

# DAVID – Lesson #6

## David and Mephibosheth

- SCRIPTURE:** 2 Samuel 4:4; 5:17-25; 8:1-18; 9:1-13
- MEMORY VERSE:** John 13:34 - “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”
- VISUALS:** Flashcards: 6-1 - 6-6
- MAIN TRUTH:** God wants you to be kind like He is.
- BASIC OUTLINE:**
- I. INTRODUCTION
    - A. BEGINNING STATEMENTS
    - B. TRANSITION
  - II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. BEGINNING STATEMENTS

War is a time when terrible, sad, and scary things happen. Soldiers have to fight and sometimes die, and their families are hurt too. They might have to leave their homes and lose many things that are important to them. That's what happened to one little boy in our true story from the Bible today who was caught in the middle of a war.

### B. TRANSITION

Who will take care of this boy? Listen to find out.

## II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

This little boy was Mephibosheth.

**IH** Have children repeat "*Mephibosheth*" a couple of times.

Mephibosheth's grandfather was the king of Israel, King Saul. Prince Jonathan was his father.

He was only five years old when his father and grandfather went off to fight another war with their enemies, the Philistines.

Then the news came—the worst news any family can get during a war. Mephibosheth's grandfather, Saul, and his father, Jonathan, had both been killed in the fighting. Since the king and his oldest son were dead, there was no one to stop the enemies from marching into their cities and killing their families too!

All this was happening because of sin. The wrong things King Saul had done were causing hurt and trouble for his family.

**S, PAU**  
**Isaiah 64:6** You and I have sinned. We might not have started a war or killed anyone, but we have chosen to go against God and against what He says is right. Sin is anything you think, say, or do that is wrong. The Bible says, "***But we are all as an unclean thing.....***" (Ex. *When you get angry at a friend because they were chosen to do something special in class and you weren't, so you refuse to talk with them. This is sin.*) We deserve to be punished for what we have done. The punishment for sin is that we cannot live in Heaven with God when our life here on earth is over. Sin causes hurt for us and for others.

The trouble that had come to the land of Israel was because of King Saul's sin.

When they heard that Saul and Jonathan were dead, everyone in Mephibosheth's family must have been terrified! People were probably running, crying, trying to find some place safe where they could hide. Mephibosheth's nurse knew they had to get away too. She was the person who took care of Mephibosheth, like a babysitter. Quickly, she picked Mephibosheth up and began to run.

## FLASH CARD 6-1

But she was in such a hurry to get away, somehow she dropped Mephibosheth! He fell to the ground, hurting his legs and feet.

I'm sure Mephibosheth was crying because his feet hurt so much. His nurse must have picked him up again and rushed on as fast as she could.



**IH**

Pick Mephibosheth up and run.

There wasn't time to stop and make sure he was ok, and there certainly wasn't time to take him to a doctor. They had to run! They had to hide! The enemies were coming!

That was how Mephibosheth became lame. His feet were hurt so badly that he could never walk normally again.

## FLASH CARD 6-2

Years went by. Mephibosheth was about 12 years old when he heard the news that David had been made the new king over all Israel, just as God had promised many years ago. The Bible doesn't tell us if he knew that David and his father, Jonathan, had been best friends. Mephibosheth must have decided that it would be much better for him to stay hidden, living with his friends. In those days, when a new king from a different family took over, he would kill all the relatives of the old king so that none of them could ever challenge him and try to take the kingdom back. Mephibosheth probably thought that David would kill him if he ever found out he was alive.



Meanwhile, David had a lot to do as the new king. The first thing he had to do was fight more wars. His country was surrounded by enemies, like the Philistines, who had been fighting with Israel for many years. All of them wanted to completely defeat the Israelites.

When the Philistines heard that David was king, they gathered together to fight him. David and his men went to a fort where they would be protected while David asked God what he should do. God answered, "Go out and fight! I will, without a doubt, give you victory over the Philistines."

God would help David to win this war because the Israelites were His special people. He loved them.

**G**

God loves you and me too. You are a special person to God. He knows your name. He knows everything about you. He loves you.

God loved His people, and He would help David to win this war.

David and his men won the battle against the Philistines, just as God said they would. They took the statues of wood and stone that the Philistines had left behind, the ones that they worshiped instead of the true God and they burned them all.

**IH**

Have children pretend to chop down idols, pick them up, and throw them into a fire.

But soon, the Philistines came back to fight David again. God told him exactly how to win. With God helping him, David completely destroyed the Philistines so that they were no longer able to fight against him.

He even fought a battle to capture a city called Jerusalem from his enemies. He made it his capital city and built his palace there. They called it, “The City of David.”

David fought many more battles with other enemies. God kept David safe wherever he went. As he won these wars he took the gold, brass and silver from his enemies and set them aside. He was sure that someday he could do something for God with them.

After so many victories, David became a very important person.

I know of the most important Person.

**O**

His name is Jesus Christ. Some people think that He was just a good man, but I want you to know that Jesus is the Son of God. He is God’s only Son, and He never did anything wrong.

Jesus is a very most important person because He is the only One who can forgive you and me for our sin.

David became an important person because he won so many wars. He ruled over his people as a fair and good king, and most of his enemies were now paying him money and serving him. He finally had a little time to rest.

One day, David thought of something. “Is there anyone left from the family of Saul, so I can show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”

**IH**

Ask a child, “*Is there anyone left from the family of Saul?*”

**FLASH CARD 6-3**

Remember, when David was just a young man serving King Saul, he had become best friends with Saul’s son, Jonathan. Jonathan knew that David would become king instead of him.



On the day that David had to leave the palace because Saul was trying to kill him, David and Jonathan had promised each other that no matter what happened, they would always be kind to each other’s families. “Promise me that you will not take your kindness away from my family forever,” Jonathan had said, “not even when God has destroyed every one of your enemies from the earth.” David promised.

Now, David wanted to remember his promise and keep it. He wanted to show kindness to Jonathan’s family the way God had shown kindness to him.

## MT



If you have believed in and received Jesus, God wants you to be kind like He is. The girl in this picture is showing kindness to this boy by talking to him and showing him her dog. Others need to be shown kindness from someone. Will that be you? God has been kind to you in so many ways: helping you, taking care of you, giving you good things. He wants you to show that same kindness to the people around you.

David wanted to show kindness like God does. He wanted to keep his promise to Jonathan.

Someone in David's palace remembered a man who had been Saul's servant. His name was Ziba.

### FLASH CARD 6-4

They called Ziba to come to David's palace.

"Are you Ziba?" David asked.

"Yes, that is the name of your servant," Ziba answered.

David said, "Are there any left from the family of Saul, so I can show the kindness of God to them?"

Ziba answered the king, "Jonathan has a son who is still alive. He is lame on his feet."

"Where is he?" David asked.

"He is in the house of Machir, who lives in Lodebar," Ziba said.

Who was this son? It was Mephibosheth, the little boy who was hurt at the beginning of our story. He was now a grown-up man with a little son of his own. David sent his servants to bring Mephibosheth to him right away.

When Mephibosheth came to David, he kneeled in front of David. He must have been filled with fear. Maybe he thought King David planned to kill him to make sure he never tried to take his place as king! Mephibosheth fell down on his face in front of David, showing honor and respect.

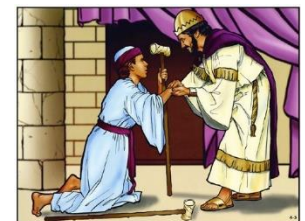
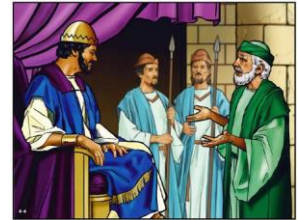
### FLASH CARD 6-5

"Mephibosheth?" David asked.

"Yes, I am your servant," Mephibosheth answered.

"Do not be afraid," David said, "for I will surely show you kindness because of your father, Jonathan. I will give back to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather, Saul, and you will stay here and eat with me always at my table."

I don't think Mephibosheth was expecting to hear those words!



## IH

Say, "Show on your face how surprised you think Mephibosheth was."

What amazing kindness David was showing to Mephibosheth!

**MT, PAS**  
**Eph. 4:32**



If you have believed on Jesus, God wants you to be kind like He is. The Bible says, ***“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ’s sake, hath forgiven you.”*** Because of what Jesus did for you on the cross, God is kind enough to forgive you. You need to show kindness to other people. *(Ex. Maybe you know someone who is so annoying, but always hanging around you, and you don’t really like them. Be kind like God is. Be a friend to that person and take time to show kindness.)* God has been so kind to you; you should want to show that kindness to others.

Mephibosheth was not expecting David to show him kindness like that. He bowed to David again. “What am I, your servant, that you should even look at a person as unimportant as I am?”

David didn’t answer. He just called for Ziba, the servant. “I have given to your master’s son everything that belonged to Saul and Jonathan. Now you and your sons and your servants will be farmers for him and bring him what you grow on his land so he can have food to eat. But still, Mephibosheth will always eat at my table.”

“Your servant will do everything you have commanded, my lord, the King,” Ziba said.

Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants, so there would be plenty of people to work for Mephibosheth!

“As for Mephibosheth,” said King David again, “he will eat at my table, like one of the king’s sons.” It was almost like he had to say it again to convince Mephibosheth that it was really true!

The kindness that David showed Mephibosheth reminds me of the kindness God showed to us.

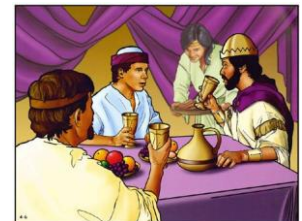
**P, E**  
**Eph. 1:7**

God showed that kindness when He sent His own Son to this world. God sent Jesus to earth so that He could die on a wooden cross and take the punishment for the wrong things you and I have done. The Bible says, ***“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins”*** Jesus paid for your sins and for mine. After He was buried for three days, He came alive again, and He will always be alive. Sending Jesus to take our punishment for sin was God’s greatest kindness to us.

It reminds me of the kindness David was showing to Mephibosheth.

### **FLASH CARD 6-6**

Everything was just as David had said. All of Ziba’s sons and servants became workers for Mephibosheth, and Mephibosheth himself lived in David’s capital city, Jerusalem, and ate often at the king’s table.



### **III. CLIMAX**

David would make sure that Mephibosheth would always have everything he needed.



## IV. CONCLUSION

### A. CLOSING STATEMENTS

David had kept his promise. He had truly shown the kindness of God.

God is kind to us like David was kind to Mephibosheth. When we are His enemies, when we can't help ourselves, and when we haven't done anything to deserve it, God is kind. When we believe in and receive Jesus as our Saviour from sin, God takes us in and makes us one of His children. David did this for Mephibosheth.

### B. BRIDGE

Have you become part of God's family?

### C. INVITATION

**L**  
**Romans 5:8** The Bible says, ***“But God commendeth (demonstrated) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*** This means we can be saved (forgiven) from our sins by believing in Jesus. If you have not believed in Jesus as your personal Saviour from sin, why not receive Him today to be your personal Saviour from sin. He will come live in your heart forever. Remember God always keeps His promise. Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you would like to do this today, please open your eyes and look up at me now. Thank you. You may all open your eyes. *(Tell them when to come and where to go for counseling.)*

### D. CHALLENGE

**MT**  
**Eph. 4:32**

Maybe you have already believed in Jesus, and you know that He has forgiven you and that you are part of His family. Then God wants you to be kind like He is. Remember that verse from the Bible that says, ***“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you.”*** So, if someone is annoying, be willing to be a friend to that person. Show other people the same kindness that God has shown you. Are you ready to tell God that you want to be kind like He is? I'll be quiet for a few minutes and give you time to talk to God about that if you would like to. Then I'll finish our prayer time. *(Allow time for them to pray quietly and then close in prayer.)*

God wants you to  
be kind like He is.

