



David and Mephibosheth

Lesson Aim: To know God wants us to be kind.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The King Who Knows Our Hearts

THE WORD

Bible Story: 2 Samuel 9:1-11

What He Has Done: God helped David include Mephibosheth.

THE WAY

"Trust in God." John 14:1

Unit 8: The King Who Knows Our Hearts			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	Samuel and Saul, 1 Samuel 10:1, 6-8, 20-24	God chose Saul to be king.	To know God will help us.
39	David and Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:4-9, 32-45, 47-50	God helped David defeat the giant.	To know we can trust God.
40	David and Jonathan, 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:17, 42	God gave David and Jonathan each other as friends.	To know God sends us friends.
41	David's Heart: David Praises God, 2 Samuel 6:5, 12-15	God saw David praise Him.	To know we can praise the Lord.
42	David and Mephibosheth, 2 Samuel 9:1-11	God helped David include Mephibosheth.	To know God wants us to be kind.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Deuteronomy 7:8-9. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for showing kindness to every generation. Fill us with Your Spirit that we might do the same. Inspire the children to keep their promises and show kindness to all. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Kindness! Talk with the children about showing kindness to others, especially those with special needs.



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of food
		Coloring Center: David and Mephibosheth	Coloring pages of David and Mephibosheth, food stickers, crayons or markers
		Play-Dough Center: A Family Visit	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Dramatic Play Center: King David's Table	Dishes, cups, napkins, play food, cloth to use as a tablecloth
		Game Center: Help One Another	Large container or basket, three beanbags
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Suggestions: "Jesus Loves Me" "Only a Boy Named David"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do You Love Me?" "Guide Me" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Sing Praises" "We Love"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 8, Lesson 42
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: 2 Samuel 9:1-11	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at 2 Samuel 9:7 Visual: Picture of the Bible story
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Kindness Placemats	Standard-size sturdy paper in white and two other colors, glue or glue sticks, crayons or markers
		Game: Just Say "Mephibosheth"	None
		Game: A Helping Hand	None
		Snack: Taste of Kindness	A favorite snack, optional: tablecloth, "Kindness Placemats" crafts
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 8, Lesson 42
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: 2 Samuel 9:1-11	None
	Up to 10	Game: "Trust in God!" Cheer	None
	Up to 10	Game: Trust Bubbles	Bubbles, bubble wand, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about showing kindness to others

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The King who knows our hearts

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of food. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of food help you remember King David invited someone special to eat at his table.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: DAVID AND MEPHIBOSHETH

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of David and Mephibosheth, food stickers, crayons or markers

DO

Children color their picture and add a food sticker as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

Our story today is about King David and the son of his friend, Jonathan. Jonathan's son's name was Mephibosheth. Can you say that with me? (Mef-hibbo-sheth.) King David invited Mephibosheth to share dinner with him. Let's color the food on the table and add a food sticker to remember the dinner they had.

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: A FAMILY VISIT

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while discussing what they could do for a friend. Encourage children to work together to make a meal with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

Jonathan and David were best friends. They promised to always be kind to each other and to each other's families. David invited Jonathan's son Mephibosheth to his home to eat with him. Who do you like to visit you at your home? (Children respond.) What do you like to eat for dinner? (Children respond.)

THE WELCOME *continued...*

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: KING DAVID'S TABLE

SUPPLIES

Dishes, cups, napkins, play food, cloth to use as a tablecloth

DO

Children prepare and share a pretend dinner like King David and Mephibosheth.

TALK ABOUT

King David lived in a palace. What do you think it would be like to live in a palace? (Children respond.) **King David invited the son of his friend, Jonathan, to eat with him at the palace. Let's pretend we are eating in the palace with King David. Can you set the table for dinner?**

GAME: HELP ONE ANOTHER

SUPPLIES

Large container or basket, three beanbags

DO

Children help each other while playing a game of tossing beanbags.

TALK ABOUT

God wants us to show kindness to others. Let's do that while we play with these beanbags. Give all three beanbags to one child. **Child's name can you show kindness to another child by sharing a beanbag with him/her?** As children take turns tossing the beanbags in the basket, ask questions such as:

- **Child's name doesn't have a beanbag. How can you show him/her kindness?** (Take turns. Give him/her a beanbag.)
- **Child's name got his/her beanbag in the basket. How can we show him/her kindness?** (Clap. Tell him/her "Good job!")
- **Child's name missed the basket. How can we show him/her kindness?** (Get the beanbag and give it back to him/her. Say kind words.)

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"Trust	Touch pointer finger of one hand to forehead. Move hands together and squeeze them closed in front of you.
in	Hold one hand in front of you, thumb almost touching the fingers. Slide the other hand inside.
God."	The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
John 14:1	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The King who knows our hearts

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.

Invite the children to join you in the Praise Time area. **It's time for Praise Time. Would you join me? Jesus loves when we come together as friends. Our story today will remind us to be kind to everyone. Let's ask Jesus to help us remember that.** Have children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us friends. Help us remember to be kind to our friends and to everyone. Amen.**



God invites everyone to come praise Him. Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath."

God wants us to show kindness to everyone. By giving our offering, we are showing God that our hearts want to give to His church. The money is used to show kindness to many different people all over the world. Play: "We Love" while collecting the offering.



Today, we will hear how King David showed kindness to a man named Mephibosheth. Let's say it together. Repeat slowly with children: Meff-hibbo-sheth. **Mephibosheth had trouble walking because his feet did not work like most people's feet. I wonder if Delbert and Lello have ever heard of Mephibosheth. Let's call them out for a visit.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 8, Lesson 42.



God invites everyone to trust in Him: big and small, rich and poor, sick and well, old and young! Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together with the motions. Practice a few times together. Be sure to praise the children for doing a good job.

"Trust	Touch pointer finger of one hand to forehead. Move hands together and squeeze them closed in front of you.
in	Hold one hand in front of you, thumb almost touching the fingers. Slide the other hand inside.
God."	The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
John 14:1	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Just as Mephibosheth's feet were different from most people's feet, God made each of us to be different in some way. We are special to God and He loves us very much. Sing: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled."



David showed kindness

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at 2 Samuel 9:7, picture of the Bible story

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Choose two children to stand next to you. Ask: **Do first child's name and second child's name look the same?** (Children respond.) **Do they have different clothes?** (Children respond.) **Is their hair different?** (Children respond.) **First child's name and second child's name have different Moms and Dads and they live in different places. Are first child's name and second child's name different?** (Yes.) **Does God love them both the same?** (Yes.) **Yes, God loves each of us just the way we are.** Children may be seated.

Today's story is about King David and Mephibosheth. Can you say Mephibosheth with me? (Mef-hibbo-sheth.) **Mephibosheth had two hurt feet, so he had a hard time walking. Did God still love him?** (Yes.) **King David knew God wanted him to show kindness to everyone. Let's find out how he showed kindness to Mephibosheth.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to 2 Samuel 9:7.



WATCH THE WORD: 2 SAMUEL 9:1-11

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **King David kept the promise**
- **He made to Jonathan:**
- **He would be kind to his family,**
- **And be forever friends.**

- **Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth**
- **Could not walk with his two hurt feet.**
- **King David welcomed him always**
- **At his palace table to eat.**

- **Mephibosheth couldn't walk like most people.**
- **God made us each different in some way.**
- **But we are all very special to God.**
- **For Him we can show kindness to every person, every day!**

David showed kindness to Mephibosheth. Who does Jesus want us to be kind to? (Everyone.)



We can show kindness

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: KINDNESS PLACEMATS

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of David and Mephibosheth.

Supplies: Standard-size sturdy paper in white and two other colors, glue or glue sticks, crayons or markers

Prepare: From sturdy white paper, cut 3 different fruit shapes. Print: "**Kindness**" on each fruit shape. From one color of sturdy paper, cut four 1-inch x 9-inch (or the width of the paper) wide strips. On a standard-size sheet of the other color of sturdy paper, print "**I can show kindness.**" **2 Samuel 9:1-11** in the middle. This sheet of paper serves as the placemat on which to glue the vertical paper strips and fruit shapes.

Optional: A placemat template is available in the lesson resources on ResourceWell.org. Children may color it and add fruit stickers or paper cut-outs of fruit. To waterproof placemat for use: cover with a clear plastic paper cover, clear contact paper, or large strips of clear packing tape; use a laminating machine to cover in plastic; or cut the placemat from a scrap of linoleum and the fruit from craft foam. Give children additional craft decorations to add to their placemats.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft was developed for ages 4-5. To adapt the craft for younger children, you may choose to simplify or pre-make portions of the craft. One possible adaptation is to pre-attach the paper strips to the placemat, allowing the children to attach the fruit to the placemat in class.

Directions:

1. Glue two paper strips vertically on each side of the placemat.
2. Glue two paper strips horizontally on the top and bottom of the placemat.
3. Color the fruit shapes.
4. Glue the fruit shapes onto the placemat.
5. Color and decorate the placemat as desired.
6. Use one of the optional waterproofing methods above.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who showed kindness to Mephibosheth?** (David.)
- **Where did David say Mephibosheth could eat?** (At his table.)
- **How do you think Mephibosheth felt when he got to eat with the king?** (Happy, special, excited, etc.)
- **We are making placemats you can put under your plate at the table.**
- **How can you use your placemat to show kindness?** (Invite someone to use it.)
- **Who will you invite to use your placemat?** After each child's answer, insert that name into the following statement: "**You will be showing kindness to _____!**"
- **Each time you eat a meal, show kindness by inviting someone to use your placemat. You will help that person feel special...just like Mephibosheth!**

Optional: Leave the placemats out for Snack Time.

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: JUST SAY "MEPHIBOSHETH"

Purpose: Children practice saying "Mephibosheth" and review how David showed kindness to him.

Supplies: None

Who thinks they can say the name "Mephibosheth?" Let's learn how to say it together!

Directions:

1. Divide children into three groups.
2. Each group sits together.
3. Assign one part of the name to each group. Let each group practice their part a few times.
 - a. Group 1: Meff
 - b. Group 2: hibbo
 - c. Group 3: sheth
4. Lead each group in saying their part in order by pointing to them.
5. Play again using the different ways described below:
 - a. Repeat three times, each time getting louder. Then, shout the name together.
 - b. Repeat three times, each time getting faster. Then, say the name together.
 - c. Repeat three times, each time getting quieter. Then, whisper the name together.

What was the name of Jonathan's son? (Mephibosheth!) Who had feet that couldn't walk? (Mephibosheth!) Who did King David show kindness to? (Mephibosheth!) Who did King David invite to his palace table every night? (Mephibosheth!)

GAME: A HELPING HAND

Purpose: Children play a circle game to remember God wants us to be kind to everyone.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle holding hands.
2. As you sing the rhyme below to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," lead children in walking in the circle formation.

**Help, help, a helping hand
Is what we ought to give.
Being kind to everyone
Is how we ought to live.**
3. Children stop. Each time you sing the rhyme, ask one of the questions below or make your own. Older children may be asked "Who can tell me one way you can be kind to others?"

Should we be kind to others by sharing our toys? (Yes!)
Should we be kind to others by giving them a hug? (Yes!)
Should we be kind to others by helping someone who is hurt? (Yes!)
Should we be kind to others who are different from us? (Yes!)
Does God want us to be kind to everyone? (Yes!)
4. Lead the children in saying "**We can be kind to everyone!**"
5. Repeat steps 2-4 several times.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: TASTE OF KINDNESS

Purpose: Children talk about and practice kindness as they enjoy a snack together.

Snack Suggestion: A favorite snack, optional: tablecloth, "Kindness Placemats" crafts

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **David showed kindness to Mephibosheth by inviting him to eat at the king's table.**
 - **Let's share our snack with each other just like King David shared with Mephibosheth.**
 - **How can we show kindness to others?** (Children respond.) As children offer suggestions, say **"You can show kindness like King David."**
 - **Who can you show kindness to?** (Children respond.) As children offer suggestions, say **"You can show kindness like King David."**
 - **We can show kindness by using kind words and doing kind things for each other.**
When you see children showing kindness to each other, say **"You have shown kindness like King David."**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Trust	Touch pointer finger of one hand to forehead. Move hands together and squeeze them closed in front of you.
in	Hold one hand in front of you, thumb almost touching the fingers. Slide the other hand inside.
God."	The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
John 14:1	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: 2 SAMUEL 9:1-11

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: Assign a partner to each child. With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **David kept the promise,** (Raise right hand as a promise.)
- **He had made to Jonathan:** (Put hand on heart.)
- **To be kind to each other's families,** (Reach arms out as giving a gift.)
- **And to be forever friends.** (Put hand on heart.)

- **He found Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth,** (Put hand above eyes in searching pose.)
- **Who was a man with two hurt feet.** (Point to both feet.)
- **David invited him to always come** (Beckon with hand as if inviting someone to join you.)
- **To King David's table to eat.** (Pretend to eat a fancy dinner.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Trust in God." John 14:1

GAME: "TRUST IN GOD" CHEER

Purpose: Children memorize and review the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Our Bible Memory Verse says to trust in God. We know He will do what is best for us. Let's tell each other our Bible Memory Verse!

Directions:

1. Divide children into two groups. Have the groups sit or stand facing each other.
2. The first group whispers "**Trust**" and the second group whispers "**in God.**"
3. Repeat step 2 three more times, getting louder each time.
4. Play again. This time the first group whispers "**Trust**" and the second group whispers "**in God.**"

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: TRUST BUBBLES

Purpose: Children memorize and review the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bubbles, bubble wand, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"

God is the King who knows our hearts. He always knows what you are feeling because He made you and He made your heart. Our Bible Memory Verse Song tells us God will help you when your heart is troubled or worried. Let's listen as we blow some bubbles.

Directions:

1. Play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled."
2. Blow bubbles while the children chase and pop them.
3. Play as long as you like or for as long as children are interested.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about showing kindness to others.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 8, Lesson 42: David and Mephibosheth

PONDER! David showed kindness to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:1-11). What did David invite Mephibosheth to do? You can show kindness, too! How can you show kindness to someone you know?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank You, God, for showing kindness to us. Help us to show kindness to each other. Amen."

PLAY! Make a snack to show kindness to your family or friends. Invite them to eat at the table with you. Tell them about how David invited Mephibosheth to eat with him at his table. Teach them how to say the name Mephibosheth: Meff + hibbo + sheth.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

- "Trust** Touch pointer finger of one hand to forehead. Move hands together and squeeze them closed in front of you.
- in** Hold one hand in front of you, thumb almost touching the fingers. Slide the other hand inside.
- God."** The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
- John 14:1** Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.