



# David Is Merciful to Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 9

Although young preschoolers are still fairly self-centered, they do show concern when a friend is hurt, sad, or upset. Use such opportunities to help children learn to show kindness through a hug, a friendly word, or engaging a friend in a game. Ask, "What would make our friend Taylor feel better?" Then let children put their suggestions into action. Use this lesson to teach preschoolers to be kind and loving, just like David.



**► Bible Point**  
God helps us be kind.

**Key Verse**  
God is our help (adapted from Psalm 46:1).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will be kind to others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	signal, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Happy Helpers</b> Sing a song, and help each other hop with the actions.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Enjoy having their backs scratched by Theo.	CD player, Theo puppet, rubber band <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, back scratcher	Attach the back scratcher to Theo's paw with a rubber band.
	<b>Bible Time: Kindness From a King</b> See how King David's kindness changed Mephibosheth.	Bible, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Mephibosheth" poster 	Cut along the lines as shown on the poster. Thread the eye and mouth strips through the slits, positioning them to show Mephibosheth's sad face.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Welcome to My Table</b> Prepare a table with food for Mephibosheth.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs; bowls of assorted cereal, fish-shaped crackers, and bite-size crackers; antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 2 pages from My Bible Hugs, and write children's names on them.</p>
	<p><b>Center 2: Gentle and Kind</b> Make a fun banana snack.</p>	<p>paper plates, plastic knives, bananas, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Set out paper plates, plastic knives, and bananas.</p>
	<p><b>Center 3: Back to Kindness</b> Have a "kindness" relay.</p>	<p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> back scratcher</p>	
	<p><b>Center 4: A Wobbly Man</b> Make a paper doll that has a hard time standing up.</p>	<p>1 paper plate per child, construction paper, crayons, stapler</p>	<p>Cut two 1x10-inch strips of construction paper for each child.</p>
<p><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Be a FaithWeaver</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Pass around a crown while they pray.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, paper crown</p>	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		







### Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

.....  
 signal  
 CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
 CD: "Come and Join Us"  
 (track 2), "Praise Him,  
 Trust Him" (track 3)

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

#### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Come and Join Us" to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" (track 2 on the CD).

 **Come and join us, everyone!**  
**Sing and learn what God has done.**  
**Come and join us, everyone!**  
**Come and join us, we'll have fun.**  
**Come and join us, everyone!**  
**Sing and learn what God has done.**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

Say: **Now that we're all together, let's sing and praise God. We praise God because he's good. We can trust that God will give us all the things we need and take care of us.**

Lead children in singing "Praise Him, Trust Him" to the tune of "Praise Him" (track 3 on the CD). Encourage the kids to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Praise him, trust him.** *(raise right arm and then left arm)*  
**Let's all sing together!** *(cup hands to mouth)*  
**We can count on our God!** *(raise both hands)*  
**Praise him, trust him.** *(raise right arm and then left arm)*  
**We can count on our God now!** *(raise both hands)*  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

Say: **We can count on God for many, many things. This week we will learn that**  
 ► **GOD HELPS US BE KIND to others.**



2

KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

# Happy Helpers

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Psalm 46:1, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." This means God is our help. Let's say the verse together.** Lead the children in saying the adapted Key Verse together: **God is our help (Psalm 46:1).**

Play "My God Is So Kind" (track 7 on the CD). The first time through, ask the children to hop on one foot while they listen. The second time, put them in pairs with partners facing each other. Have them hold hands while they hop.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- Which way was it easier to hop?
- Why do you think it was better with help?

Say: **Sometimes God uses other people to help us. In the Bible, God used David to help Mephibosheth. ► GOD HELPS US BE KIND to others. When we ask God, he'll always send the help we need. Let's say our Key Verse one more time.** Lead the children in saying the Key Verse with you: **God is our help (Psalm 46:1).**

3

BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

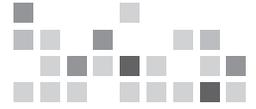
# Puppy Pointers

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever with the back scratcher attached to his paw. Then follow along with the script.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. Do you have something to show us?



## Happy Helpers Supplies

- .....
- Bible
  - CD player
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: "My God Is So Kind"  
(track 7 on the CD)

## Puppy Pointers Supplies

- .....
- CD player
  - Theo puppet
  - rubber band
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)
  - back scratcher

## Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

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Attach the back scratcher to Theo's paw with a rubber band.





### Bible Time: Kindness From a King Supplies

Bible  
scissors

**Teacher Pack**  
“Mephibosheth” poster

### Bible Time: Kindness From a King Easy Prep

Cut along the lines as  
shown on the poster.  
Thread the eye and  
mouth strips through  
the slits, positioning  
them to show  
Mephibosheth’s sad  
face.

**Theo:** I brought my back scratcher.

**Teacher:** Why did you bring your back scratcher, Theo?

**Theo:** Well, I want to be kind and scratch all your backs.

**Teacher:** Wow, Theo! That’s really kind of you.

*(Pause and allow Theo to gently scratch each child’s back.)*

**Teacher:** Thanks, Theo! Today we’re learning about kindness. Friends, can you think of some ways to be kind like Theo?

*(Pause and allow children to answer your question.)*

**Teacher:** God helps us be kind to everyone. We’re going to learn from the Bible about a time David was kind to a boy named Mephibosheth.

**Theo:** That sounds nice. I’m going to take my back scratcher home and scratch my family’s backs.

**Teacher:** That’s a good idea! Friends, let’s say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week’s use.

## Bible Time: Kindness From a King

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 9, and show the children the words.

Say: **When David became the king, he wanted to be kind to a man named Mephibosheth, because Mephibosheth’s dad had been kind to David.** Point to the poster showing Mephibosheth’s sad face. **Mephibosheth was sad because he had lost his land and home when his father died.**

Ask:

- **How do you look when you’re sad?**
- **Tell about a time you were sad.**

Say: **Mephibosheth was also sad because his feet were hurt and he couldn’t walk. If you couldn’t walk on your feet, how could you move?** Have kids show you. **Poor**



**Mephibosheth couldn’t walk.** Have preschoolers walk in place. **He couldn’t run.** Have children run in place. **He couldn’t jump.** Have children jump up once. **Mephibosheth didn’t know David very well, and he was afraid. Mephibosheth thought King David wanted to hurt him. He was scared.** Pull the strips so they show a scared face.



Ask:

- How do you look when you're scared?
- Tell about a time you were scared.

Say: **When King David heard about poor Mephibosheth, he didn't want to hurt him. David knew that God would help him be kind. King David told some people to go get Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was so afraid—maybe he started to shake because he was so afraid!** Shake the poster and have children shake and look afraid. **When the people brought Mephibosheth to King David, Mephibosheth bowed low.** Have the children bow low and shake as you "bow" the poster. **King David said, "Don't be afraid. I want to be kind to you. I won't hurt you. I'll give you land, food, and people to help you. You can eat at my table with me every day."** Mephibosheth was so happy! Make Mephibosheth's face happy, and show the poster to the children.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- How do you look when you're happy?
- Tell about a time you were happy.
- What do you think was the kindest thing David did for Mephibosheth?

Say: **King David was kind to Mephibosheth and gave him land, food, people to help him, and a place to stay. ► GOD HELPS US BE KIND to others, too. We can be kind by sharing our toys, giving hugs, or helping when our friends need it. King David was kind to Mephibosheth, and ► GOD HELPS US BE KIND to others, too.**

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

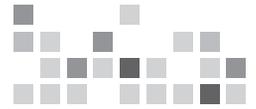
Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### ■ CENTER 1:

## Welcome to My Table

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 2 page from My Bible Hugs. Have the children wash their hands (or clean their hands with antibacterial gel). Let the children lay the cereal and crackers on King David's table to show the food King David shared with Mephibosheth. As they work, have children take turns telling one other about King David and Mephibosheth. Afterward, as children eat their snack, have them show kindness to one another by saying, "Good job telling what happened."



### Center 1: Welcome to My Table Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
bowls of assorted cereal, fish-shaped crackers, and bite-size crackers  
antibacterial gel (optional)

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Center 1: Welcome to My Table Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 2 pages from My Bible Hugs, and write children's names on them.





### Center 2: Gentle and Kind Supplies

paper plates  
plastic knives  
bananas  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

### ! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

### Center 3: Back to Kindness Supplies

**Teacher Pack**  
back scratcher

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- How was David kind to Mephibosheth?
- What do people in your family do to be kind to you?

Say: King David was kind and gave Mephibosheth food, land, and people to help him. ► **GOD HELPS US BE KIND** like David and be kind to others.

### ■ CENTER 2:

## Gentle and Kind

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children wash their hands (or clean their hands with antibacterial gel) and then sit down to prepare their snack. Give each child a banana. Talk about how you have to handle bananas gently or they'll bruise.

Say: **Just as you have to handle the banana gently, ► GOD HELPS US BE KIND to our friends with gentleness. Let's be gentle as we make a fun banana snack.**

Let children peel their bananas. Then allow them to use plastic knives to slice the bananas. Demonstrate how to use banana slices to make a smiley face on a paper plate.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- What are all the ways that David was kind to Mephibosheth?
- What's one way you can be like David to be kind this week?

Say: **It feels good to be kind to others. ► GOD HELPS US BE KIND** and loving to everyone!

### ■ CENTER 3:

## Back to Kindness

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids line up at one end of the room. Set the back scratcher at the other end of the room. Form pairs, and have partners hug each other in a side-to-side hug as they walk across the room to the back scratcher. Once there, they can take turns using it to gently scratch each other's backs. Then let partners join hands, walk back to where they started, and tap the next pair to let them know it's their turn.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- How did you show kindness to your friends in this game?





- How do your friends and family show kindness to you?

Say: You were kind to each other just like King David was kind to Mephibosheth. This week, God can help you be kind to your friends.

■ **CENTER 4:**

## A Wobbly Man

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a paper plate. Encourage kids to draw eyes, a nose, and a mouth on their plates with crayons.

Say: **The young man named Mephibosheth didn't have strong legs. He couldn't even walk. Let's make legs like Mephibosheth's legs. His legs were crooked and wobbly.**

Help the children each accordion-fold two strips of construction paper. Then staple the strips to the bottom of the plate.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: You may not know someone whose legs are wobbly, but all kinds of people need help and kindness.

Ask:

- Tell about someone you know who needs kindness.
- What can you do to show kindness to that person?

Say: King David showed kindness to Mephibosheth by bringing him to his palace and taking care of him. ► **GOD HELPS US BE KIND** to others, just as David was kind to Mephibosheth.



### Center 4: A Wobbly Man Supplies

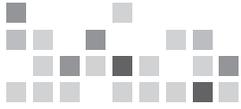
- .....
- 1 paper plate per child
  - construction paper
  - crayons
  - stapler

### Center 4: A Wobbly Man Easy Prep

.....

Cut two 1x10-inch strips of construction paper for each child.





### Be a FaithWeaver Supplies

My Bible Hugs

### Action Prayer Supplies

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "He Cares for  
You" (1 Peter 5:7)  
(track 8)

paper crown

## 5

## LASTING IMPRESSIONS

# Be a FaithWeaver

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD HELPS US BE KIND to all people. I would like each of you to choose a way you can be kind to someone this week.**

Give kids these three ideas to choose from:

- **Help your mom or dad with a chore.**
- **Take cookies or a card to a friend.**
- **Help your sister or brother pick up toys.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a circle.

Say: ► **GOD HELPS US BE KIND. Let's practice kindness with this prayer.**

Softly play "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 8 on the CD) as children pass around the paper crown. Show children how to gently place the crown on the head of the person on their right. As each child sets the crown in place, he or she prays, "God, help me be kind." When everyone has had a turn to pray, hold the crown, and turn off the CD.

Pray: **Lord, thank you for kind King David. We want to be kind and loving, too. Help us use kind actions and words this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**



## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Be a FaithWeaver” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about e-mailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

