Preschool–Grade 6

David and Mephibosheth

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God is kind to me, and I can be kind too.
Bible passage: 2 Samuel 9. Read 2 Samuel 9:1–13 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness" *2 Samuel 9:7 (KJV)*. The old word **shew** means show.
You need: a Bible, a small table (or a blanket on the floor), small plain crackers (check for food allergies first), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 2 Samuel 9. Set the table or spread the blanket.

1. Opening game: Come to the Table (5 minutes)

Kids sit on the floor across the room. Call each child by name: "Sam, come to the table!" The child comes and sits at the table. When everyone is seated, say: "Everyone has a place! Today we will hear a true story about a king who gave a man a place at his table."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Samuel 9. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

David was the king (2 Samuel 9:2). *(Put your hands on your head like a crown.)*
His friend Jonathan had died (2 Samuel 1:4). *(Make a sad face.)*
David wanted to be kind to Jonathan's family (9:1). *(Hug yourself.)*
Jonathan had a son. His feet could not walk (9:3). *(Pat your feet.)*
His name was Mephibosheth (9:6). *(Say it slowly: Me-FIB-o-sheth.)*
The king sent for him (9:5). *(Wave "come here.")*
Mephibosheth bowed down low (9:6). *(Bow your head.)*
David said, "Fear not" (9:7). **Say it with me: "Fear not!"**
David gave him land (9:7). *(Spread your arms wide.)*
David said, "Eat bread at my table" (9:7). *(Pretend to eat.)*
He ate at the king's table every day (9:13). **Say it with me: "God is kind to me!"**

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who was the king? *(David, 2 Samuel 9:2)*
2. What did David say to Mephibosheth? *("Fear not," 9:7)*
3. Where did Mephibosheth eat? *(At the king's table, 9:13)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "King David said, 'Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness.' Fear not means don't be afraid. Shew means show." Teach the motion: shake your head "no" on "Fear not," then hug yourself on "kindness." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "2 Samuel 9:7" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: At the King's Table (5–10 minutes)

Kids sit at the table. Give each child a cracker (check for allergies first). Say: "Mephibosheth ate bread at the king's table every day!" Then give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a table with bread on it. While they color, ask: "Who was kind? Who can you be kind to?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for being kind to me.
Help me be kind to others. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving. Let every child bow low like Mephibosheth and say "Fear not!" like King David. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks why his feet could not walk: say gently, "He was hurt when he was little. King David was kind to him, and God loves everyone."

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