

# LESSON 1: DAVID IS KIND TO MEPHIBOSHETH

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 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

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers act out the story and practice kindness to others.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- toy food (1 piece per child)



### LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers open their hands to God's kindness and pass it on to others.



### OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers work together to kindly help figures get out of ice.

#### Supplies

- cake pans or other large containers (1 for every 10 kids)
- various small figures (4 for every 10 kids, plus 1 extra)
- spray bottles (2 for every 10 kids)
- small cups (4 for every 10 kids)
- pitchers (1 for every 10 kids)
- salt

#### Easy Prep

- Prepare blocks of ice the night before. Fill containers about half full of water, place 4 figures in each container, and then freeze the water. Keep 1 toy figure unfrozen for use in the beginning of the lesson.
- Fill spray bottles and pitchers with warm water.



### HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers sort pompoms by color.

#### Supplies

- cotton pompoms in 4 colors (about 30 pompoms per color)
- 4 boxes or bowls
- tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

#### Easy Prep

- Tape 1 pompom of each color to a different box or bowl to designate a separate container for each color of pompom.
- Place the boxes or bowls in different corners of the room.
- Mix and scatter the rest of the pompoms all over the floor.



### LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a version of Duck, Duck, Goose.



### CRAFT

Preschoolers make place mats.

#### Supplies

#### Easy Prep

- 8½x14-inch legal-size paper (1 sheet per child)
- sheet protectors (2 per child)
- crayons
- stickers
- kids' stampers
- colored washable ink pads
- decorative tape
- play kitchen (optional)
- toy food and dishware (optional)
- Make a sample craft to show kids.

*\*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.



### Supplies

- Bible

### Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have children shake hands with four friends using the back of their hands.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say “happy birthday” in the voices of their favorite cartoon characters.
- Collect the offering.

### Introduce the Lesson

Say: **The Bible says that God is kind, and we can be kind, too. We’ll hear about a friend of God named David. David was so thankful for God’s kindness to him that he decided to be kind to others, too. In our Bible story today, we’ll find out that one way David was kind was by having someone over for dinner. Let’s start today by talking about that.**

### Share

- Share about someone *you* had over for dinner.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about people who came over to *their* houses for dinner.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

### Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Having someone over for dinner is one way to be kind. In the Bible today, we’ll find out David had someone over for meals every single day! David learned to be kind from God. When we’re friends with God, we find out God is kind, too. And we can learn to be kind to others, knowing how loving and kind God is to us.**

Pray, thanking God that he’s kind.

**Supplies**

- Bible
- toy food (1 piece per child)

**Talk About It**

Say: **Today we're learning that God is kind. That means God is gentle and helpful to us. He always does what's best for us. God is so good to us!**

Tell about someone *you* know who is kind. Use preschool-friendly language to share what makes that person kind. For example, my friend RoseAnne is so kind—she never says anything mean, she always thanks me, and she tells me when she thinks I did something well. She even helps me out when I'm having trouble!

Ask: • **Tell about someone *you* know who is kind.** Kindness encompasses a lot of aspects, and preschoolers are just learning what it means to be kind. Invite any answers as they sort out what it means, and steer them toward examples of helpfulness, patience, encouragement, and forgiveness.

**Act It Out**

Show the Bible. Say: **The Bible tells about a man named David who was kind. David learned to be kind from God. God was so kind to David—he showed David how to be loving, helpful, and encouraging. When people are encouraging, they let others know when they're doing something well.**

**David had become king of all God's friends. He lived in a big palace and had plenty to eat and many friends and family. David had won a battle against another family. Let's think about what we do when we've won a game or pretend battle against someone.**

Share about a game *you* won and what you said or did to others afterward.

Ask: • **When have *you* won a game or pretend battle?** As each child shares, ask the child to tell something he or she might've said or done after the game. Did he brag? Did she tell the person he or she did well, too? Avoid making a judgment about what the kids did.

Say: **Let's read in the Bible to find out how David treated the family that lost a battle against him. Read 2 Samuel 9:1. David wanted to help the losing family. He knew they might be hurting, and he decided to be kind to them. When we win, we can be kind, too. We can let the people know they did well, and we can avoid bragging about how well we did. We can remember that God is so kind to us and he'll help us be kind to others, too. I wonder *how* David showed kindness.**

Look in the Bible. Say: **The Bible says David found out about one man named Mephibosheth (me-FIB-o-sheth). Mephibosheth was part of the family David beat in a battle. Mephibosheth's feet didn't work, and he didn't have any land to live on. Have the kids kneel to pretend they can't use their feet.**

Say: **David had a big, big house and plenty of friends and family.** Lead kids to high-five at least three other people.

Say: **David had plenty of food to eat.** Have kids pretend to eat.

Say: **So when David found out that Mephibosheth didn't have any of these things, he wanted to show kindness to him. David invited Mephibosheth to his palace.** Have kids walk on their knees across the room, pretending they're Mephibosheth going to David's palace.

Say: **When Mephibosheth arrived at David's palace, David told him not to be afraid. (Remember, David had won a battle against Mephibosheth's family.) Then David gave Mephibosheth the land that Mephibosheth's grandpa used to own. David even made sure Mephibosheth had people to take care of him and to bring him what he needed. And David invited Mephibosheth to eat in the palace with him every day.** Invite each child to choose a piece of toy food and pretend kids are having a feast together. Encourage them to trade and share their food to practice kindness.

**Play a Game**

Say: **David was kind to Mephibosheth because he learned to be kind from God. God is so kind that David knew God would always take care of him. He didn't need to hold back kindness. God is kind to us, too. God gives us everything we need. When we do something wrong, he forgives us. When**

**we're grumpy, he still shows us love. Because God is kind, we can be kind to others, too. Let's play a game to practice being kind.**

Have the children stand in a circle. Choose one child to stand in the center and pretend to be David. That child will say, "I'm kind to my neighbor who..." and then say anything that describes himself or herself. For example, if the child in the center is wearing blue, he might say, "I'm kind to my neighbor who is wearing blue." If the child is good at jumping, he might say, "I'm kind to my neighbor who can jump high." If the child likes to help his mom clean, he might say, "I'm kind to my neighbor who likes to help his mom."

After "David" shares something, say: **If you also** [are wearing blue...can jump high...help your mom], **join David for a hug.** Have the children join David for a group hug if they have that thing in common with him.

Choose a new child to be David and share something about himself or herself. Continue for several rounds. Make sure every child joins the center at least one time.

Say: **There are so many things we have in common! If we look hard enough, we can always find things we have in common with others. That's because God made each of us, and he loves each and every one of us.**

### **Talk About It**

Say: **God is kind to you and to me, and he loves when we're kind to each other.**

Share some preschool-friendly ways *you* can be kind to others. You might say you can share part of a snack with a friend, you can help people up when they fall down, or you can tell someone when you notice he or she is good at something.

Ask: • **How can *you* be kind?** Preschoolers might say they can ask for a toy instead of grabbing it out of someone else's hands, they can help brothers or sisters clean up when they've made a mess, or they can tell someone when they like something about that person.

Say: **Being kind is the best! It makes other people feel good, and it makes us feel good to be kind, too! And we can learn from God about how to be kind. God is kind to us when he gives us something we need, when he tells us he loves and cares for us, and when he forgives us. And we can do those things, too!**



### Open Hands

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#### Receive and Give

Say: **Today we learned that God is kind, so we can be kind. We found out that David loved to pass kindness to others because he knew God was kind to him. Let's thank God for all the ways he gives us kindness, and then we'll pass it on.**

Lead kids to hold their hands in an open position, palms facing up. Say: **God is kind to us. Your hands are open, so you're ready to receive, or get, God's kindness. Let's thank God.** Lead kids in a short prayer, thanking God for his kindness.

Say: **We can pass on kindness, too.** Lead kids to "pass on kindness" by having them turn their hands so their fingers point upward and their palms are now facing a partner. Have partners press their palms together. Lead kids in a short prayer, asking God to help you and the kids pass on kindness.

Repeat the open/receiving position and the passing on/pressing hands position several times with kids, each time giving an example of a way God is kind. Here are some ways God is kind and ways we can pass on the kindness:

- He forgives us when we do something wrong. We can forgive others.
- He never says anything bad about us. We can say only nice things about others.
- He is patient when we're grumpy. We can be patient when others are grumpy.
- He listens to us when we need to talk. We can stop and listen to others.
- He knows when we need something. We can help others when they need something.

#### Talk About It

Say: **There are so many ways to be kind to others. When God is our friend, he helps us be kind to others the way he is kind to us.**

Share one way you want to be kind to someone this week. You might decide you're not going to say anything negative to a loved one all week. You might decide you're going to pay for the meal of the person behind you in the drive-through line. Or you might already know of a way you can compliment someone.

Ask: • **What's one way you can plan to be kind to someone this week?** Preschoolers might say they'll share with others when they're playing this week. They might say they want to compliment Mommy on her cooking. Or they might say they'll help a sibling make his or her bed.

Lead the children in a short prayer, thanking God for all the kindness he shows to us and asking God with help to be kind to others.

Say: **It's so wonderful to share kindness! It's been fun having you here today to talk about all the ways we can be kind and how God is so kind to us. I hope we can be together next week, too—please come back!**



## OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

### To the Rescue

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#### Supplies

- cake pans or other large containers (1 for every 10 kids)
- various small figures (4 for every 10 kids, plus 1 extra)
- spray bottles (2 for every 10 kids)
- small cups (4 for every 10 kids)
- pitchers (1 for every 10 kids)
- salt

#### Easy Prep

- Prepare blocks of ice the night before. Fill containers about half full of water, place 4 figures in each container, and then freeze the water. Keep 1 toy figure unfrozen for use in the beginning of the lesson.
- Fill spray bottles and pitchers with warm water.

#### Tip

- To speed up the process, make ice blocks shallower. If the ice is a couple of inches thick, it'll take about 5 minutes to remove the toy figures.

#### Make Ice Melt

Say: **Today we're learning that God is kind, and we can be kind, too. There are so many ways to be kind, like when we forgive someone for doing something mean or when we give someone a hug when he or she is sad. We can also be kind by helping someone when that person is in danger.**

Hold up a toy figure like the ones in the ice. **This little toy has some friends who are in danger and need some help. The friends are stuck inside some ice. Ice is so cold! Let's show kindness by helping them get out of the ice as fast as we can.**

Ask: • **What are some ways to make ice melt?**

Talk about how warm water and salt can make ice melt faster.

- Have about 10 kids and one adult or teen helper sit around each container of ice.
- Give each group a pitcher of warm water, four small cups, two spray bottles, and some salt.
- Have helpers give some kids spray bottles and others small cups of warm water or salt. Helpers can encourage children to take turns with the spray bottles and cups.
- Kids can spray warm water over the toy figures in the ice, sprinkle salt, or slowly pour from the cups. (The slower they pour, the faster it'll thaw.)
- Encourage everyone to work together to free the toy figures as quickly as possible.

#### Talk About It

Say: **It was kind of you to help our toy friends who were frozen in the ice. It took some time, didn't it? In our Bible story, David took the time to be kind to Mephibosheth and took care of Mephibosheth when he really needed help. David showed God's kindness to Mephibosheth, and we can show God's kindness, too.**

Tell about a time *you* were kind to someone or something that needed your help. Perhaps you fed birds that were looking for food or offered to babysit so a single parent could run errands.

Ask: • **When were you kind to someone who needed help?**

Say: **God is kind, and we can be kind, too! Like we helped our toy friends who were frozen in the ice, we can share God's kindness by helping others who need help, too.**





## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Helping Hands

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#### Supplies

- cotton pompoms in 4 colors (about 30 pompoms per color)
- 4 boxes or bowls
- tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

#### Easy Prep

- Tape 1 pompom of each color to a different box or bowl to designate a separate container for each color of pompom.
- Place the boxes or bowls in different corners of the room.
- Mix and scatter the rest of the pompoms all over the floor.

#### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

#### Sort the Pompoms by Color

Say: **Our Bible story today was all about how David showed God's kindness to someone else. David was a good friend by being kind. I need the help of some kind friends in cleaning up this messy room!**

- Help kids identify the different colors of pompoms and which box or bowl is the container for each.
- Explain that kids will get the pompoms into the right containers as quickly as they can by working together.
- Give a signal to start the game. If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- If you have time, mix up and spread out the pompoms again for another round or two, and challenge kids to sort them more quickly.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you like about being helpers today?**

Say: **Being a helper is a way to be kind. In our Bible story, David was kind because he remembered how kind God was to him. David wanted to show God's kindness to others. We can show God's kindness, too, when we're helpful like you were in our pompom game.**



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### God Is Kind...to You

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#### Play a Version of Duck, Duck, Goose

Say: **Today when we read the Bible, we heard about a man named David and how kind he was to another man, Mephibosheth. David was kind to others because he remembered that God is kind to him. David wanted to show others God's kindness.**

**Let's play a game where you'll take turns playing David and you'll get to show kindness to your friends here.**

- Have everyone sit in a circle facing each other, and invite a willing child to be the first "David" (the first to walk around the circle as in Duck, Duck, Goose).
- David will walk around the circle gently touching other kids' heads and saying "God is kind" with each touch.
- When David wants to tag someone to walk, hop, or skip around the circle with him, he'll say "God is kind...to *you*!"
- The two will hold hands and make their way around the circle once. Then they'll switch places and the person who was tagged will become the new David to go around the circle and choose someone new.
- Play rounds for as long as time allows, and help kids make sure everyone gets picked at least once.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you like about getting picked to go around the circle?**

Say: **It's so nice when friends are kind to us—when friends ask us to play or share toys or say kind things to us. It's always good to be kind because God is kind. David showed God's kindness to others, and we can, too!**



- 8½x14-inch legal-size paper (1 sheet per child)
- sheet protectors (2 per child)
- crayons
- stickers
- kids' stampers
- colored washable ink pads
- decorative tape
- play kitchen (optional)
- toy food and dishware (optional)

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Share how *you* prepare for dinner guests, such as by baking a fancy dessert, cleaning, lighting candles, or using a special tablecloth and plates.

Say: In our Bible story, David treated Mephibosheth (me-FIB-o-sheth) like a very special guest.

Show preschoolers the sample craft.

- Give each preschooler a sheet of paper.
- Let preschoolers decorate both sides of the paper with the craft supplies you've provided. Remind preschoolers to do their best since the place mats are for special guests at their houses.
- While they work, ask preschoolers about favorite place mats, plates, or cups they may use at home.
- Help each preschooler slide a sheet protector over each end of his or her paper so the sheet protectors overlap in the middle and will protect the paper from any spills.

### **Serve Friends**

Say: **Let's practice showing God's kindness and pretend we're serving dinner to our friends!**

Set out the toy food and dishware, and let preschoolers pretend to cook and serve each other dinner on their new place mats.

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