



David Is Merciful to Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 9

First- and second-grade children are beginning to understand, if not apply, the golden rule. Yet it's still quite difficult for kids this age to spontaneously consider how their actions impact others. It's often not until they've been gently reminded to think about how they'd feel if they were the other person that they can begin to address a situation with a little bit of empathy. Use this lesson to help kids consider the feelings of others at every opportunity.



► Bible Point
Being kind honors God and others.

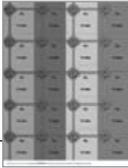
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Kindness Capers <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Act out ways to be kind to see what kindness looks like.		
2 Bible Exploration	Hide-and-Seek <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a fun game about David and Mephibosheth.	Bible Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline	
	Be Kind! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Listen to the Bible passage and respond to what they hear.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD: "David and Mephibosheth" (track 4)	

Key Verse
"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).

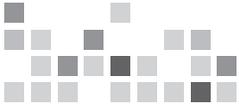
Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will demonstrate kindness to others in their lives.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>2 Bible Exploration <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>Kindness Smiles <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make snacks to eat and share.</p>	<p>small paper plates, bagel halves, soft cream cheese, raisins, candies, plastic wrap, plastic knives, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional), CD player Teacher Pack: CD: “Brotherly Love” (Romans 12:10) (track 3)</p>	
	<p>Brothers and Sisters Are We <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Talk about brotherly love, learn the Key Verse, and sing a song.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD: “Brotherly Love” (Romans 12:10) (track 3)</p>	
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Kindness Commitment <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Commit to being kind this week.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, crayons and colored pencils</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.</p>
<p>4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Commit to a specific act of kindness.</p>	<p>colored pencils, tape, treats from the “Kindness Smiles” activity Teacher Pack: “Gift Tag” punch-outs</p>	<p>Separate the “Gift Tag” punch-outs.</p> 
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





1 GETTING STARTED

Kindness Capers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Ask kids to find a partner for this activity.

Say: **Today we're going to learn about how ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS. Being kind to someone means doing nice things to help or to make that person happy. Let's look at some ways to be kind.**

Whisper one of the following kind actions to each pair:

- Pick up toys without being told.
- Feed the pets and give them fresh water.
- Help a younger sibling build a tower out of blocks.
- Share a lunch with someone who forgot his or hers.
- Invite a new kid in school to play with you at recess.
- Rake leaves for an elderly neighbor.
- Invite someone to worship at church.
- Ring bells for the Salvation Army at Christmas.
- Donate some money to a needy charity.
- Open a door for someone in a wheelchair.

Give partners a few minutes to come up with a way to act out for the group their act of kindness.

After a few minutes, call time. Let each pair act out its kind action as the rest of the group tries to guess the action.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have kids answer the following questions in their pairs.

Ask:

- Which kind act would be your favorite thing for someone to do for you?
- Tell about a time someone was kind to you.
- Tell about a time you've been kind to another person.

Say: **Most of us are kind to our families and friends. And that's great! But God wants us to be kind to everyone, because ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS. In today's Bible passage, we're going to hear how King David showed kindness to someone. Let's find out more.**





2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Hide-and-Seek

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 9, and show kids the passage. Tell kids this is God's book.

Say: **Today's Bible passage comes from 2 Samuel 9. This is about a time soon after David became king.** Show kids the "David Becomes King" picture in the Bible Timeline.

David's journey to becoming king was a long one. Samuel the prophet had anointed David king when he was a shepherd boy. But David didn't sit on the throne until he was 37. Along the way, he defeated Goliath, defeated the military enemies of Israel, and established Jerusalem as his capital.

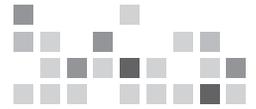
Tell kids that you're going to tell them what happened in the Bible. Every time you say these names, have kids each do the following responses: David—pretend to put a crown on their head, Saul—make an angry face; Mephibosheth—pretend to be afraid.

Say: **Before David** (*pretend to put a crown on their head*) **became king, there was a king named Saul** (*make an angry face*). **King Saul** (*make an angry face*) **was very jealous of David** (*pretend to put a crown on their head*), **and he even wanted to have him killed. But King Saul's** (*make an angry face*) **son, Jonathan, was very good friends with David** (*pretend to put a crown on their head*). **In fact, Jonathan saved David's** (*pretend to put a crown on their head*) **life. Jonathan and David** (*pretend to put a crown on their head*) **promised to always be loyal to each other.**

The Bible tells us that King Saul (*make an angry face*) **and his son, Jonathan, were killed in a battle. Later, David** (*pretend to put a crown on their head*) **became king. Today we're going to meet Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth** (*pretend to be afraid*). **Mephibosheth** (*pretend to be afraid*) **was Jonathan's son, and Jonathan was Saul's** (*make an angry face*) **son, so they were all part of the same family. It was the custom in those days for kings to try to hurt anyone in their enemy's family. And since Saul** (*make an angry face*) **had tried to kill David** (*pretend to put a crown on their head*), **David** (*pretend to put a crown on their head*) **could have tried to hurt Mephibosheth** (*pretend to be afraid*), **since he was part of Saul's** (*make an angry face*) **family. Instead, the Bible shows us how ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS.**

Let's learn more about how Mephibosheth (*pretend to be afraid*) **hid from David** (*pretend to put a crown on their head*) **out of fear.**

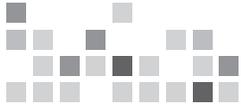
Have kids form two groups, the "Davids" and the "Mephibosheths." Have the Davids hide their eyes and count to 15 while the Mephibosheths hide somewhere in the room. Then explain that the Davids will have one minute to look for and tag as many Mephibosheths as possible. After a minute, have groups switch roles and play again.



Hide-and-Seek Supplies

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- Bible
- Teacher Pack**
- Bible Timeline





Be Kind! Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "David and Mephibosheth" (track 4)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Kindness Smiles Supplies

small paper plates

bagel halves

soft cream cheese

raisins

candies

plastic wrap

plastic knives

napkins

antibacterial gel

(optional)

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Brotherly Love"
(Romans 12:10)
(track 3)

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in the following discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to hide from the Davids?
- What would it be like to hide from someone who might hurt you?

Say: **Mephibosheth might've been afraid of David. David could've tried to hurt Mephibosheth because he was related to Saul. But David knew that ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS. Let's find out how David treated Mephibosheth.**

Be Kind!

What You'll Do

Say: **I'm going to play the Bible passage on the CD. You can help tell the passage. Every time you hear Mephibosheth's name, pretend to be afraid. Every time you hear David's name, pretend to put a crown on your head.**

Play the "David and Mephibosheth" segment (track 4 on the CD).

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- What was surprising about how David treated Mephibosheth?
- What's it like for you when you're treated kindly?
- How does being kind honor God and others?

Say: **One way David was kind to Mephibosheth was by inviting Mephibosheth to eat at his table, just like one of the family. Let's eat together, just as David and Mephibosheth did. ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS.**

Kindness Smiles

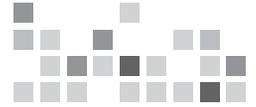
What You'll Do

Set out small paper plates, bagels cut in half, soft cream cheese, raisins, small candies, plastic knives, plastic wrap, and napkins.

Say: **When someone is kind to us, that makes us smile. Let's make Kindness Smiles to remind us how David treated Mephibosheth with kindness.**

Have kids wash their hands or use antibacterial gel, and then have them work in assembly-line fashion to make the snacks. For example, kids can work to place the bagel halves on the plates, spread the cream cheese, arrange raisins and candies as eyes and mouths, place the finished products on plates, carry the plates to a serving table, and distribute napkins.





Have kids make twice as many snacks as there are people in your group. Kids will enjoy one treat together and take the other treat away to give to someone else. Help kids cover half the snacks with plastic wrap.

As kids are working, play “Brotherly Love” (Romans 12:10) (track 3 on the CD) in the background. When all the snacks have been prepared, have kids gather around the serving table. Lead kids in a short prayer, thanking God for the gift of kindness. Then let kids enjoy the snacks.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

As kids eat, have them discuss the following questions.

Ask:

- What ways did we show kindness by making these snacks for each other?
- Tell about a time someone gave you food to show you kindness.
- What are some ways we can be kind to others?

Say: ► **BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS.** We can be kind to our parents, to our friends, and to our brothers and sisters. But God wants us to be kind to everyone, even people who aren’t our friends! In many places in the Bible, we’re reminded that God wants us to treat others the way we want to be treated. Let’s think of ways that we can be kind to others.

Brothers and Sisters Are We

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Our fingers will stand for the children in your families. Let’s find out how many brothers and sisters there are altogether.**

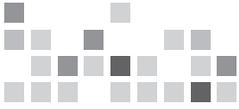
One at a time, have kids name their siblings and count on their fingers. If a child has no siblings, use cousins or close friends to count. Count the total number of fingers as a group.

Brothers and Sisters Are We Supplies

Bible
CD player
copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack
CD: “Brotherly Love” (Romans 12:10) (track 3)





Say: **We have [total number] brothers and sisters altogether in our families. Wow! That's a lot of brothers and sisters!**

Say: **Brothers and sisters usually love each other and take care of each other. It's the same way with best friends, too. That's why we sometimes say our best friends are like brothers or sisters to us. The Bible says to treat everyone like our brothers and sisters! Listen to what the Bible says in Romans chapter 12, verse 10.**

Open your Bible to Romans 12:10, and show kids the verse. Then read the verse slowly: **"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).** Have kids repeat the verse with you several times until they can say it by themselves.

Say: **Hmmm. This verse doesn't say to treat just our brothers and sisters with love. And it doesn't say to treat just our best friends with love. This verse says that we should treat everyone with the same kind of love that we have for our brothers and sisters! Let's learn a song to help us remember this important message.**

Play "Brotherly Love" (Romans 12:10) (track 3 on the CD) once for kids. Pass out copies of the lyrics. Then lead kids in singing along with the CD. Have kids follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Yeah, yeah,** (*move freestyle*)
Yeah, yeah,
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

(Chorus)

Be devoted to one another (*shake a person's hand*)
In brotherly love, in brotherly love. (*pat a person's back*)
Be devoted to one another (*shake another person's hand*)
In brotherly love, in brotherly love. (*pat another person's back*)

Your love must be real; (*make the sign for "love" by making fists and crossing arms over chest*)
It must be sincere. (*keep making the sign for "love," and move side to side as if hugging yourself*)
Honor one another above yourselves. (*bow to someone on "honor"; then raise your hands high over your head*)
(Repeat chorus.)

Be devoted to one another (*form a circle, join hands, and march in one direction*)
In brotherly love, in brotherly love. (*keep circling*)
Be devoted to one another (*march in a circle in the opposite direction*)
In brotherly love, in brotherly love. (*keep circling*)
Be devoted to one another (*freestyle until end of song*)
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.

"Brotherly Love" (Romans 12:10) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in the following discussion.

Ask:

- How are your brothers and sisters like or unlike best friends?
- How do best friends treat each other?
- How is the “brotherly love” in our song different from other kinds of love?

Say: In today’s Bible passage, we learned how ► **BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS**. King David showed honor to God by giving brotherly love to Mephibosheth. Let’s remember to show brotherly love to everyone this week!

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3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Kindness Commitment

What You’ll Do

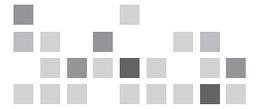
Have kids turn to the “Let’s Be Kind” activity on today’s My Bible Fun page. Set out crayons and colored pencils for kids to share.

Say: **On your page, you’ll see pictures of a family, a group of friends, and a town. Remember that ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS. Think of a way you could show kindness to your family, to a friend, and to someone in our town this week. Then draw a picture in each box of how you’ll show kindness in those situations. For example, you might help your mom with the dishes, help a friend with his homework, and give a toy to a homeless shelter.**

Give kids several minutes to draw. Then have kids form pairs and explain their drawings to their partners.

Gather everyone’s attention and ask for willing children to explain their drawings to the whole group.

Say: **Because God is kind to us, we can be kind, too. ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS.**



Kindness Commitment Supplies

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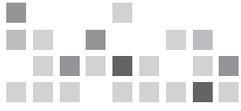
My Bible Fun
crayons and colored
pencils

Kindness Commitment Easy Prep

.....

Tear out the Lesson 2
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.





Daily Challenges Supplies

colored pencils
tape
treats from the
“Kindness Smiles”
activity

Teacher Pack: “Gift
Tag” punch-outs
Daily Challenges
Easy Prep

Separate the “Gift Tag”
punch-outs.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about ways we can show how ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS this week. Instead of choosing a Daily Challenge, try to follow through on your three ways to show kindness. And here’s one more way to show kindness—think of someone to give your Kindness Smile snack to today!**

Tell the kids who you’ll give your Kindness Smile snack to. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **Who will you give the Kindness Smile to? Share a time and place.**

Give each child a gift tag. Help kids write the names they thought of on the gift tags. Be ready to help kids with any spelling questions they may have. Then let each child tape a gift tag to a Kindness Smile snack.

Say: **Today we’ve learned how ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS. David was kind to Mephibosheth even though he didn’t have to be. Let’s follow David’s example and follow through on our commitment to show kindness to others this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about what they learned about being kind to others and the act of kindness they’ve committed to showing this week. Kids can also do the activities on the “HomeConnect” portion of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about e-mailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for being so kind to us and asking God for help this week in being kind to others.





“Brotherly Love” (Romans 12:10)

Yeah, yeah,
Yeah, yeah,
Yeah, yeah,
Yeah.

(Chorus)

**Be devoted to one another
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.
Be devoted to one another
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.**

**Your love must be real;
It must be sincere.
Honor one another above yourselves.**

(Repeat chorus.)

**Be devoted to one another
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.
Be devoted to one another
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.
Be devoted to one another
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.**

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