



Bible Character Study



from Godly Pearls

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this Bible Character Study.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 5 and distribute them to your students.



Topic:

King David and Mephibosheth – kindness in action.



Read the Bible References:

The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goal of Lesson:

- To encourage students to be kind to one another.



Lesson Takeaway:

God is kind to us. We can also be kind to others.



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Date:



Topic:

King David and Mephibosheth – kindness in action.



Bible References:

2 Samuel 4: 4; 9: 1 – 13



Who were King David and Mephibosheth?

Do you remember the story of David and Goliath? Well, that little David is now a grown man and has become the king of Israel. After King Saul died, David became king.

King Saul had a son named Jonathan. Jonathan was a very close friend of David. In fact, the bible explains in 1 Samuel 18:1, that Jonathan loved David just as he loved himself.

Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth. So, Mephibosheth was the son of David's close friend, Jonathan.



What did King David do to Mephibosheth?

From our bible reference, in 2 Samuel 9:1 - 3, David asked if there was anybody that he could show kindness to from the family of Saul. He wanted to show kindness because of his friend, Jonathan, and because God has been kind to him. At this time, Jonathan and Saul were already dead.

Ziba, one of Saul's servants, told David about Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was alive but could not walk.



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What did King David do to Mephibosheth? - Continued

When he was five years old, Saul and Jonathan died in a battle. When Mephibosheth's nurse heard about it, she tried to run away to protect him. As she hurried to run away, Mephibosheth fell and hurt his feet badly, so that he could not walk again.

When David heard about Mephibosheth, he asked him and all his family to come over to the palace to live in Jerusalem. David told Mephibosheth, "Don't be afraid. You can be sure that I will be kind to you because of your father, Jonathan. I'll always provide what you need". And from then on, David provided all that Mephibosheth needed.



What can we learn from King David?

First, before David became the king, King Saul tried several times to kill David because he was jealous of him. Now, David could have been unkind to the family of Saul, or anyone associated with Saul. But David chose to be kind to Mephibosheth, even though his grandfather, Saul, was very unkind to him. We can learn from this story that whether people are kind or unkind to us, we can choose to be kind to them. Is this an easy choice? Not at all, but with the help of God, we can choose to be kind.

Second, Mephibosheth was lame and could not walk. Well, what will David gain by helping him? Will he fight in a battle or lead an army? David still showed kindness to Mephibosheth even though it did not look like he would gain anything in return. When we show kindness, we should not expect anything in return. God is the One who truly rewards people who are kind.



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What can we learn from King David? - Continued

Third, Mephibosheth was lame and looked different from people who had two legs and could walk. Why would David show kindness to a lame man? He could have said, “no, I am a king. I do not want lame people around me”. No, David did not say that. He welcomed him and cared for him. We learn not to be partial when we show kindness. Whether people look different from us or not; are poor or rich; are in a wheelchair or look fit, we are encouraged to show kindness to everyone.

Fourth, remember that Jonathan was already dead when David became king. In 1 Samuel 20: 11 – 16, before Jonathan died, David promised to protect and be kind to the family of Jonathan forever. David could have chosen not to remember or fulfil his promise as Jonathan was already dead. No, David remembered and kept his promise to Jonathan and his family by caring for his son, Mephibosheth.

As a Christian, when you make a promise, you should keep your promise. Therefore, don't be in a hurry to make promises; only make promises that you are able to keep.

What else can you learn from the story of David and Mephibosheth?



Memorize:

Ephesians 4:32 - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.



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Scenario review:

You are at the park riding your bicycle. As you ride along a path, you see a boy in a wheelchair, trying to fill his water bottle from a water fountain at the park. He seems to be struggling and can't reach the fountain.

What will you do? Why did you make that choice?



Remember:

God has always been kind to you. You can show kindness to others too



Let us pray: Dear God, thank You because You show me Your kindness every day by giving me life and all that I need. Please help me to be kind to the people I meet every day. I ask this in Jesus' name, amen!



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We will like to hear from you.

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