



David and Mephibosheth

Lesson Aim: To promise to show kindness.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Knows Our Hearts

THE WORD

Bible Story: 2 Samuel 9:2-3, 5-7

What He has done: God helped David keep his promise.

Key Verse: 2 Samuel 9:7

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Romans 12:10

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23

Unit 8: The King Who Knows Our Hearts			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	Samuel and Saul, 1 Samuel 9:15-16; 10:1, 6-7, 9, 20-24	God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel.	To know God has chosen us to do special jobs for Him.
39	David and Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:4-5, 32-40, 47-50	God gave David the victory over Goliath.	To trust God with the challenges we face.
40	David, Jonathan, and Saul, 1 Samuel 18:1-9; 19:1-5; 20:13-24, 30-34, 41-42	God gave David a brave friend that helped him through hard times.	To know God gives us true friends.
41	David's Heart: David Spares Saul, 1 Samuel 24:1-13	God helped David spare Saul's life.	To trust God for justice over our enemies.
42	David and Mephibosheth, 2 Samuel 9:2-3, 5-7	God helped David keep his promise.	To promise to show kindness.

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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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Guess Who David Invited!	None, optional: crown, table and two chairs
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Chosen People" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "Change My Heart, O God" "Open the Eyes of My Heart" " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Songs 4 Worship Kids Volume 1 Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 145:13	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 42 King City Chronicles script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: 2 Samuel 9:2-3, 5-7	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Romans 12:10	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Heart-shaped candy, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is My Shepherd," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Dinner with David	Tablecloth (or large cloth sheet), favorite snack
	Up to 5	Game: Thumbs Up!	None
	Up to 5	Game: Stand Up for What Is Right	None
	Up to 10	Craft: Promise Placemats	Standard-size sturdy paper, crayons or markers, glue, scissors, assorted craft supplies (paint, glitter, foam shapes, etc.)
	Up to 15	Bible Memory Verse Activity: My Heart Knows Psalm 23	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is My Shepherd," CD player
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Psalm 23 Balloon Toss	1 inflated non-helium balloon, Bible, optional: Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity Discussion: Psalm 23	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite thing to eat for dinner?

GAME: GUESS WHO DAVID INVITED!

Purpose: Introduce the story of David keeping his promise by inviting Mephibosheth to eat at his table.

Supplies: None, optional: crown, table and two chairs

Teacher Tip: The key to the game is for the children to know who is sitting around them and to listen for movement. If children do not know each other, review and practice names before playing.

Let's pretend King David will be inviting a guest to have dinner with him. If you receive a tap on your shoulder, you are David's guest.

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be King David.
2. The other children sit on the floor and cover their eyes with their hands. Children should not sit too close to each other.
3. King David chooses a guest by tapping one child on the shoulder.
4. King David and the invited guest sit at the table or in the front of the room.
5. The remaining children, with their eyes still covered, try to guess the name of the child King David invited.
6. The child who guesses correctly becomes King David and the game is played again.

In our lesson, we will discover that King David kept a promise by inviting a special guest to eat with him at his table.



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 music as children move to the designated area.



We worship the King who knows our hearts. He knows everything about each one of us because He made us. Look around the room and notice how different we are. God made each of us to be different and special. The Bible promises that God loves all He has made.

In Psalm 23, David is happy God promised that we can be with Him forever. David said, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forevermore." God promises that if we believe in Jesus, we will be with Him forevermore. God wants everyone to have the chance to believe in Him. Sing Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "The Lord Is My Shepherd."



Read Psalm 145:13.



God invites everyone to come and praise Him. He does not leave anyone out. Let's worship Him together for the way He includes everyone and keeps His promises. As the offering is collected, sing: "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on the promises of God.



Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 8, Lesson 42.



David and Mephibosheth

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

If a Bible Timeline is available, point out David (Circa 1020 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the Got Time? segment of this lesson. **Last time, we learned David spared King Saul's life in the cave. What did David do when King Saul was in the cave?** (He cut off a piece of King Saul's robe.) **David chose not to hurt King Saul when he had the chance because King Saul was chosen by God.**

Today, we will learn how David kept the promise he made to Jonathan. When Jonathan and his father King Saul died in battle, David became king. David searched for Jonathan's relatives so he could show kindness to them. He found Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. To learn how to say the name of Jonathan's son, let's divide into four groups. When I point to your group, say your part of his name.

Directions:

1. Divide the class into four groups and assign one part of the name as follows:
Group 1: **"Meff"** Group 2: **"fibb"** Group 3: **"o"** Group 4: **"sheth"**
2. Point slowly to each group in order: **"Meff—fibb—o—sheth."**
3. Repeat three times, each time getting faster and louder.
4. Then everyone shouts together: **"Mephibosheth!"**

Mephibosheth lived in Lo Debar. If a map is available, point out the distance between Jerusalem and Mahanaim, Israel—the nearest city to Lo Debar.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: 2 Samuel 9:2-3, 5-7.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read 2 Samuel 9:2-3, 5-7.



Promise to show kindness

THE WAY

What was the promise made between David and Jonathan? (To show kindness to each other's families.) **Keeping a promise takes work. Did David wait for Jonathan's family to ask him to keep his promise?** (No, he looked for a way to keep it.) **Who did David find from Jonathan's family?** (Mephibosheth.) **David showed kindness to Mephibosheth by giving him all the land belonging to Saul. He also invited him to always eat at the king's table. As David did, we should look for ways to show kindness to others.**

The Bible says Mephibosheth was "crippled in both feet." Those are words used to describe feet that are unable to stand, walk, or run. Some people use words like disabled or lame to describe Mephibosheth's feet. How do you think you might feel if you were not able to stand on your feet? If a physically disabled child is present, this is an excellent opportunity to honor this child, and acknowledge his or her challenges. The child and teacher can explain the most meaningful ways to show kindness to this child and his or her family.

Some of us have parts of our bodies that do not work well. Some people have trouble with walking or talking. Some have trouble with breathing, thinking, seeing, or getting their body to do certain things. There are special needs that come with each of these challenges.

What are ways we can show kindness to those with special needs and their families?

Brainstorm practical and creative ways to help and develop closer friendships with those with special needs. **Let's make a promise to show kindness to anyone with special needs. We'll call it our "Mephibosheth Promise." Raise your right hand and repeat each phrase after I say it. Say each phrase, pausing to give children time to repeat it.**

THE MEPHIBOSHETH PROMISE: I promise – to show kindness – to those with special needs – and to their families.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

More than 1000 years after David showed kindness to Mephibosheth, Paul challenges believers to put others first.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Romans 12:10. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Romans 12:10.

To honor others above yourself is to treat others as more important than yourself. What are some ways we can honor one another? (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a candy heart to remind you to keep your promise to show kindness to others as King David did.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 42 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of David and Mephibosheth eating together at King David's table.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The Lord Is My Shepherd," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: DINNER WITH DAVID

Purpose: Children remember that Mephibosheth ate at David's table.

Snack Suggestion: Tablecloth (or large cloth sheet), favorite snack

David kept his promise to his friend, Jonathan. He took care of his son, Mephibosheth. He invited Mephibosheth to always eat dinner at the king's table. Eating dinner with King David must have been exciting. I'd like to invite each one of you to share a snack with me. As we eat, tell me about a time when you have shown kindness to someone.

Directions:

1. Spread the cloth on the table or floor. Eat together at one table as David and Mephibosheth did.
2. Serve snack and drinks.
3. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"How have you shown kindness to someone?"**

GAME: THUMBS UP!

Purpose: Review the facts of the David and Mephibosheth story.

Supplies: None

Let's see how much you can remember about today's story. I'm going to read some statements about the story. Raise your thumbs up if you believe the statement is true, give me a thumbs down if you believe the statement is false. If the answer is false, be ready to correct it. Move quickly through these, keeping the pace lively and challenging!

Directions:

1. **David made a promise to Jonathan.** (Thumbs up.)
2. **David asked Ziba if anyone was left in Jonathan's family to whom he could show kindness.** (Thumbs up.)
3. **David invited Jonathan's son, Mervin, to eat at his table.** (Thumbs down.) Correction: **Who did David invite to eat at his table?** (Mephibosheth.)
4. **David kept his promise to Jonathan.** (Thumbs up.)
5. **God does not always keep His promises to you.** (Thumbs down.) Correction: **Which promises does God keep?** (God always keeps all His promises!)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT

Purpose: Practice choosing right actions that please God.

Supplies: None

David made the right choice when he searched for Mephibosheth. By keeping his promise to Jonathan, he did what was right in God's eyes. In this game, I will describe a choice. If you believe the choice is right in God's eyes, stand up for what is right. If you believe the choice is not right in God's eyes, remain seated. If we don't all have the same answer, then we will discuss which is right. We may even think of a better choice!

Choices:

1. Mom forgot I promised to clean my room. I'll choose to wait until she remembers.
2. I accidentally broke my friend's toy. I'll choose to tell my friend right away.
3. At my friend's house, I'll choose to watch a movie my parent(s) told me not to watch.
4. My chore is to walk the dog. I'll choose to tell my little brother to do it for me.
5. I am going to a friend's house to play. My little sister is lonely. I'll choose to invite her to go with me.

CRAFT: PROMISE PLACEMATS

Purpose: Children make placemats as a reminder to keep their promises.

Supplies: Standard-size sturdy paper, crayons or markers, glue, scissors, assorted craft supplies (paint, glitter, foam shapes, etc.)

Prepare: Display for children to copy: **"I will always keep my promises!"**

Optional: Placemats may be waterproofed for use using a variety of methods: 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.

How did David keep his promise to Jonathan? (He showed kindness to his son, Mephibosheth.)

God makes many promises to us in the Bible. Do you think God keeps His promises? (Children respond.) **God is good and all-knowing, so He never makes a promise that He cannot keep.**

We should only make promises that we can keep. What should we do when we make a promise? (Keep it.)

David kept his promise by inviting Mephibosheth to eat at his table. Mephibosheth must have felt very special! Let's make placemats to help us remember to keep our promises. Use it when you eat dinner and remember God wants us to keep our promises.

Directions:

1. Write **"I will always keep my promises!"** on a standard-size sheet of sturdy paper.
2. Decorate the placemat in a way that will help you remember to keep your promises.
3. Optional: Use one of the waterproofing methods above.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23

GAME: MY HEART KNOWS PSALM 23

Purpose: Children will learn the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse in four parts.

Supplies: Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is My Shepherd," CD player

Prepare: On the Bible Memory Verse poster, draw a large, colored heart at the beginning of each part according to the designations below.

Directions:

1. Play and sing the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is My Shepherd."
2. Divide the children into four teams. Assign a part/heart color to each team.
3. Teams practice reciting their part while acting out the motions.
4. Ask each team to sing and act out their part for the whole class as you play the song.
5. Repeat this activity during Lessons 38-41 with children learning a different part each time.
6. During Lesson 42, have the children sing and act out all four parts together.

Part 1—Green heart: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul." One child acts as a shepherd and leads others as sheep. The sheep pretend to lie on cool grass next to water.

Part 2—Blue heart: "He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me." One child acts as an evil villain. The other children pretend not to notice.

Part 3—Gold heart: "Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." Children hug and then sit down as if at a table together and pretend to eat dinner.

Part 4—Red heart: "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Children pat their hands over their hearts and pretend to walk through a door.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: PSALM 23 BALLOON TOSS

Purpose: To help children memorize the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Inflated non-helium balloon, Bible, optional: Bible Memory Verse poster

Option: To make the game easier, allow each team to tap the balloon two or three times as they recite their verse, and display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Divide children into six teams.
2. Assign one verse of Psalm 23 to each team.
3. Give teams time to memorize their verses.
4. Children stand in a circle.
5. The first team tosses a balloon high into the air. They must recite their verse before the balloon touches the floor. Team members may help one another remember their verse.
6. As soon as the team completes its verse, a member of the next team taps the balloon as high as possible. That team recites their verse before the balloon touches the floor.
7. Continue until all six verses have been recited.

DISCUSSION: PSALM 23

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster

Teacher Tip: For older children, divide the children into seven teams. Assign each team one of the sentences below. Ask teams to brainstorm the meaning of their sentence and share it with the class.

Our Bible Memory Verse is Psalm 23. There are 150 psalms in the Bible. Psalms are songs or poems that were used to worship God. Do you know who wrote many of the psalms? (David.) David was the second King of Israel. He loved to worship God. Let's put each part of Psalm 23 into our own words. Lead children in discussion of each phrase.

- **"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."** (God will take care of all of my needs, just like a shepherd takes care of his sheep.)
- **"He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul."** (God makes sure my body and soul get rest.)
- **"He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake."** (God shows me how to follow Him and do what is right in His eyes so more people will know who He is.)
- **"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."** (Even in hard times, I don't have to be afraid, because You are with me. I don't have to be afraid of evil, of death, or of my enemies. Your rules and the way You lead me will keep me calm when I am worried.)
- **"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."** (You have a good plan for me even when I'm surrounded by those who want to hurt me.)
- **"You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."** (You have chosen a special job for me to do. My heart is like a cup that is filled and overflowing with blessings from You.)
- **"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."** (God will always be good to me and love me. I will always be a part of His family.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Judges through Esther. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) God called to Samuel when he was a boy in the temple. God chose him to be a prophet and judge for the Israelites. What did the Philistines capture while Samuel was judge? (The ark of God) Why did they return it? (Their Dagon statue broke and their people became sick when the ark was in their town.) What did Samuel name the stone used to remember God's help? (Ebenezer stone.)

Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul. What does anoint mean? (To anoint someone means to put oil on a person to show that God has chosen him or her to do a special job for God.) What happened to Saul's heart when the Holy Spirit came upon Saul in power? (God changed his heart.) Later, Saul disobeyed God and the Spirit left him. After the Spirit left Saul, who did Saul try to kill? (David.)

David (Circa 1020 B.C.) David had been anointed by Samuel. David trusted God to save him from his enemies. What was the name of the giant Philistine David defeated? (Goliath.) Who was David's true friend? (Jonathan.) What promise did they make to each other? (To show kindness to each other's families, including their children and grandchildren.) Who warned David to run away from King Saul? (King Saul's son, Jonathan.) What did the mighty men want David to do when King Saul entered the cave alone? (Kill him.) What did David do? (He cut off a piece of King Saul's robe.) Who did David trust to judge King Saul for his evil acts? (God.) When David was king, who did he invite to always dine at the king's table? (Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Judges through Esther:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 card for Kings & Kingdoms Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Judges – Esther: Deborah (Circa 1350 B.C.) > Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) > Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) > Ruth > Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) > Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) > David (Circa 1020 B.C.) > Solomon (Circa 970 B.C.) > Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.) > Ezra (Circa 500 B.C.) > Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) > Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)

Teacher Tip: To view Bible Timeline and lessons from Genesis through Joshua, see Year One, God of Wonders Lessons 22-47.