



MOSAIC Gospel Project

Volume 4, Unit 11, Lesson 4: David's Kindness

Bible Passage: 2 Samuel 9

Personal Preparation

Though King Saul was an adversary to David, Saul's son Jonathan loved him as much as he loved himself (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 face down 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 the individuals the story of David's kindness toward Mephibosheth, go beyond the lesson and explain 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.

Take time to thank God for his kindness to you. Praise him for sending his Son as a sacrifice for our sins in the ultimate act of kindness. Pray that the individuals would know the Lord's kindness towards them. Pray that they would see the kindness of Jesus' sacrifice and rejoice in the salvation he offers.

Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by reviewing the memory verse with the group.

Psalm 145:13

"For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The Lord always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does."

Points of Emphasis

1. David showed kindness to Jonathan's son.
2. Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

Activity #1

Lead the group to begin working on the activity sheet. Feel free to let the individuals continue working as you teach the lesson.

Video

The Bible is so amazing! It is full of stories, and all the stories fit together to tell an even greater story. Lately, we've been hearing stories about King David. David was a shepherd boy when God chose him to be king instead of Saul. We heard about the time David showed mercy even though Saul hated him. David could have killed Saul, but he trusted God's plan. When David became the king of Israel, God made a covenant with him. God promised that the Messiah would come from David's family. Incredible! 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.

Play the video for the lesson titled "David's Kindness."

Bible Lesson

In those days, it was common for a new king to destroy the family of the old king to prevent the old king's family from trying to take back the kingdom. When Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson, was called on to see King David, he might have been terrified that David wanted to hurt him. But that's not at all what happened.

David did not want to hurt Mephibosheth; David wanted to show him great kindness. David gave him lots of land and basically invited him to be a part of David's family! This sort of kindness probably seemed radical and unheard of back then. It probably would still be seen that way today.

Jonathan and David loved each other, and David showed kindness to Jonathan's son Mephibosheth. King David did not have to show kindness to Mephibosheth, but he chose to anyway. There was nothing Mephibosheth could have done to earn David's kindness, but that didn't matter to David. Do you know another word for undeserved kindness? Grace is undeserved kindness!

Activity #2

Guide the group to finish working on the activity sheet. Review the memory verse with the group and help them learn it. Encourage the individuals to write the verse using the Velcro pictures.

Christ Connection

This story sounds kind of familiar, doesn't it? Someone who cannot earn kindness was shown kindness anyway—that's the gospel! 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.

Even though we are born in sin and unable to please 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.

Review Questions

(Optional: Play the Questions from Kids (QFK) video to continue the discussion on David's kindness to Mephibosheth. Today's episode asks how we can be kind when it might be awkward.)

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. **Who was Jonathan's son and Saul's grandson?** Mephibosheth
2. **Who showed kindness to Mephibosheth?** David
3. **What did David give to Mephibosheth?** Land
4. **Where did David invite Mephibosheth to eat?** At David's table
5. **Who shows kindness to us like David's kindness to Mephibosheth?** God

Group B

- 1. Who was Mephibosheth?** Saul's grandson, Jonathan's son
- 2. What did David do for Mephibosheth?** Showed kindness, gave land, and invited him to eat at David's table.
- 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.
- 4. Why do you think God wants us to show kindness to others?** 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 the individuals to think about how easy it is to be kind toward people who are kind toward you. 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 the individuals to think about the name(s) of people they know to whom they could show kindness. Encourage them to come up with real steps they could take to show Jesus' love.

Group C

- 1. How did David show kindness to Jonathan's son?** David restored to Jonathan the land 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 the individuals 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 the individuals to discuss ways they can show kindness (smiling, encouraging others,

sharing, showing patience, helping others, etc). Help them 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.

Group D

Advanced Learner

- 1. What does this story teach us about God?** 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.
- 2. How can we respond to the good news of the gospel?** Jesus invites us into God's family. We can respond by accepting the invitation and trusting in Jesus. We can turn from sin and self and turn to him.
- 3. How can you show kindness to others?**
- 4. What is the greatest way you can show kindness to someone?**

Prayer

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.

