

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Showing kindness is in
God's game plan.

BIBLE

David and Mephibosheth:
2 Samuel 9:1–13

ABOUT THIS WEEK

There's more to playing a game than winning—you'll need good sportsmanship, too. This week, we'll take a look at the time when David was a "good sport" by showing kindness to Saul's descendant, Mephibosheth. Even though Mephibosheth's family once caused David great pain, David's care for Mephibosheth inspires us to remember that **showing kindness is in God's game plan.**

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Race To Kindness

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, line the kids up behind a masking tape line. Have them take turns in pairs racing back and forth. Encourage kids to cheer one another on. Remember to cheer on both those who win, and those who don't!
✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers may not be mobile or coordinated enough to race. Instead, hide play food under a tablecloth for the toddlers to find. Talk about how there was lots of food at the feast in the Bible story.
- It's not always easy to be kind. But even when it's hard, God wants us to be kind. Today's story is all about God's game plan for us. God's game plan says we should be kind to others!

ACTIVITY | Set The Table

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, set play utensils, plates, bowls, cups, and napkins in a box. Line the kids up in a straight line beside the box, with a table ten feet in front of them. Instruct the kids to grab something from the box, run it to the table, set the table, and run to the back of the line. Continue this until the table is set. Play a few times so all of the kids get to go.
✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Remember, toddlers will put things into their mouths often. Help stop the spread of germs by having a basin with soapy water on a counter in the classroom. Drop toys into the soapy water as needed and wash after the session.
- **Do you help set the table at home?** Setting the table is a big deal! It helps everybody who's sitting down for the meal to feel at home, loved, and cared for.
- In today's Bible story, King David sets his table for somebody to show him kindness. He chose to be kind even when he didn't have to!

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | 2 Samuel 9:1–13 (David and Mephibosheth)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below! Additionally, have a table at the front, ready to set. As you tell the story, set the table, lay down a plate, utensils, napkins, cups, and more.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** You can show a video about Mephibosheth [like this](#) for toddlers. Feel free to play it a few times!
- David was now the king of Israel. It was all part of God's game plan for David to be the new king.
- **Everyone give me two thumbs up!** God's game plan is awesome!
- Before David was king, a man named Saul was king. King Saul had a son named Jonathan. Jonathan and David were best friends. **Everybody say, "Besties!"**
- But King Saul had *not* been kind to David. In fact, he was super mean to David. **Everybody say, "Booo!"**
- By the time David became king, Saul, Jonathan, and nearly everyone in their family had died.
 - But David still remembered Jonathan's kindness. So he wanted to be kind to someone in Jonathan's family, too.
 - **Tap the side of your head with your finger and say, "Good idea, David!"**
- David asked around, "Is there anybody left in Saul and Jonathan's family that I can be kind to?" They said that there was one person. Jonathan had a son. His name was super long. Are you ready for it? His name was Mephibosheth! Wow!
 - **Do you want to try saying that with me? Me-phi-bo-sheth!**
 - Mephibosheth was still alive and not very far away! David called for Mephibosheth. He set the table, and invited him to have a seat at his table!
 - **Rub your tummies and say, "Yum!"**
- Mephibosheth got to eat with the king! I wonder what kind of food David served him. I'm sure it was the very best food!
 - **What do you think David served at his table?**
 - David was so kind! But that's not all. King David invited Mephibosheth to his table and also invited him to be part of his family. He told him that he could eat with him every day, if he wanted. That's so amazing!
- David knew that God was the most kind. God was super kind to David. God gave David a super kind friend like Jonathan, and that's how David was super kind to Mephibosheth. Being kind is always in God's game plan!

BIG IDEA | Showing kindness is in God's game plan.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play an upbeat sports-themed track ([like this](#)) and have kids chant the Big Idea by repeating small chunks after you while doing the hand motions below. Consider providing pom-poms, noisemakers, or foam fingers for kids to enjoy the sports theme even more!
- In any sports game, players need to follow the coach's game plan. We all have the best coach—God—who always has the best game plan!
- Let's find out what's in God's game plan for us. Drumroll please ... (Lead the kids in a drumroll.)
 - **Showing kindness** ([Sign language for "kindness"](#) or have kids shake hands with each other.)
 - **is in God's** (Point up.)
 - **game plan** (Open palms like a book.)

VIDEO | Game Plan, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Kindness Tag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a simple game of "Tag" where a leader is "it" and has to tag the kids. Once tagged, the kid has to sit down. Anyone else can tag a sitting kid to bring them back into the game.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of playing "Tag," invite each toddler to give a hug to another friend by calling out their name.
- Great job being kind to each other so we could all keep playing!
- David showed kindness to Mephibosheth. He brought him to eat at his table and be a part of his family. He thought about what Mephibosheth needed, not just about himself.
- We can show kindness like that, too. We can care about what others need, not just what we need. And when it's hard to be kind, we can ask for God's help! **Showing kindness is in God's game plan.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for being so kind to us. You teach us to be kind, too. Help us to show kindness to others. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Pass The Torch

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare ice cream cones and popcorn, cheese puffs, or other fun snacks to put inside. In true Olympic fashion, have kids line up and have them pass the "torch" down to each other until everyone has one. Make sure kids have washed their hands prior to this, and wrap a napkin around each cone when you pass it down.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Popcorn can pose a choking hazard for toddlers. Provide cereal as an alternative.
- Every few years, people from all over the world get together to play games together. It's called the Olympics. When the Olympics is about to begin, people pass around a special torch. This helps everyone remember that even though we live in different parts of the world, we are all people. It helps people be kind before the games begin.
- Let's pass down—and eat!—our own torches to help us remember our Big Idea: **Showing kindness is in God's game plan.**
- **What's the most kind thing somebody has done for you?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have one cheerleader pom-pom for the group. The one who has the pom-pom is the one who gets to speak. Start with the pom-pom yourself, then ask the first question and pass the pom-pom to the person who wants to answer. Keep the pom-pom moving around with all who wish to share.
- **Who was the king before David? Was he kind to David?** Saul. No!
- **Who was Saul's son and David's best friend?** Jonathan.
- **Why did David set the table?** To show kindness to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth.
- **What is one way you can show kindness?**
- **Showing kindness is whose game plan?** God.

ACTIVITY | Kindness Medal

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut out the medal [printables](#). Have the kids color their medals and decorate them with heart stickers. Use yarn or ribbon to make necklaces so that the kids wear their kindness medals! If there's time, have them make another one to give to a friend or family member who has been kind to them.

- When we play sports, winners usually get big prizes. But sometimes, we all get a small prize for being a part of the team and trying our best. It's a kind thing to do and makes us feel loved.
- Wear this medal around your neck to remember **showing kindness is in God's game plan.**

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 33:11 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **"But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."**

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute this coloring page along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Sports Box

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide a box filled with soft balls, jerseys, helmets, pom-poms, and other sports toys for kids to play and experiment with! Feel free to use the same box every week or rotate out the items for variety.

ACTIVITY | Let's Share A Meal

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide the kids with playdough to make pretend food and dining supplies to have pretend meals together. It's kind to share meals together!