

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

David & Mephibosheth

THE BIG YEAR SEASON 2 WEEK 3

1

WHAT YOU NEED

- "I Can Show Kindness" sheet (1 per family member)
- Crayons/Kokis/Pencil Crayons

LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Take turns reading the following passages:

- 2 Samuel 9:1-5
- 2 Samuel 9:6-10

2

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Many years had passed since David had become King over all of Israel. He tried to be a very good king. He tried to be kind to everyone.

Mephibosheth was the son of David's old friend, Jonathan. Mephibosheth's father, Jonathan, and Mephibosheth's grandfather, King Saul, were both dead. They had died when Mephibosheth was just a little boy. When Mephibosheth was a little boy, he used to have a nurse to take care of him. On the terrible day when King Saul and Jonathan died, something very bad happened to Mephibosheth. A messenger came and told everyone that Mephibosheth's father and grandfather were dead. The little boy's nurse picked him up and carried him. Somehow, the nurse dropped little Mephibosheth. When he fell, Mephibosheth's legs were badly hurt. They were so badly hurt that, for the rest of his life, he could never walk.

Many years had passed, and Mephibosheth was a grown man with his own sons. David did not know about Mephibosheth. He thought all of Jonathan's sons were dead. Sometimes David remembered what it was like when he and his good friend, Jonathan, used to do fun things together. Jonathan had loved David and David had loved Jonathan.

David remembered the last time he had seen Jonathan. Jonathan had saved David's life. David remembered a promise he had made to Jonathan. If anything happened to Jonathan, David had promised that he would take care of Jonathan's family.

The more David thought about Jonathan, the more he wanted to keep his promise. David had an idea. He decided to ask Saul's old servant, Ziba, about Jonathan's family. David asked Ziba if there were any of Jonathan's children that were still alive. Ziba told him that there was one son, Mephibosheth who was still alive but that something very sad had happened to Mephibosheth when he was little which meant that he could not walk.

David demanded that Ziba bring Mephibosheth to him. Ziba went quickly and found Mephibosheth. At first, Mephibosheth was afraid to come to meet David. He was worried that David might try to hurt him. Sometimes new kings did that to the children and grandchildren of the old king. But that was not what David did. King David welcomed Mephibosheth. He told him about how Jonathan had been his good friend. King David also told Mephibosheth about the special promise that he had made to Jonathan. The king wanted to do something special for his friend's grandson.

Mephibosheth could hardly believe what he was hearing! He said to David that he was not worthy of this honour. But David said to Mephibosheth that he had promised his father that he would always take care of him. Other people had taken the land that belonged to Saul and Jonathan's family so David made sure that it was given back to Mephibosheth and his family. David also told Mephibosheth that he was always welcome to come eat with or visit him at the palace and that he would never have to worry about anything because David would always take care of him.

3

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3

Mephibosheth went away happily to tell his family the good news. He told everyone about the kind king. David kept his promise to Jonathan and Mephibosheth and took care of Mephibosheth and his family for the rest of his life.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

4

- Who was Jonathan's son?
- Why was Mephibosheth unable to walk?
- Why do you think Mephibosheth thought David wanted to see him? (*To harm him or kill him*)
- Because Jonathan was dead, David could have very easily chosen not to keep his promise. Why do you think David kept his promise?
- What did King David do for Mephibosheth?
- How does this story remind us of the gospel - of what Jesus did for us? (*Mephibosheth felt like he didn't deserve anything good from King David, yet David went above and beyond and showed incredible kindness to Mephibosheth. Like Mephibosheth, we don't deserve anything from God. We are sinners and don't deserve grace, yet Jesus took our punishment and showed incredible kindness to us by giving us His grace.*)

LET'S GO A BIT DEEPER

5

Mephibosheth did not know about the promise that David had made to Jonathan, his father, and there was no-one else alive who knew about this promise. Still, David remembered and kept his promise, even when no one would keep him accountable for it. David showed honour and was a man of his word.

- Do you make promises easily? Why should we be careful about making promises?
- Do you find it difficult to be a person of your word and to keep promises? Why or why not?
- Why is it important to tell the truth and keep your promises?
- Why is it sometimes hard to keep our promises?
- What are some ways we can make sure that we (1) don't make promises we can't keep or (2) keeping the promises we make?

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

6

Pray together:

- Thank God for today's reminded of His kindness and grace to us.
- Ask God to help you be careful and wise about making promises to others.
- Ask God to help you keep the promises you've made.

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

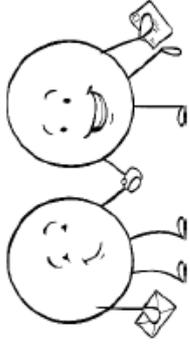
7

Hand out an "I Can Show Kindness!" sheet to each family member and ask them to write their name and the date on the sheet. Explain that you will be doing a "Kindness Challenge" as a family for the next week. On the sheet there are examples of acts of kindness. Family members should look for opportunities to do these kind deeds for those around them. When they do a deed, they should cross out the relevant block on their sheet. Each family member should try to complete their sheet over the next week. Stick up the sheets where everyone can see them and encourage each other to show kindness to others.

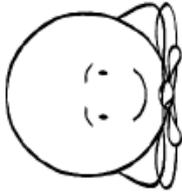
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I Can Show Kindness!



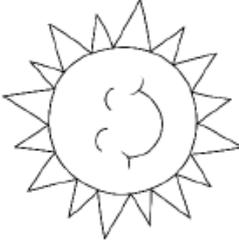
Let someone else go first



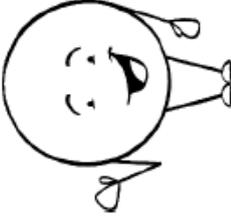
Give a kind compliment



Say "good morning!"



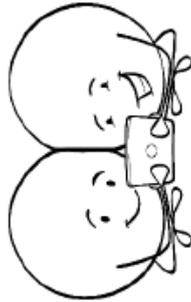
Say "hi" to someone



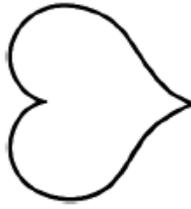
Tell someone "thank you"



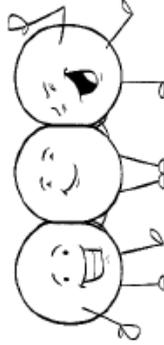
Share with someone else



Offer to help someone out



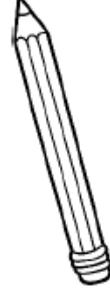
Invite someone to join you



Give someone a high-five



Write a compliment list about yourself



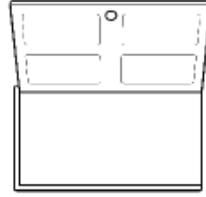
Ask someone how they are



Work with someone new



Hold the door open



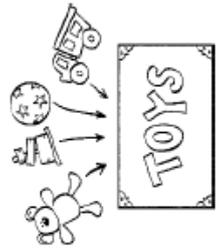
Do an extra chore



Forgive someone for a mistake



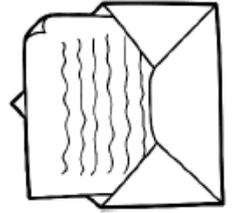
Help clean up



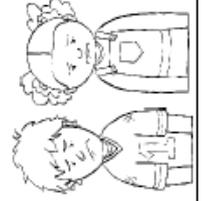
Spend time with a friend



Write a kind note



Help someone having a tough day



Just listen to a friend

