

LESSON 1: DAVID IS KIND TO MEPHIBOSHETH

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 2 Samuel 9

12/01/2019

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: 2 Samuel 9
- In This Passage: King David finds Jonathan's son Mephibosheth. David shows kindness by inviting him to the palace, feeding him a meal, and letting him eat at the palace regularly. God was kind to David, and David passed it on. God is kind, so we're kind.
- Bible Point: God is kind...
- Application: ...so we're kind.
- Summary Verse: "He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us" (2 Corinthians 1:4).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is kind*. Kids often hear the admonition: Be nice. But *nice* and *kind* are two different things. *Nice* is the bare minimum of not being mean. *Kind* is going out of your way, like David did, to treat another person well. Help kids see how God has shown them kindness and how he can help them pass his kindness on to others.
- Think About: What's the kindest thing someone has done for you? What did that show you about God?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that your kids will go out of their way to be kind to others.

Quick Tip

- Your group likely includes kids at a wide variety of maturity levels. Be ready for vast differences in responses to certain activities. Younger kids will especially have a wide range of fine-motor-skill levels. Show kindness by helping kids as needed. For preteens, maturity level often shows up when you ask kids to share emotions or insights into themselves. When you show respect for what kids say, you're showing kindness. By not disregarding their thoughts and questions, you're modeling kindness.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids sculpt, act out parts of David's life, and experience David's kindness to Mephibosheth.

Supplies

- Bible
- modeling dough, such as Silly Putty or new Play-Doh (see Tip)
- plain snack, such as saltine crackers
- exciting snack, such as animal crackers or cookies



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids thank God for the ways he's shown us kindness.

Supplies

- Bibles

**Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids shake hands with four friends using the *back* of their hands.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids sing the words “happy birthday” like opera singers.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God is kind, so we’re kind. In our Bible story, we’ll find out about a man named David who showed kindness by inviting someone over for dinner.**

Share

- Tell kids whose house *you* love to go to for dinner and why.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share whose house *they* love to go to for dinner and why.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to 2 Samuel 9, and say: **People are kind when they invite us over for delicious food! Let’s see how else David showed kindness in our Bible story. The Bible isn’t an ordinary book; it’s God’s special book. The Bible is one way God shows us his kindness and how we can reflect him. God is here right now, ready to talk to you. Let’s hear what he has to say as we pray.**

Pray, praising God for being kind.

**Supplies**

- Bible
- modeling dough, such as Silly Putty or new Play-Doh (see Tip)
- plain snack, such as saltine crackers
- exciting snack, such as animal crackers or cookies

Tip

- Test your modeling dough to ensure you can leave fingerprints in it. If you want to make your own Silly Putty, use this recipe (this makes enough for 2 kids, so multiply as needed):
 - Put 3 tablespoons of glue and 1 teaspoon of warm water in a bowl, and stir it.
 - Add 1 teaspoon of liquid starch and ¼ teaspoon of baking soda, and stir some more.
 - Add another ½ teaspoon of water, and stir until it's solid enough to shape with your hands.
 - Mold it a bit, and then place it in a resealable plastic bag to store.

Make Sculptures

Give each child a lump of modeling dough. Say: **Today we're learning that God is kind. We'll learn about God's kindness from a man named David. God showed his kindness to David in a lot of ways! First, David was a shepherd. Sculpt a sheep.** Allow time. **When David was a shepherd, God showed kindness by giving David's sheep peaceful places to graze.**

David also wrote a lot of songs, which make up the Bible book of Psalms. He wrote this in one of his songs. Read Psalm 145:16-17.

Say: **Make a handprint in your dough.** Allow time.

God showed David kindness by giving him success in battles. The first time, David was a young boy fighting against a giant. All he had was a rock and a slingshot, and he killed the giant. Sculpt a rock. Allow time.

David had to run away from King Saul for a long time. But God is kind, and he always kept David safe. Sculpt a cave, one of the places God protected David. Allow time.

God showed kindness to David by blessing him and making him a king! Sculpt a crown. Allow time.

Now flatten your dough and press a finger on it to make a fingerprint. Allow time.

God is kind. When he continually showed David kindness, he left his fingerprints on David's life. Look at your fingerprint, and then look at someone else's. Allow time. **You can tell who shaped that dough by looking at the fingerprint. And you can tell that God shaped David's life, because David showed God's kind heart. Let's see how he did that.** Collect the modeling dough, and set it aside.

Form Two Groups

Have kids form two groups: David and Mephibosheth.

Say: **David was the king. There were a lot of things he could do. He could lead an army.** Have the David group march around.

Say: **Mephibosheth (me-FIB-o-sheth) was the grandson of the previous king, Saul. Mephibosheth had been dropped as a baby, and his legs didn't work. He couldn't walk normally.** Have the Mephibosheth group sit cross-legged. If possible, have them put each foot on top of the opposite knee, in what's known as the lotus pose.

Say: **David could travel around town in fancy chariots.** Have the David group strut around and wave.

Say: **Mephibosheth probably didn't have fancy chariots, so he probably didn't really go many places.** Have the Mephibosheth group continue to sit.

Say: **David lived in a palace and had delicious food!** Give the David group the exciting snack, and let kids start eating.

Say: **Mephibosheth didn't live in the palace or have fancy food.** Give the Mephibosheth group the

plain snack, and let kids start eating.

Ask the Mephibosheth group: • **How do you feel right now?**

Ask the David group: • **How do you feel right now?**

Say: **Long ago, Mephibosheth's dad, Jonathan, had been David's best friend. But Jonathan had died, and David wanted to find out if he had any kids. Listen to what he did.**

Read 2 Samuel 9:1-3.

Ask: • **God is kind, so we're kind.** What could David do to show kindness to Jonathan's son?

Have kids brainstorm in their groups and then share their ideas.

Say: **David could have invited Mephibosheth to his fancy palace...and he did.**

Read 2 Samuel 9:5-6.

Say: **David could have shared his fancy food with Mephibosheth...and he did.** Have the David group share the exciting snack with the Mephibosheth group.

Say: **But David did more than just share one meal at the palace. As I read this, count all the kind things David did for Mephibosheth.**

Read 2 Samuel 9:7-13. Ask kids to share how many things they counted.

Say: **Wow! David went above and beyond in showing kindness. But remember, that's because God is kind, and David had the fingerprints of God on him. He even said he wanted to show *God's* kindness.**

Brainstorm

Say: ***You* have the fingerprints of God, too. God has shown *you* kindness!**

Ask: • **Give examples of how God has shown you kindness.** Share your own example first.

• **What would it look like to reflect God's kindness to other people?**

Say: **God is kind, so we're kind.** When we show kindness like David did, we reflect God's heart in everyday life! When we remember God's kindness to us, he can show us opportunities to be kind. Just remember, you have the fingerprints of our kind God all over you!



Supplies

- Bibles

Thank God

Say: **God is kind, so we're kind.** Let's thank God for his kindness to us.

- Read 1 John 3:1.
- Pray: **Thank you, God, for being kind enough to love us and call us your children.**
- Read Titus 3:4-5.
- Pray: **Thank you, God, for being kind enough to save us and forgive us.**
- Read Psalm 69:16.
- Pray: **Thank you, God, for being kind to answer our prayers and take care of us.**
- Have kids silently thank God for his kindness and then listen for him to tell them one way to show kindness this week.

Wrap Up

Ask: • **What did God show you about how to be kind?**

Pray: **God, thank you that you're kind. Help us show your kindness to others. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.