

Old Testament

David and Mephibosheth

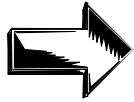
2 Samuel 9:1-13

Younger Verse

I am the Lord's servant. Luke 1:38

Older Verse

I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said. Luke 1:38



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Do you know anyone who uses crutches or a wheelchair? Let's see what happens when David meets someone who is handicapped.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We have learned many stories about David in the Bible. He is a man who loved God very much. God promised that one day David would be king of His people. David knew that God had the right time for all this to happen. After over 10 years, King Saul died.

Most people would think that David would immediately become king. It didn't happen that way. One of King Saul's evil sons, Ish-Bosheth tried to become king. David trusted God and waited for God to make things right.

Sure enough, Ish-Bosheth died and the people crowned David king! It was a happy time for God's people. David helped them feel secure and confident that God would take care of them.

One day, David probably was remembering his special friend Jonathan. He had died in battle several years before. They had made a special promise that they would take care of each other's family if something happened.

David wondered if any of Jonathan's family was still alive. He wanted to show kindness to the family.

David sent for one of Saul's servants named Ziba. He told David that Jonathan had a son that was still alive but he was crippled in both feet. That means that he could not walk. His name was Mephibosheth (ma-fee-bo-sheth).

We find out how Mephibosheth was hurt in 2nd Samuel 4:4.

Lesson Goals

Treat all people with kindness
Don't judge others, instead love them
Learn to keep your promises

Mephibosheth was hurt in an accident when he was 5 years old. His family heard some devastating news. Mephibosheth's father Jonathan had been killed in battle. Mephibosheth's babysitter ran to hide and grabbed him. He fell and injured both his feet. Back in that time, they did not have hospitals, X-rays, or casts like we do. Unfortunately, his feet healed incorrectly and he was crippled for life.

David sent for Mephibosheth. When he arrived, he bowed down to David. David shared with him that he would return all of the land that belonged to him from his grandfather King Saul. He also told Mephibosheth that he would always eat at his table at the palace.

Mephibosheth could not believe King David's kindness. In those times, when a new king came into power, most of the time he would kill all the family of the former king to insure that none of the family would try to take over the throne. He also could not believe how nice David was to him because he was crippled.

We know that people with disabilities can do many things and are very special people. No one should be judged by what they look like. Back in those times, people looked down on those who were handicapped. David knew that Mephibosheth was a special person that God had made. He knew that he must keep his promise to take care of him and protect him.

From that time, Mephibosheth sat at David's table like one of his own sons.

David's example of love and kindness is one that we should follow. He also had integrity. That means he kept his promise and treated Mephibosheth like one of his own sons. We also must have courage and integrity. We must keep our promises and be people that others can trust.

God also gave a promise many years before Jesus was born. He promised that He would send His Son to help us get to Heaven. God kept His promise. Many years later just at the right time, God sent us His Son, Jesus. At Christmas we celebrate His birth. He grew up and told everyone about God. At Easter, we celebrate something very special. We celebrate that Jesus arose from death. Jesus died on a wooden cross. He did not die for anything He had done wrong. Instead, He died for us. He died to pay the price for all the wrongs that we have done. He chose to do that for us. Then, 3 days later, He rose from the grave. He was alive! Jesus died for our wrongs and came back to life! If you believe this and ask Him to forgive your wrongs, Jesus will come into your life and help you to live for God. And, just as promised, one day He will take us to Heaven to be with God. Would you like to have Jesus in your heart? Talk to us about it today.

Learning Activities

Use activities that will help kids learn in a variety of ways.

Memory Verse Activities

Write the verse on a piece of cloth or paper towel. Talk about how we can be God's servants this week wherever we are.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us be kind and friendly to everyone we meet.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Enjoy snacks together and build relationships with the kids.

Preschool Lesson
For
David and Mephibosheth

We have learned many stories about David in the Bible. He is a man who loved God very much. God promised David that he would be king of God's people. God kept His promise and David did become king.

One day, David was probably thinking about his special friend Jonathan. They had made a special promise to take care of each other's family.

David wondered if any of Jonathan's family was still alive. He wanted to show kindness to his family.

David sent for one of Saul's servants. He told David that Jonathan had a son who was still alive but he was crippled in both feet. That means that he could not walk. His name was Mephibosheth (ma-fee-bo-sheth).

Mephibosheth was hurt in an accident when he was 5 years old. He fell and hurt both his feet very badly. Back in that time, they did not have hospitals, X-rays, or casts like we do today, so he was crippled for life. He may have used crutches or wrapped bandages around his feet.

David sent for Mephibosheth. When he arrived, he bowed down to David. David shared with him that he would return all of the land that belonged to him from his grandfather King Saul. He also told Mephibosheth that he would always eat at his table at the palace.

Mephibosheth could not believe King David's kindness. He knew by David's actions that he really loved God.

David knew that Mephibosheth was a special person that God had made. He knew that he must keep his promise to take care of him and protect him.

From that time, Mephibosheth sat at David's table like one of his own sons.

David's example of love and kindness is one that we should follow.

Let's ask God to help us be kind to others this week.

Hands-On Activities For David and Mephibosheth

Borrow crutches to let the kids see what it is like to need assistance. Be sure that no one makes fun or laughs at the situation. This is meant to help them identify with others and be sensitive to their needs.

Make kindness munchies. Bring flour tortillas, a can of spray cheese, and pretzel rods. Squirt cheese on the tortilla and roll up with the pretzel inside the middle.

Make kindness woven mats. Cut construction paper or manila paper into strips that are about 2 inches across. Show the kids how to weave the strips in and out to make a woven mat. Use glue sticks to assemble the creations. Talk about what it means to be kind to others.

There is a high energy activity that may be appropriate for your kids to reinforce kindness. Ask the kids to form teams of two or three. Ask them to take off their shoes and put them in the middle of the room. Ask the teams to find each other's shoes and put them on the person's feet. Talk about what it felt like to have someone help you put your shoes on. Teachers: if the quality of the students shoes may be an issue, try other ideas such as bringing paper sacks for the kids to put on over their shoes or funny adult shoes to try on!