Preschool–Grade 5

David and Mephibosheth Craft

A place at the king's table · 2 Samuel 9:1–13 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



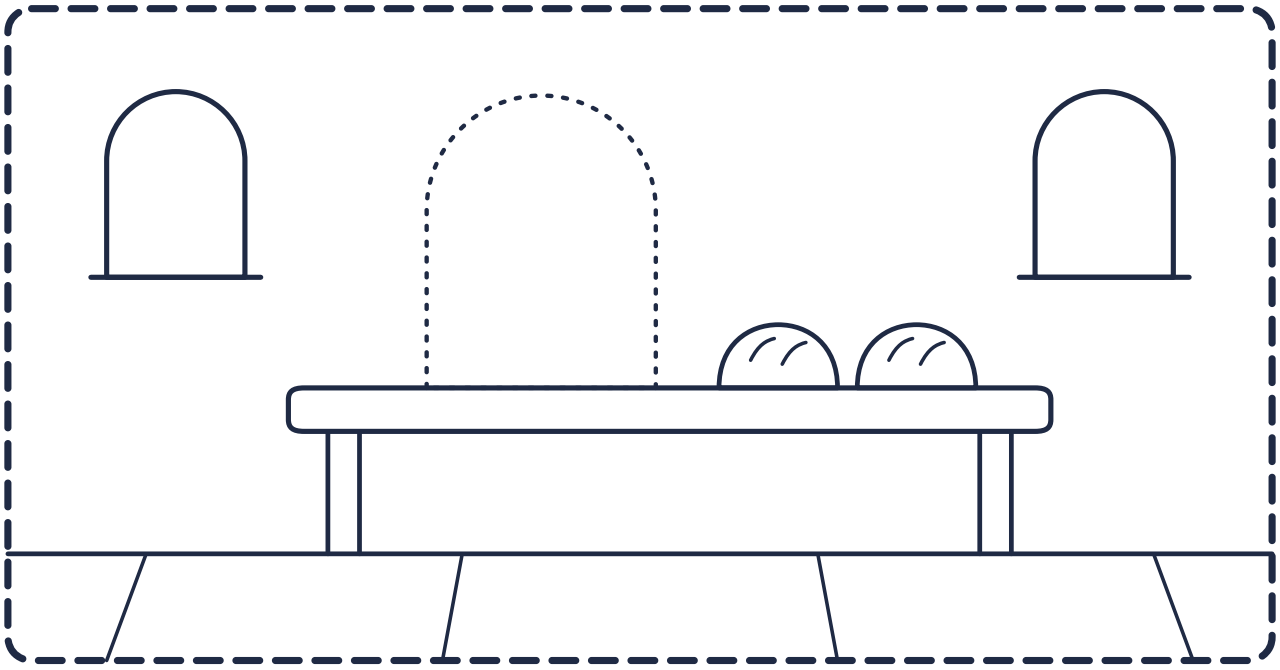
Harder

Both levels are a card with a light yellow wall, two light blue windows, a gray floor and a long brown table with two light brown loaves of bread. Mephibosheth sits at the king's table in a purple window frame, with bread on a yellow plate in front of him, because he did eat bread at the king's table continually (2 Samuel 9:7, 9:13). Medium (left): the card with Mephibosheth and his bread. Harder (right): the same, plus a fold-out field on the right side, the land of Saul that David restored to him (9:7).

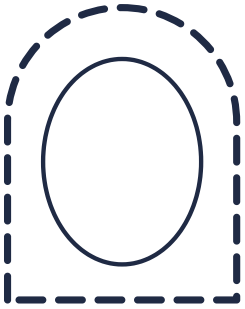
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: wall light yellow, windows light blue, table brown, loaves light brown, floor gray.



Mephibosheth: draw him; frame purple



bread light brown, plate yellow

And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

2 Samuel 9:7 (KJV)

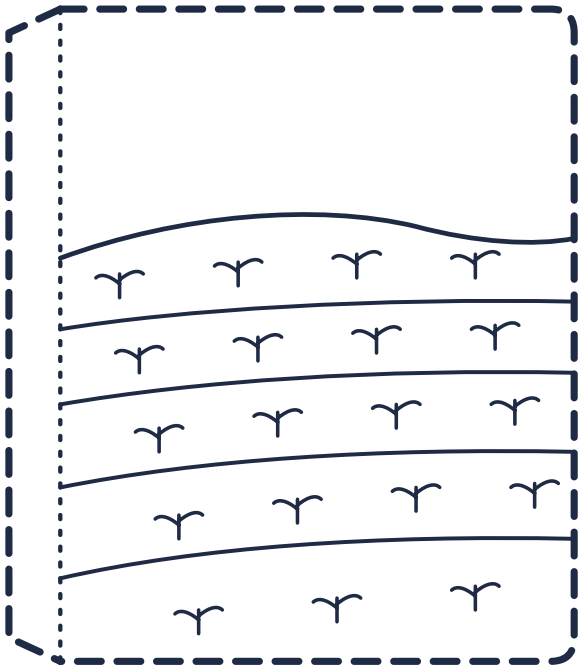
verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

Color each piece the way its label says. Draw Mephibosheth in his window. Cut out the card, the Mephibosheth piece, the plate piece and the verse strip. You also need a glue stick.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level



the land of Saul: sky light blue, field brown, little plants green.
Fold the glue tab back on the dotted line.

How to make the harder level

1. Make the card, the Mephibosheth piece, the plate piece and the verse strip from page 2 first.
2. Color the field: the sky light blue, the field brown and the little plants green.
3. Cut out the field with its glue tab. Fold the tab back on the dotted line.
4. Turn the card over. Glue the tab on the back of the card along its right edge, so the field sticks out to the right. Then glue the verse strip on the back too.
5. Fold the field closed over the card. Tell it: David said, "I will surely shew thee kindness... and will restore thee all the land of Saul" (2 Samuel 9:7). Open the field! David told Ziba, his sons and his servants to till the land for Mephibosheth and bring in the fruits (9:9–10).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/mephibosheth-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in light yellow, light blue, brown, light brown, gray, purple and yellow, crayons for drawing Mephibosheth, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a green crayon.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the Mephibosheth piece, the plate piece and the verse strip ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces. Kids color the card and the bread, draw Mephibosheth, and glue him behind the table with the plate in front of him (help with the glue). Help them glue the verse strip on the back.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut and glue. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card like the medium level, then add the fold-out field from page 3, the land of Saul that David restored to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:7, 9:10). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the wall light yellow, the two windows light blue, the table brown, the two loaves light brown and the floor gray. Leave the dotted arch white.
2. **Draw:** in the window of the Mephibosheth piece, draw Mephibosheth from his waist up, sitting and eating bread at the king's table (2 Samuel 9:13). Color the frame purple.
3. **Bread:** color the bread on the plate piece light brown and the plate yellow.
4. **Cut:** cut out the card, the Mephibosheth piece, the plate piece and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
5. **Glue:** glue the Mephibosheth piece on the dotted arch behind the table, so its bottom edge sits on the tabletop. Glue the plate piece on the table in front of him, so the plate sits on the tabletop.
6. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card, and read it together.
7. **Tell it:** King David asked, "Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him?" (2 Samuel 9:3). He fetched Jonathan's son Mephibosheth and said, "Fear not" (9:7). Point to the plate: Mephibosheth did eat bread at the king's table, as one of the king's sons (9:11, 9:13).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Who did King David want to show kindness to? *(Anyone left of the house of Saul, for Jonathan's sake, 2 Samuel 9:1)*
- Who told David about Jonathan's son? *(Ziba, a servant of the house of Saul, 9:2–3)*
- Where was Mephibosheth living? *(In the house of Machir, in Lo-debar, 9:4)*
- What did Mephibosheth do when he came to David? *(He fell on his face and did reverence, bowing low, 9:6)*
- What were the first words David said to him after his name? *("Fear not," 9:7)*
- Point to the plate. Where would Mephibosheth eat bread? *(At the king's table, continually, 9:7)*
- Point to Mephibosheth. How did the king say he would eat at his table? *(As one of the king's sons, 9:11)*
- Whose kindness did David want to show? *(The kindness of God, 9:3)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: the house of Saul** means Saul's family; **shew** means show; **for Jonathan's sake** means because of Jonathan; **lame on his feet** means his feet could not walk; **fetched** means sent for and brought; **did reverence** means bowed down to honor the king; **Fear not** means don't be afraid; **restore** means give back; **continually** means always, every day; **till the land** means plow and plant the fields.
- **What the Bible says:** King David fetched Mephibosheth from Lo-debar, gave him all the land of Saul, and said he would eat bread at the king's table continually, as one of the king's sons (2 Samuel 9:5–11). The Bible names bread, but no other foods, and doesn't describe the room. The wall, the windows, the plate, the field's plants and the colors are the craft's simple picture of the story.
- **No one is drawn on the template:** each child draws Mephibosheth in his window as a grown man with short hair (he had a young son named Micha, 9:12).
- **Speak kindly about Mephibosheth:** "lame" is the Bible's word for someone whose feet could not walk. If a child in your class, or someone in their family, can't walk, keep the focus on the kindness of God that David showed. Never let the word be used to tease anyone. How he became lame is told in another chapter (2 Samuel 4:4) and is left out here.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child point to Mephibosheth and say King David's words, "Fear not!" (2 Samuel 9:7)
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Mephibosheth lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/mephibosheth.

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