

David Is Merciful to Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 9

For most third- and fourth-graders, thinking of others before themselves can be challenging. Use the example of David’s kindness to someone who could not be of any help to him as king to help kids grow in this area. Help kids see that kindness can involve giving of their time, their money, or their possessions.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Kindness Remembered <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Form pairs and act out a time they were treated kindly; make thank-you cards.	index cards, art supplies such as glitter, glue, and stickers	
2 Bible Exploration	Finding Kindness <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Examine the Bible passage to find ways David was kind to Mephibosheth.	Bibles	
	Brotherly Love <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and sing a song to discover that they can show brotherly love to others.	Bibles, CD player, 1 copy per person of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD: “Brotherly Love” (Romans 12:10) (track 3)	




► **Bible Point**
Being kind honors God and others.

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

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





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Pass It On <i>(about 15 min.)</i> See how others show kindness and commit to doing the same.	Bible Truth Sleuth, paper, pencils or pens	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Commit to showing kindness to others this week.	thank-you cards from the "Kindness Remembered" activity	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		





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BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Gives David Victory

After David became king of Israel, he solidified his kingdom. He took Jerusalem from the Jebusites, who had never been driven from the Promised Land. Because of its strategic position on a high ridge near the center of his kingdom, David made Jerusalem his capital city.

David also brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem. There David himself prayed before the Lord, acknowledging God’s greatness and mercy and asking for God’s blessing on the kingdom of Israel (2 Samuel 7:18-29).

David’s forces continued to conquer surrounding nations so that Israel was no longer oppressed by people who had not been driven out when the Hebrews first entered the Promised Land. He became famous for his military prowess, and God gave him victory wherever he went (2 Samuel 8:13-14). And we are told that David did “what was just and right for all his people” (2 Samuel 8:15).

David Honors Mephibosheth

It is against this backdrop that the story of Mephibosheth unfolded. David was secure in his position, and he had practiced doing what was right. Now he had time to remember his old friend Jonathan, and he wanted to help Jonathan’s descendants. Most kings of that time would have sought out any descendants of the former king and executed them so that they would never be a threat to the throne. But that was not David’s concern. Instead he wanted to honor the friend who had saved his life. So he sought out Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth.

When he was a child, Mephibosheth was crippled when he fell while fleeing with his nurse after Jonathan and Saul had been killed in battle (2 Samuel 4:4). Now

he was likely in hiding, fearing that David would harm him. Not only did David give Mephibosheth all the land that had belonged to Saul and his family, but he also gave Mephibosheth a seat of honor at the king’s own table, as if Mephibosheth were David’s own son.

David’s kindness to Mephibosheth went far beyond the cultural expectations of the time. It demonstrated David’s integrity and showed how important it was to him to show love and mercy.

The Jesus Connection

Because of Jesus’ ultimate act of love and kindness—dying on the cross for us—we’re free from death. Let’s share his kindness with others and spread the love.

Kindness is more than just being nice. Read 2 Samuel 9:7. What part do justice and righteousness play in kindness?

How would our relationships change if we considered doing what’s “just” and “right” for others?

Thank God for showing us, through Jesus, the difference that kindness can make. You can write your prayer here.





**Kindness
Remembered
Supplies**

index cards
art supplies such as
glitter, glue, and
stickers

**Finding Kindness
Supplies**

Bibles

1 GETTING
STARTED

Kindness Remembered

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Then have kids form pairs.

Say: **Think of someone who has been kind to you, and tell your partner about it.**

After kids have shared with partners, ask willing kids to act out how they were treated kindly. After all willing kids have had an opportunity to act out different instances of kindness, have kids sit in one group. Give them index cards and art supplies, such as glue, glitter, and stickers. Ask kids to use the index cards to create brief thank-you cards to the people they thought of, writing the names of the people and what they thank them for. When kids have finished decorating, set aside these cards to use later.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- What did you do to deserve kindness from the person you wrote to?
- What does it take to earn someone else's kindness?
- Explain whether you agree or disagree: People have to earn kindness.

Say: **Sometimes people are treated with kindness even when they haven't done anything to deserve it. In today's Bible passage, we'll learn how King David showed kindness to someone who didn't deserve it or earn it. We'll learn how David was kind to this person and discover that ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS.**

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Finding Kindness

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Before David became king, he was very good friends with Jonathan, the son of King Saul. But Saul was very jealous of David and wanted to have him killed. Jonathan found out and warned David to run away. He wanted his friend to live! David and Jonathan vowed to be friends forever, and David never forgot his friend's kindness.**





Have kids form five groups or pairs. Assign each group one of the following passages:

- **2 Samuel 9:1-4 (David searched for the son of Jonathan.)**
- **2 Samuel 9:5-6 (David had Mephibosheth brought to him.)**
- **2 Samuel 9:7-8 (David restored land to Mephibosheth and had him always eat at David's table.)**
- **2 Samuel 9:9-11 (David gave servants to Mephibosheth to farm the land, and Mephibosheth was to eat with the king.)**
- **2 Samuel 9:12-13 (David had Mephibosheth and his family live in Jerusalem and eat at the king's table.)**

Say: **In your groups, read and talk about your Bible passage. Then come up with a way to act it out for the rest of the group. When you've finished, we'll put them all together in our "Finding Kindness" play.**

We're going to discover what it meant for David to be kind to someone who would likely have been his enemy.

Give kids approximately 10 minutes to read their passages and come up with ideas for how to act them out. You may want to circulate to each group to provide assistance where needed. When all groups are ready, read aloud 2 Samuel 9:1-13, and have kids present their scenes in order to create their "Finding Kindness" play. If some kids' scenes are a little unclear, read their verses again so everyone else knows what happened.

When kids have finished presenting their play, have them sit together as one group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What did the scenes in your play reveal about David's kindness to Mephibosheth?**
- **When have you seen acts of kindness in real life?**
- **When have you been treated with kindness you didn't deserve?**

Say: **King David didn't have to be kind to Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was the grandson of King Saul, who had tried to kill David over a long period of time. But David chose to show kindness to Mephibosheth, the son of his faithful friend Jonathan. David saw that Mephibosheth had needs, and David did whatever he had to do to take care of Mephibosheth. Being kind means to put effort, attention, and time toward doing good for someone. ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS.**





Brotherly Love Supplies

Bibles
CD player
1 copy per person of the
lyrics page (at the end
of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

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

Brotherly Love


What You'll Do

Say: **Our Key Verse for today helps us understand what it means to be kind. Let's take a look at it.**

Have kids open their Bibles to Romans 12:10, and have them read the verse aloud together: "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Say: **Let's sing a song with the words of our Key Verse to help us remember it.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics and then play "Brotherly Love" (Romans 12:10) (track 3 on the CD) and have kids sing along.

 **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.**

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





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- What does the “brotherly love” in our song mean?
- How did David show “brotherly love” to Mephibosheth?
- What did David’s devotion to Mephibosheth cost him?
- What makes it hard to be devoted to one another in brotherly love?

Say: **David didn’t have to treat Mephibosheth with kindness. He didn’t have to bring him into his own home, give land back to him, give him servants, or have him eat with him. But David did. David showed great kindness to Mephibosheth. By doing so, David showed how ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS.**



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Pass It On

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s take a look at how we can show kindness to others.**

Have kids form four groups or pairs. Give each group paper, a pencil or pen, and copies of the Lesson 2 page from their Bible Truth Sleuth books. Number the groups, and tell each group to look at the picture on the page that goes with the number of its group. If you have a small group, use only as many scenes as you have pairs to write about them. For a larger group, you can use any of the scenes more than once.

Say: **If we saw a picture of Mephibosheth sitting at David’s table eating with the king, we wouldn’t know how David searched for Mephibosheth, returned his land to him, and gave him servants. We wouldn’t know the background. Look at your group’s picture. We don’t know the background of the picture you have. Your group needs to write the background story of the picture you have so we can understand how that picture shows someone being devoted and kind.**

Allow several minutes for the groups to talk and write. Then have the groups share their background stories to their pictures of devotion and kindness.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- What common themes came out of your background stories of devotion and kindness?
- How does being kind honor God in these background stories?
- What can we do in our own real lives to show kindness?

Pass It On Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
paper
pencils or pens

Pass It On Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 2
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.





Daily Challenges Supplies

thank-you cards
from the “Kindness
Remembered” activity

Say: **Being kind can be lots of different things. But it always means putting in effort, attention, and time to do good for someone. David didn’t show kindness to just his good friends or family. He chose the grandson of the man who had tried to kill him. Mephibosheth probably wasn’t his friend. But David chose to be kind because it was the right thing to do, not because Mephibosheth would thank him. Just as David was kind, God wants us to be kind because ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how we can show kindness this week because ► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS.**

Instead of choosing a Daily Challenge, have kids write the name of someone they need to show kindness to this week on the card they made in the “Kindness Remembered” activity. Maybe the person is new in school or a neighbor they don’t know well. The kindness to show might be something as simple as saying “hello” to him or her, helping that person with some task, or maybe sharing a snack with him or her.

Allow kids a few minutes to think about this and to write on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Also ask kids to commit to giving the thank-you cards they made to the people they wrote about in the “Kindness Remembered” activity.

Make sure you make a commitment to show kindness to someone this week and tell kids what you’ll do. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your act of kindness? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.**

Say: **► BEING KIND HONORS GOD AND OTHERS. David set an example for us when he showed kindness to Mephibosheth. Let’s learn from him as we follow through this week with putting effort, attention, and time toward doing good for someone.**





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the acts of kindness they chose and what they learned about honoring God by being kind to others. Kids can also do the activities on the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth 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, asking God for help to show kindness and devotion, not only to our friends and family, but also to those who might be in need as Mephibosheth was.





Brotherly Love (Romans 12:10)

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

(Chorus)

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