



# David and Mephibosheth

Lesson Aim: To learn the importance of showing kindness to everyone.

## 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

Whisper Verse: "I can show kindness."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. 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 helps us do what He chooses us to do.
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 to help us with our problems.
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 explore ways to praise the Lord.
42	David and Mephibosheth, 2 Samuel 9:1-11	God helped David include Mephibosheth.	To learn the importance of showing kindness to everyone.

## 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."

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**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Treasure Chest</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a plate or bowl of food
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "I can show kindness."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "It's Praise Time" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Sing Praises" "We Love" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "My God Is So Big" "Jesus Loves Me" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Cedarhurst Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 8, Lesson 42
		<b>Watch the Word: 2 Samuel 9:1-11</b>	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at 2 Samuel 9:7 Visual: Picture of a bowl of crackers or fruit slices
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Kindness Placemats	Standard-size sturdy paper in white and two other colors, glue or glue sticks, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> Just Say "Mephibosheth!"	None
		<b>Game:</b> King David's Table	Table, chairs
		<b>Snack:</b> Taste Of Kindness	A favorite snack, optional: tablecloth, "Kindness Placemats" crafts
	<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None	
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8, Lesson 41 Color This Story: "Mephibosheth Eats at David's Table"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> 2 Samuel 9:1-11	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Trust in God!	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> "Trust in God" Cheer	None
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about showing kindness to others

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



I can show kindness

## THE 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 a plate or bowl of food. **Let this sticker of a plate of food help you remember King David invited someone special to eat at his table. King David said, "I can show kindness." Today's Whisper Verse is "I can show kindness."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.\***

### **SIGN LANGUAGE: "I can show kindness."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:**

- "I (can)"** Point to self.
- "show"** The tip of the index finger of the right hand is placed in the center of the inward-facing palm of the left hand. Remaining in that position, move both hands forward.
- "kindness."** Create the letter "K" hand shape with each hand by placing the thumb between the webbing of the index and middle fingers. Have the letter "K" hand shapes tap one on top of the other, circle around each other rotating in toward the body one time and end by tapping one on top of the other again.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

**\*Today's Whisper Verse:** "I can show kindness," 2 Samuel 9:1. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The King who knows our hearts

## THE WORSHIP

**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 “It’s Praise Time!” as children move to that designated area.



**It’s Praise Time—that means it’s time to praise God as the King who knows our hearts. He invites everyone to come praise Him.** Sing: “Let Everything That Has Breath.” **God does not leave anyone out. He invites everyone to trust in Him: big and small, rich and poor, sick and well, old and young!** Sing: “Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled.”

**God wants us to show kindness to everyone. That reminds me of today’s Whisper Verse, “I can show kindness.” Let’s whisper it together.** Review Whisper Verse together: “I can show kindness.” Include sign language. **Each of you can show kindness. 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 both to come out for a visit.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 8, Lesson 42.



**Just as Mephibosheth’s feet were different from most people’s feet, God made each of us to be different in some way. Even though we are different, we are each very special to Jesus. He is our best friend and He loves us all the same!** Sing: “Jesus Loves Me.”



David showed kindness

## THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned King David praised God with music and dancing. Today, we will hear how David invited Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, to eat at his table. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to 2 Samuel 9:7.

### WATCH THE WORD: 2 SAMUEL 9:1-11

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a bowl of crackers or fruit slices. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- David kept the promise
- He made to Jonathan:
- To be kind to each other's families,
- And to be forever friends.
  
- He found Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth
- Who was a man with two hurt feet.
- David invited him to always come
- To King David's table to eat.



Pass the bowl, inviting each child to eat a piece of food. **Where did David say Mephibosheth could eat? (At his table.) Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read 2 Samuel 9:7 from the teacher's Bible. **David invited Mephibosheth to eat with his family.**

What should we show to others? (Kindness.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "I can show kindness."** Include sign language or hand motions.



Show kindness to everyone

## 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:** 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.

#### **Directions:**

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

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **Who showed kindness to Mephibosheth?** (David.) **That’s like our Whisper Verse! Let’s say it with our motions right now!** Say Whisper Verse together with the hand motions: “I can show kindness.”
- **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 is the name of Jonathan's son?** (Mephibosheth!) **Who had feet that couldn't walk?** (Mephibosheth!) **Who did King David search for?** (Mephibosheth!) **Who did King David send his servant to bring to his home?** (Mephibosheth!) **Who did King David show kindness to?** (Mephibosheth!) **Who did King David invite to his royal dinner table every night?** (Mephibosheth!)

## **GAME: KING DAVID'S TABLE**

**Purpose:** Children pretend to be David and Mephibosheth to practice showing kindness.

**Supplies:** Table, chairs

**Let's pretend to be David and Mephibosheth. As David, you can show kindness by inviting Mephibosheth to eat at the table with you. As Mephibosheth, pretend your feet are hurt. You will need David to help you walk to the table.**

### **Directions:**

1. Form two groups of equal number: the Davids and the Mephibosheths.
2. The Davids sit at table on one side of the room. Save an empty seat next to each David.
3. The Mephibosheths sit in a line on the floor on the opposite side of the room.
4. The teacher asks the first David, **"How can you show kindness to Mephibosheth?"**
5. The first David responds: **"Invite him to eat with me."**
6. David walks to the first Mephibosheth sitting on the floor and asks, **"Would you like to eat with me?"** Mephibosheth says, **"Yes, please!"**
7. David escorts the limping Mephibosheth to sit beside him or her at the table.
8. Continue playing until each David has helped a Mephibosheth and everyone is at the table.
9. If time allows, reverse roles and play again.
10. Optional: Have Snack Time.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: TASTE OF KINDNESS**

**Purpose:** Children 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.
  - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "I can show kindness."
  - **David showed kindness to Mephibosheth by inviting him to eat at the king's table.**
  - **I can show kindness to you, too! You are all invited to eat this snack with me!**
  - **We can show kindness at our table by the kind words we say to everyone.**
  - **What are some other ways we can show kindness to everyone?** (Children respond.)



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "Kindness Placemats" craft. Invite a different person in your family to use the placemat at each meal. Tell them how David showed kindness to Mephibosheth.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about ways you can show kindness to everyone.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "Mephibosheth Eats at David's Table." Discuss Bible story and play Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "Do Not Let Your Heart Be Troubled" as children color.





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**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God." John 14:1

### **GAME: TRUST IN GOD!**

**Purpose:** Children will realize they can trust in God.

**Supplies:** None

**The Bible says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God." To trust in God is to know He will do what is best. Can you help each other remember to trust in God?**

**Directions:**

1. Have children stand in a circle.
2. Choose one child to be the "Troubled Heart."
3. Child stands and says, "**I am troubled when I child's activity.**" (For example: try to ride a bike, tie my shoe, go to a new place, play a hard game, tell time, etc.)
4. Children say, "**Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God.**" **John 14:1**
5. Give a gentle group hug to the Troubled Heart.
6. Play until each child has a turn as the Troubled Heart.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: "TRUST IN GOD" CHEER**

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

**Supplies:** None

**Our Bible Memory Verse says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." That means "Don't worry!" Then it says, "Trust in God." To trust in God is to know He will do what is best. Let's tell each other our Bible Memory Verse!**

### **Directions:**

1. Say Bible Memory Verse pausing after each word for children to repeat it. Practice verse twice.
2. Divide children into two groups (give each group a name, for example the Bears and the Lions). Each group stands on opposite sides of the play area.
3. From across the play area, the Bears whisper, "**Do not let your hearts be troubled!**" to the Lions.
4. The Lions answer by whispering, "**Trust in God!**" to the Bears.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 three more times, getting louder each time, until the children are using their strongest voices.
6. Play again. This time the Bears whisper, "**Trust in God!**" and the Lions whisper, "**Do not let your hearts be troubled!**"



## **STORY TIME**

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

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 8, Lesson 42: David and Mephibosheth

**PONDER!** Read 2 Samuel 9:1-11 with your family. Talk about how David showed kindness to Mephibosheth. What did David invite Mephibosheth to do? You can show kindness, too! Who can you show kindness to? How can you show kindness to them?

**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.

**Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse:** John 14:1

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God."