Preschool–Grade 6

David and Mephibosheth

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God is kind to us, and He wants us to show His kindness to others, like King David showed kindness to Mephibosheth.
Bible passage: 2 Samuel 9:1–13. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "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)*
You need: a Bible, 6 index cards, a marker, a paper plate for each child, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 cards (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at 2 Samuel 9.

1. Opening game: Who's Missing? (5 minutes)

Kids sit in a circle. One child closes their eyes. Tap another child, who quietly leaves the circle and hides behind a chair or a door. The first child opens their eyes and guesses who is missing. Take turns. Then say: "Today King David looked for someone. He asked, 'Is there anyone left that I can be kind to?'"

2. Bible story: A Place at the King's Table (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Samuel 9, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

David was the king. His dear friend had been **Jonathan**, the son of King Saul, who was king before David. Saul and Jonathan had died (2 Samuel 1:4). One day King David asked, "Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" (2 Samuel 9:1). The house of Saul means Saul's family. For Jonathan's sake means because of his friend Jonathan.

There was a servant of Saul's family named **Ziba**. King David called him and asked, "Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him?" **Shew** means show (9:3). Ziba said, "Jonathan hath yet a son, which is **lame on his feet**" (9:3). That means his feet could not walk. "Where is he?" asked the king. Ziba said he was in a town called **Lo-debar**, in the house of a man named Machir (9:4).

King David sent for him and had him brought to the king (9:5). His name was **Mephibosheth**. *(Say it slowly together: Me-FIB-o-sheth.)* When Mephibosheth came to the king, he fell on his face and bowed down (9:6). David said, "Mephibosheth." He answered, "Behold thy servant!" (9:6). That means, "Here I am, your servant."

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The story continues: **Read 2 Samuel 9:7 from your Bible.** Say: "**Fear not** means don't be afraid. David gave Mephibosheth back all the land of Saul, his grandfather. And David said Mephibosheth would eat bread at the king's table **continually**. That means always, every day!"

Mephibosheth bowed and said, "What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?" (9:8). He meant, "I'm not worth anything to you." But the king did what he said.

The king told Ziba that he, his 15 sons and his 20 servants would work the land for Mephibosheth, so he would have food (9:9–10). And the king said Mephibosheth would eat at his table "as one of the king's sons" (9:11). So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem and ate at the king's table every day (9:13). David showed him the kindness of God!

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who was Mephibosheth's father? *(Jonathan, David's friend, 2 Samuel 9:3, 9:6)*
2. Who told King David about Mephibosheth? *(Ziba, 9:2–3)*
3. What did David say first, so Mephibosheth would not be afraid? *("Fear not," 9:7)*
4. Where would Mephibosheth eat bread every day? *(At the king's table, 9:7)*
5. Whose kindness did David want to show? *(The kindness of God, 9:3)*

4. Memory verse: Set the Table (5 minutes)

Write one part on each card: *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.* Explain the old words: **thee** and **thy** mean you and your, **surely** means for sure, **shew** means show, **restore** means give back, and **continually** means always. Lay the cards on a table in order, like places at a table. Read the verse together. Then take one card away and read it again. Keep taking cards away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse. Put the cards back, one at a time, and say, "Come to the table!"

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "King David was kind to Mephibosheth, even though Mephibosheth could not do anything to earn it. God is kind to us in the same way. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: look for someone who is left out, and be kind to them. Ask them to play with you, or to sit with you.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Mephibosheth word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/mephibosheth-word-search), crossword (vbshq.com/puzzles/mephibosheth-crossword), maze (vbshq.com/puzzles/mephibosheth-maze) or worksheet (vbshq.com/worksheets/mephibosheth-worksheet), the coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/mephibosheth), or **Kindness Plates:** give each child a paper plate. In the middle, they draw a loaf of bread for Mephibosheth's place at the king's table. Around the edge, they draw someone they can be kind to this week. Ask: *What kind thing will you do for them?*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for being so kind to us, even when we did nothing to earn it. Help us show Your kindness to others, especially people who are left out. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why Mephibosheth was lame: answer simply and gently. Another chapter of the Bible tells that he was hurt when he was a little boy (2 Samuel 4:4). "Lame" is the Bible's word for someone whose feet could not walk. Keep the focus on David's kindness, and never let the word be used to tease anyone.

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