

LESSON 1: DAVID IS KIND TO MEPHIBOSHETH

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 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 act out the story and practice kindness to others.

Supplies

- Bible



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids race to set a table.

Supplies

- disposable tableware supplies (1 set for every 2 kids, plus 1 set per table—a set can be a cup, plate, napkin, fork, spoon, and knife)
- tables
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- In the center of each table, create a table-setting example using an extra set of tableware. Kids will try to re-create your example. You'll need enough space at the tables for pairs to set up 1 place setting each.
- On the floor around the tables, place sets of tableware supplies in piles—1 pile for every 2 kids. Place the tableware sets at least 10 feet away from the tables.



CRAFT

Kids make snacks to give away.

Supplies

- chocolate for melting (1 cup for every 4 kids) (see Tips)
- shortening (2 teaspoons for every 4 kids) (optional, see Tips)
- canning jars (1 for every 4 kids)
- wax paper
- slow cookers (enough to fit all your canning jars—depending on the size of your slow cooker, it should fit 4-5 jars)
- water
- pretzels (about 20 per child)
- spoons
- napkins
- sprinkles or colored sugar crystals
- snack-size resealable plastic bags
- permanent markers
- construction paper

Easy Prep

- Melt your chocolate by following these simple steps:
 - Put 1 cup of chocolate in each canning jar. (Add 2 teaspoons of shortening if using chocolate chips.)
 - Put the canning jars (without lids) in a slow cooker.
 - Add water around the jars, about halfway up. It's important not to let any water get in the jars or your chocolate won't melt correctly.
 - Turn the slow cooker on high (leave the lid off).
 - After about 30 minutes, stir the chocolate. Depending on your slow cooker and which type of chocolate you use, melting can take anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes. (If you need it faster, simply microwave the chocolate in the jars for 20 seconds at a time, stirring between intervals, and then proceed with the remaining directions below to keep the chocolate from hardening.)

- When the chocolate is melted, turn the slow cooker to warm. (This doesn't have to be precisely timed.) This will keep your chocolate from hardening before you're ready to use it.

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids race without using their legs.

Supplies

- long ropes, pool noodles, tape, or other supplies for marking a large oval
- sheets or blankets (1 for every 2 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Mark a large oval (like a race track) on the floor.
- Mark a start/finish line somewhere on the track you've made.
- Pile the sheets or blankets off the track near the starting line.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

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



OBJECT LESSON

Kids 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.

**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 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: **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 small groups, have kids share about people who came over to *their* houses for dinner.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids 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

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. You might say, "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.** Steer kids 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 without acting silly but rather to experience what it might've been like for Mephibosheth. Afterward invite kids to talk about what made it hard to get across the room in that way.

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.**

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 kids 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 a few rounds. Then switch the rule—have the Davids share something and then invite kids who *don't* have that in common with them join the center of the circle.. Make sure every child joins the center at least one time.

Ask: • **What was it like joining the group hug with people you had things in common with?**

• **What about when you joined the group hug with people who were different from you?**

Say: **We have a lot of things in common with others, and we also have things that are different. But God made each one of us, and he loves each and every one of us, even those who aren't like us at all. That's why we can be kind to everyone!**

Talk About It

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

Share some ways *you* were kind to others when you were a child. You might say you shared part of a snack with someone at school, you helped people up when they fell down, or you told someone when you noticed he or she was good at something.

Ask: • **How can *you* be kind?** Kids 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!**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Set the Table

Supplies

- disposable tableware supplies (1 set for every 2 kids, plus 1 set per table—a set can be a cup, plate, napkin, fork, spoon, and knife)
- tables
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- In the center of each table, create a table-setting example using an extra set of tableware. Kids will try to re-create your example. You'll need enough space at the tables for pairs to set up 1 place setting each.
- On the floor around the tables, place sets of tableware supplies in piles—1 pile for every 2 kids. Place the tableware sets at least 10 feet away from the tables.

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](#).

Set the Table

Say: **Today we read about how King David showed God's kindness to Mephibosheth by inviting him to eat at the king's table.**

Let's play a game where you'll work with a partner to set the king's table for David's special guest.

- Form same-gender pairs, and have each pair choose a pile of tableware supplies to stand near.
- One person in each pair will stand directly in front of the other with his or her arms held straight down against his or her sides.
- The person in the back of each pair will close his or her eyes and hold his or her arms out around the person in front.
- Pairs will work together to move the tableware supplies to the table one at a time and re-create the table-setting example you've placed in the center of the table. The person in front will be the eyes and tell the person behind what to do to pick up and place the tableware pieces.
- Pairs will try to be the first to successfully re-create the table setting.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- If time allows, have pairs move all the supplies back to the starting point, switch roles, and play again.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was it like to be limited in what you could do for your team?**

• **How did your partner show kindness in the game?**

Say: **God is kind, so we're kind when we help others in ways they can't help themselves. That can be as simple as helping a preschooler tie a shoe or buying groceries for a family who's having a hard time with money.**

Ask: • **What are some examples of kindness you've seen—either things you've done or things people have done for you?** Share an example of your own to help kids get started.

Say: **God is kind, and he has shown us perfect kindness. God can shape our hearts to be more and more like his so we show kindness to others.**



Supplies

- chocolate for melting (1 cup for every 4 kids) (see Tips)
- shortening (2 teaspoons for every 4 kids) (optional, see Tips)
- canning jars (1 for every 4 kids)
- wax paper
- slow cookers (enough to fit all your canning jars—depending on the size of your slow cooker, it should fit 4-5 jars)
- water
- pretzels (about 20 per child)
- spoons
- napkins
- sprinkles or colored sugar crystals
- snack-size resealable plastic bags
- permanent markers
- construction paper

Easy Prep

- Melt your chocolate by following these simple steps:
 - Put 1 cup of chocolate in each canning jar. (Add 2 teaspoons of shortening if using chocolate chips.)
 - Put the canning jars (without lids) in a slow cooker.
 - Add water around the jars, about halfway up. It's important not to let any water get in the jars or your chocolate won't melt correctly.
 - Turn the slow cooker on high (leave the lid off).
 - After about 30 minutes, stir the chocolate. Depending on your slow cooker and which type of chocolate you use, melting can take anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes. (If you need it faster, simply microwave the chocolate in the jars for 20 seconds at a time, stirring between intervals, and then proceed with the remaining directions below to keep the chocolate from hardening.)
 - When the chocolate is melted, turn the slow cooker to warm. (This doesn't have to be precisely timed.) This will keep your chocolate from hardening before you're ready to use it.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Tips

- Although this craft will be extra work, children will never forget this lesson on kindness. Perhaps you can recruit a “foodie parent” to help, which is a great way to build enthusiasm for your class.
- For best results, use chocolate wafers that are made for melting. This kind of chocolate hardens within a few minutes of drizzling. It can be found in craft stores such as Hobby Lobby or Michaels. It may or may not be available in traditional grocery stores.
- If you can’t find chocolate wafers, use milk chocolate chips or white chocolate chips, and add 2 teaspoons of shortening per cup of chocolate. This will take a little longer to melt and takes about 30 minutes to harden. If you use chocolate chips, make sure you start the craft earlier in your lesson and have kids put the pretzels in the bags at the end of the lesson.
- Don’t use “dipping chocolate,” as that takes several hours to harden.

Make Chocolate-Covered Pretzels

Have kids wash their hands. Remind them that as they make the snack, they need to keep their hands away from their noses and mouths so their hands stay clean. If they get chocolate on their hands, they can wipe it off with a napkin instead of licking it off.

Show kids the sample craft you made. Let kids know they’ll each make a bag of chocolate-covered pretzels to give away as an act of kindness. Give each child a sheet of wax paper, about 20 pretzels, a spoon, a napkin, and a snack-size bag. Set out permanent markers, construction paper, and sprinkles to share. Have kids form groups of four and then lead them through these directions to make chocolate-covered pretzels.

- Lay out your pretzels on your wax paper.
- With your leader’s help, get a jar of chocolate out of the slow cooker for your group. (Leaders, be careful not to drip water into other jars as you lift each jar out.)
- Take turns in your group drizzling chocolate over the pretzels. You’ll want to drizzle lightly, as shown. If you pour too much chocolate, it won’t harden in time. Drizzling the chocolate lightly is also a way to show kindness and make sure you don’t run out before everyone in your group gets some chocolate.



- When the chocolate is almost gone, you can use your spoon to scoop the rest out of the jar.
- Scatter sprinkles over the pretzels.
- While you wait for the chocolate to harden, use permanent markers to decorate your snack bag. Include today’s point: God is kind.
- Decorate a card for the person you’re going to give your pretzels to.
- When the chocolate has hardened, put the pretzels in the snack bag. (You can do this step after other activities if it takes a long time for the chocolate to harden.)
- Leave one pretzel out for you to taste later.

Talk About It

Hold up a chocolate-covered pretzel.

Ask: • **Pretzels are heart-shaped. How do hearts remind you of kindness?**

Have kids eat the pretzels they didn't put in their bags.

Ask: • **Pretzels are salty. Sometimes when people are mean, we might describe them as salty. Without saying anyone's name, what "salty" things have people done or said to you?**

• **Chocolate is sweet. How is kindness like chocolate?**

Say: **When people are salty, God's kindness is the sweetness that covers over that saltiness. And just as you spread the chocolate over all your pretzels, you can spread God's kindness to help overcome the salty things in people's lives. A kind word or action can go a long way when someone has hurt feelings! God is kind, so we're kind. And you can show God's kindness by giving away your snack bag of pretzels!**

Have kids take their snack bags home and give them away to pass on God's sweet kindness.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kindness Goes Around

[10 min]

Supplies

- long ropes, pool noodles, tape, or other supplies for marking a large oval
- sheets or blankets (1 for every 2 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Mark a large oval (like a race track) on the floor.
- Mark a start/finish line somewhere on the track you've made.
- Pile the sheets or blankets off the track near the starting line.

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](#).

Race Around the Track Without Using Legs

Say: **Today we read about King David and the kindness he showed to Mephibosheth—a man who couldn't use his feet. David's kindness changed Mephibosheth's life.**

I have a game for us that'll help us see what it's like to not be able to walk. Plus, we'll see how kindness changes things.

- Have everyone gather at the starting line (it's okay if some kids are behind others) sitting with legs crossed.
- At your cue, everyone will race around the track for two laps while remaining in the legs-crossed position.
- The first kids to cross the finish line on the second lap can each grab a blanket and go help other kids finish by moving them onto a blanket and pulling them quickly to the finish line.
- As kids finish, they can pass the kindness on by helping others.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- As time allows, play a few rounds of the race and alter the challenge with each round—for example, kids can roll, move on their knees, or inchworm crawl.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was it like to not be able to use your legs?**

• **What was it like to get help from others who'd finished the race?**

Say: **Kindness made a big difference in the race, and it was awesome to see you helping each other across the finish line instead of just leaving others behind. Kindness leaves no one behind. David showed kindness when he made sure Mephibosheth didn't get left behind.**

Ask: • **What are ways we can help others not be left out or left behind in real life?** Share an example of your own, such as getting to know a person who doesn't have many or any friends.

Say: **God is kind, and God's kind heart doesn't want to leave even one person behind. God cares for everyone. So when we care for others, we reflect God's heart.**



Open Hands

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/holding hands position several times with kids, each time giving an example of a way God is kind (or invite kids to share ways). 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 like we just talked about.**

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?** Kids might say they'll share with others when they're playing this week. They might say they want to compliment Mom 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

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.**

