

David and Mephibosheth

Outline

I. INTRODUCTION

Messenger brings terrible news for Mephibosheth—his father, Prince Jonathan, and grandfather, King Saul, are dead!

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

- A. Mephibosheth's caregiver fearfully tried to carry him away to hide but dropped him, injuring both of his feet. (4:4)
- B. David was crowned as the new king of Israel. (5:1-5)
- C. King David recalled his promise to Jonathan to show kindness to his family. (9:1)
- D. David inquired as to whether there was anyone left of Jonathan's family. (9:1-3)
- E. A servant of Saul's named Ziba told David about Mephibosheth. (9:3-4)
- F. David sent for Mephibosheth to be brought to the palace. (9:5)
- G. Mephibosheth came before David, fearing for his life. (9:6)
- H. David told Mephibosheth not to be afraid and that he would show kindness for Jonathan's sake. (9:7)
- I. David told Mephibosheth he would return to him all of the land that belonged to Saul. (9:7)



III. CLIMAX

Because of David's kindness, Mephibosheth would now enjoy the privileges of being part of the king's family for the rest of his life! (9:7)

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. David ordered Ziba, his sons and servants to care for Mephibosheth's land. (9:9-11)
- B. Mephibosheth and his family lived with the king as part of his family. (9:11-13)

Invitation (unsaved child): Receive Christ and become His child. [John 1:12]



Scripture verses in parentheses are background text. Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.

Lesson Overview	
Scripture	2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13
Memory Verse	John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."
Teaching Objective	The unsaved child will receive the Savior, becoming a part of God's family in response to His lovingkindness.
Main Teaching	God shows His lovingkindness by making a way for you to become His child.
Teaching Statement	Show God's kindness to all!
Emphasis for Saved	God wants you to show His lovingkindness to others.
Visual Aids	Flashcards 4-1—6, map

Schedule		60-min	75-min
Before Club	Complete attendance record as children arrive, listen to each child recite previous verse	—	—
Opening	Welcome "Good News to All the World" Review rules, "David's Crown" attendance incentive	4	4
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children	3	3
Memory Verse	(Review previous verse) John 1:12 Repetition: Popcorn	8	8
Song	"John 1:12" (use verse visual for this song)	2	2
Bible Lesson/Invitation	(Review previous lesson) David and Mephibosheth	20	20
Review	Review game and/or growth activity	4	10
Song	"Just Turn Around"	2	2
Missions	Song: "Children All Around the World" Story: <i>Mountain Pathways</i> , part 4 "Flight to the Field" missions chart, emphasis, prayer	10	10
Wonder Time	"God Wants to Spend Time with Just You" (visualized song) or "Get It Read" p. 52, quiet time teaching and <i>Wonder Devotional Book</i> review, awards	6	15
Closing	Announcements, prayer, verse/teaching tokens, <i>Wonderzone</i> bookmarks, <i>Truth Chasers Club</i> starter lessons	1	1

Extended Class Time: Use additional sidebar activities.

Teaching the Memory Verse

Preschool Memory Verse

Teach John 3:16 throughout the series. See p. 7 for teaching instructions.

The memory verses in this series are taken from the King James Version of the Bible. If you are using another version, you may need to adapt the explanations slightly.

Preschool Repetition

"Popcorn"

Have preschoolers follow your lead, "popping up" and saying the next part of the verse when you do, sitting down and being silent when you do. Repeat several times.

As a special treat, pop real popcorn later in the class hour for a snack.

Mephibosheth
(meh-FIB-oh-shehth)

Hold up five fingers as you tell the boy's age.

Memory Verse: John 1:12

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

Introduction:

(Write the words "An Invitation" on the outside of an envelope. Place a slip of paper inside it with the reference "John 1:12" written on it.) Everyone loves to get an invitation in the mail. *(Call on a volunteer to open the envelope and read the invitation.)* Let's find that verse in the Bible to see what we're invited to do.

Presentation:

(Read the verse from your Bible—or have an older child do so—then have the children read with you from the verse visual.)

Explanation:

"But as many"—This invitation is for everyone, including you!
"as received him"—Him refers to Jesus, God the Son, who paid the price for your sin when He died on the cross. To receive Jesus means to believe with all your heart that Jesus died for your sin and rose again.
"to them gave he power to become the sons of God"—When you receive the Lord Jesus, trusting Him to save you from sin, you become a child of God, a member of His family. Because God is all powerful He has power to do this.
"even to them that believe on his name"—Believe is another way of saying receive Him. If you believe on His name, you receive Him as your Savior from sin.

Application:

Unsaved: If you are not yet a child of God you need to receive Christ. Admit you have sinned, believe that only the Lord Jesus can take away your sin and choose to accept Him as your Savior.
Saved: If you have believed on the Lord Jesus, receiving Him as Savior, you are His child. As a member of God's family He wants you to be kind to everyone. In our story today we will find out some ways to show lovingkindness to others.

Repetition:

Popcorn
(Beginning with the reference, say part of the verse then stop and sit down. The children then "pop up" and continue with the verse until you pop up, causing them to stop and sit down. Repeat several times, always saying the reference at the beginning and end of the verse.)

Lesson

INTRODUCTION

"The king is dead! Prince Jonathan is dead! Run for your lives! When the new king and his family take over, we will all be killed!"

Mephibosheth was only five years old when his father, Prince Jonathan, and his grandfather, King Saul, were killed in the battle between their country of Israel and the Philistines. The people were upset and afraid. Would the enemy attack? Who would be their new king?

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Slide 4-1

When the woman who took care of Mephibosheth heard what had happened, she was struck with fear! She had lovingly cared for King Saul's family and was responsible for his grandson. Her heart pounding, she gathered a few things he might need. She must hurry if she hoped to save his life! The woman knew of friends of the king who lived across the river. The boy would be safe if they could make it there. Mephibosheth was only five. His little legs were too small for him to run very fast. Although he was really too heavy for her, the woman struggled to carry him so they could escape more quickly.

Suddenly the woman must have stumbled. She cried out as Mephibosheth slipped from her arms and tumbled onto the hard ground. His feet were badly injured in the fall. “Shh, don’t cry. It’ll be all right,” she must have tried to comfort the boy. She scooped him up and held him close, feeling his injured feet. If only she could stop and get help. But there was no time to stop. They had to keep going to escape the enemy. She began to run again.

Poor Mephibosheth! In one day he lost his family and his home. And now because of his injury, he would be disabled and have trouble walking for the rest of his life.

At last they arrived safely across the Jordan River where a kind family gave them a place to live. Only a few people knew Mephibosheth was alive and where he lived. It was very important to keep this a secret. Mephibosheth’s life could very well have been in danger since he belonged to the family of the former king. The new king might consider him an enemy.

Until you become God’s child by being born into His family, the Bible says you are an enemy of God (Rom. 5:10; Col. 1:21). You are born wanting to sin, which is why you displease God by your actions and thoughts. You break His laws, going your own way and pleasing yourself. When you get involved in sinful things like fighting with brothers and sisters, using swear words or taking drugs or other harmful things into your body, you are behaving like God’s enemy. Your sin separates you from God, and the punishment for sin is to be separated from Him forever. The Bible says, “There is none righteous [right before God], no, not one” (Rom. 3:10). God says everyone has sinned. As long as you are in this condition, you are an enemy of God.

Mephibosheth was a member of an enemy family and may therefore have been in danger of death. He stayed in hiding for many years away from the new king.

Mephibosheth grew to be a young man. Later he married, and he and his family stayed on the other side of the river, living with a friend many miles from the king’s palace in Jerusalem. Mephibosheth made sure never to go near the city where the king might find him!

Slide 4-2

In Jerusalem David had been crowned the new king. He thought often about the love and faithfulness of God toward him that had brought him to this place. He also thought about his dear friend Jonathan. How David missed him as he remembered the good times they’d had together. He also remembered the way Jonathan had helped him escape the fierce anger of Jonathan’s father, King Saul.

Slide 4-3

After many years had gone by, David remembered something else about his days with Jonathan. He and Jonathan had made a special promise before David went into hiding from the jealous king. They promised to show kindness to each other’s families as long as either of them lived.

Slide 4-4

When you receive the Lord Jesus Christ, becoming part of God’s family, He wants you to show His lovingkindness to others. Who are some people you can treat with kindness? (*Allow children to respond. Make additional suggestions—brothers, sisters, parents, school friends, new children in neighborhood.*) What kind things could you do for them? (*Allow children to share ideas. Add to their thoughts—offer to help with chores or homework; introduce new children to your friends or invite them to your house; tell them about Jesus.*) God’s Word says that we who are His children are to “do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith [other believers]” (Gal. 6:10). When you show God’s kindness to others, it will help them know God loves them, too. God wants you to show His lovingkindness to others.

Place finger over mouth—“Shh.”

It was customary in that day that when a new king was crowned, he would have the former king’s sons put to death. He did this so they could never be king in his place.



Mention sins your class will identify with. Encourage the children to also share examples to help them understand that they are sinners.



Teaching Card and Statement

Show card and have children shout “Show God’s kindness to all!” (See GNC resource pack.) This teaching statement—a shortened version of the teaching emphasis for the saved child—will be easy for kids to repeat. Tell the kids that anytime you call out “Word Up!” they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when kids are restless or anytime!

Ziba (ZIE-bah)

Lo Debar (Lo-DEE-bar)
Located about 50 miles north of Jerusalem and just east of the Jordan River.



As false teachings about God are prevalent in our society, children need to be given an accurate picture. God is the Creator (not the creation) and He is holy (perfect and completely without sin). Help children grasp how awesome it is to know that God loves them.

Preschool Song

Sing "I Have a Friend."

Preschool Song

Sing "Have You Any Fear?"



David and Jonathan promised to show kindness to each other's families as long as either of them lived. Now, many years later, David wanted to keep that promise.

He called in his servants and asked, "Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

Slide 4-5

A servant named Ziba, who had worked for King Saul, was found and brought to King David.

The king asked, "Is there anyone left of the family of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?"

"Yes," Ziba replied, "Jonathan has a son who is disabled."

"Where is this son of Jonathan?" David asked.

"You will find him in Lo Debar," Ziba answered.

"Go and bring him," David ordered. King David was eager to meet this son of Jonathan.

David had loved his friend Jonathan. Now God was going to use David to show God's love to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son. God had not forgotten about Mephibosheth! He loved him so very much.

God wants you to know of His love for you, too. He loves you very much. In the Bible, God says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jer. 31:3). That means His love for you lasts forever. You are special to God because He made you. He also made a wonderful world for you to enjoy. He made the birds, the clouds, the trees and the flowers! God is also holy. That means He is perfect—He has never sinned. Yet this holy God shows His lovingkindness to you and to me in many great ways. (*Discuss ways God shows His kindness to us each day—providing our food and shelter, families, friends, etc.*) God wants you to know He loves you.

God loved Mephibosheth and wanted him to know He had not forgotten about him. God was using David to show His love to Jonathan's son. Now King David was eager to meet this son of his dear friend Jonathan.

How surprised Mephibosheth must have been when a servant of King David came to the place where he was staying!

"King David wants you to come to the palace," the servant explained.

Perhaps Mephibosheth wondered, *How did he know where I live—and what does he want of me? Surely, I can be of no use to the king.* It may be that Mephibosheth was afraid to go because he might be killed. But he knew he must obey the king's orders. Soon he was ready to go with the servant.

When Mephibosheth reached the palace, he must have been very nervous. Perhaps his mouth felt dry and his hands sweaty. As he was escorted into the presence of the king, he limped slowly to the throne and bowed low with his face to the floor.

Slide 4-6

King David spoke kindly, "Mephibosheth."

"I am your servant," answered Mephibosheth humbly, not even daring to look up. But the king did not invite him to come to the palace to be his servant. The king had something else in mind.

King David must have noticed that Mephibosheth was afraid of him, for he said, "Don't be afraid! I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father, Jonathan."

David was showing Mephibosheth God's lovingkindness.

In a far greater way God shows His lovingkindness to you. Many years later God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, all the way from Heaven to Earth so you and I could have a home with Him someday in Heaven. That's why Jesus came. He is God the Son, the perfect one who never sinned. He was the only one who could die, taking the punishment for your sins and mine. Wicked men

beat Him, spit on Him and nailed Him to the cross. His life's blood flowed from His hands and feet. Why did He allow men to do this? So that you and I would not have to be punished for our sin and continue to be God's enemies. Because Jesus gave His blood on the cross, the Bible says that even though you are His enemy, you can be "reconciled to [brought into friendship with] God by the death of his Son" (Rom. 5:10) when you receive Jesus as your Savior. After Jesus died, He rose from the dead. He's alive today in Heaven! When you receive Him, you can know that your sins are forgiven and one day you will be with Him in Heaven. How great is God's kindness and love for you!

King David was showing God's lovingkindness to Mephibosheth, keeping his promise to his friend Jonathan.

Mephibosheth's eyes opened wide in surprise as King David continued.

"I will give you the land your father owned and from now on you will come and eat at my table," David said. He was giving Mephibosheth land and a home in the palace. David was keeping his promise.

CLIMAX

Slide 4-7

Because of David's kindness, Mephibosheth would now enjoy the privileges of being part of the king's family for the rest of his life!

CONCLUSION

King David called Ziba and said, "All the land that belonged to Saul and his family I have given to Saul's grandson. You shall work the land for him—you and your sons and servants. Bring in the fruit, vegetables and grain so that he may have all he needs. But Mephibosheth shall eat regularly at my table."

"I will do all that my master, the king, commands me," Ziba answered David. Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants to farm Mephibosheth's land.

Mephibosheth could hardly believe it! From now on his life would be different. He and his family would live at the palace. Because of David's lovingkindness, Mephibosheth would now be like David's own son. Mephibosheth had done nothing to deserve it, but how thankful he must have been for David's great kindness!

INVITATION

Today, although you have done nothing to deserve it, God wants to show His great lovingkindness to you by making you His child. He wants to make your life completely different! John 1:12 says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power [the right] to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." When you turn to God from your sin and trust completely in the fact that the Lord Jesus took the punishment for your sin on the cross, you can receive Him as your Savior. Your sin is forgiven and you become His child—a member of God's family. Your Heavenly Father will care for you and make sure you have everything you need. Someday He will take you into His heavenly home where you will live with Him forever. Have you become a member of God's family by receiving the Lord Jesus? Please bow your heads and close your eyes. If you would like to receive the Lord Jesus as your Savior and become God's child, please show me by raising your hand. (*Pause and acknowledge responses.*) Those of you who raised your hands may meet me (*designate time and location*) so I can show you from God's Word how you can become His child.

Preschool Song
Sing "Good News."



Invite children to receive the Lord Jesus using this method or one you have found effective. Refer to invitations presented in other lessons and "How to Lead a Child to Christ," inside front cover, for further instruction.

Preschool Invitation

Sing "Nothing But the Blood" and present the invitation using John 3:16 and "believe in" terminology. Ask those who would like to believe on Jesus to stay with you at the story rug.

Review Questions

Review Game

"Ping Pong In a Bowl"

Place three different size bowls or other containers one inside the other with one side of each touching the others. Place the bowls on a table about three feet from the children. Provide three ping-pong balls. Divide the class into two teams and ask questions, alternating between the teams. When a child answers a question correctly, he may try to bounce the balls once on the floor then into a bowl. Give his team points according to which bowl(s) the balls go into: large—200; medium—500; small—1,000. The team with the most points at the end wins.

(Adapted from *Teach Kids™* magazine © 2005 Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.)

1. Why did Mephibosheth's caregiver try to hide him from the new king? (*The custom was that a new king would put the former king's family to death so they couldn't take over his throne.*)
2. What happened to Mephibosheth as the woman ran with him? (*He became disabled when she dropped him.*)
3. What caused King David to look for Mephibosheth? (*He remembered his promise to Jonathan to show kindness to his family.*)
4. How did David find Mephibosheth? (*Saul's servant Ziba told the king about him.*)
5. How did Mephibosheth feel when he came before King David? (*He was very fearful and humble.*)
6. How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth? (*He gave him all the land that had belonged to Saul; he assigned Ziba, his sons and his servants to take care of the land for him; he made Mephibosheth part of his own family, allowing him to eat at the king's table.*)
7. How did God show His lovingkindness to you? (*He made you and cares for you; He sent His Son to take the punishment for your sin on the cross so you could be forgiven.*)
8. How can you become God's child? (*By receiving Jesus as your Savior from sin—John 1:12.*)
9. Why does God want His children to show His kindness to others? (*So others will know that God loves them.*)
10. What are some kind things you could do for others if you are God's child? (*Help with school work; be a friend; tell about Jesus.*)

Preschool Review Questions

Preschool Review Game

"Ping Pong in a Bowl"

Play the game but do not divide into teams, require preschoolers to bounce the ball first or keep score. Let preschoolers take turns tossing the ping pong balls into the bowls, cheering after every successful attempt.

1. What happened to Mephibosheth as his caregiver ran with him? (*She dropped him and hurt his feet.*)
2. Why was David kind to Mephibosheth? (*David and Jonathan had both promised to be kind to the other's family.*)
3. How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth? (*Gave him all the land that had belonged to Saul, assigned people to care for the land, made Mephibosheth part of his family and had him eat at his table.*)
4. How did God show kindness to you? (*He made you and cares for you; He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay for your sins.*)

Growth Activities

Discussion: God's Goodness

Read aloud these Scriptures about God's goodness to us: James 1:17, John 3:16, Romans 5:8. List God's good gifts to us. Because God is so good to us, how should we act toward each other? Discuss using verses such as Colossians 3:12-14; Matthew 7:12 and 1 Corinthians 13. List ways we can be kind to others.

Story Line

Write the main events of the story (see outline, p. 29) along the bottom of sheets of paper and distribute to the children. Have them draw pictures illustrating the events written on their papers. Collect the papers, shuffle them and hang them out of order on a rope with clothespins. Ask volunteers to help you arrange the papers in proper sequence.

I HAVE A FRIEND

David Bachelder
(Verses 3 and 4)

Unknown
Arr. Frank Gauldin

C7 F Cues for verses 2, 3, and 4 C7

1. Yo ten - go un a - mi - go que me
2. I have _____ a friend who real - ly
3. He died _____ up - on the cross to
4. I'll live _____ each day to serve my

1. F C C7 F

a - ma, Me a - ma, me a - ma.
loves me, He loves me, He loves _____ me.
save me, To save me, to save _____ me,
Sav - ior, My Sav - ior, my Sav - ior.

2. F C C7 F

a - ma. Su nom - bre es Je - sus.
loves me. And Je - sus is His name.
save me, Then rose up from the grave.
Sav - ior, For He's my Lord and King!

Pronunciation guide:

Yoh teng-go oon ah-mee-go
kay may ah-mah. Sue nome-
bray es Hay-soos.

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