *How is Jesus the perfect king?* The answer is, *Jesus perfectly rules over 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.

- Bible
- bookmark

• [CG Giant Timeline](#)

• ["David's Kindness" video](#)

• [CG Bible Story Picture](#)

• [CG Big Picture Question](#)

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

Move without your legs

Invite preschoolers to take turns moving from one point of their small group to another without using their legs. Demonstrate how to crawl across the floor using only your arms to pull yourself across. **SAY** • God, is so good and He makes everyone special! Everyone is made by God. Some people are not able to use their legs or walk. Jonathan's son Mephibosheth (meh FIB oh sheth) was one of those people. **David showed kindness to Jonathan's son** and invited him to join him for dinner as long as he lived.

Practice the story point

Invite preschoolers to walk in a circle, facing the same direction. When you say stop, guide children to shout the story point with you. Repeat, this time walking in the opposite direction. Retell the story.

SAY • Mephibosheth (meh FIB oh sheth) could not walk very well because his feet were hurt. David showed kindness to Mephibosheth and invited him to his table.

JESUS IS OUR KING. Because of Jesus, God invites us to live with Him forever.

Story point
poster

Review

If time allows take time to review the lesson. Repetition is key! Remind preschoolers that **David showed kindness to Jonathan's son.**

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. *How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.*

Transition

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page and practice the key passage. If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

- Key passage poster
- Bible story picture
- Bible story coloring page
- Crayons

Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ Connection, story point, or gospel gems throughout the week.