

# Lesson 8: David, Jonathan & Mephibosheth

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Study 2 Samuel 4:4 and 9:1-13 David shows kindness to Saul's family
- 2) Understand the need to be kind by doing activities today and throughout the week.

**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

## Supplies:

### Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Mephibosheth Visual Aid Story – one per 2 students to share (teacher will keep afterward)
- Mephibosheth Activity Sheet – one per student
- Lesson Review Visual Aids – one for teacher from lesson 4
- Being Kind Take Home Sheet – one per student

### **Loving Heart Bean Bag (Tracking Kindness)**

- Dry Red Beans – 20 per student
- Felt Cloth 6 x 6 inches approximately – 2 pieces per student (have light colors)
- Thin Red Ribbon or Yarn – 1 piece approximately 10 inches per student
- Thin Red Ribbon or Yarn – 1 piece approximately 2 inches per student
- Scissors – to share
- Stapler – to share
- White Glue – to share
- Pencil or dull scissors or needle – to share
- Red pom pom (small) – one per student – or if unavailable a marker to draw with
- Wiggly eyes – two per student – or if unavailable a marker to draw with
- Small plastic bag – one per student to place beans in.

### **Optional:**

- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids

### **Snack:**

- Grapes or small easy to share fruit (students will share these) enough for each student
- Napkins one per student
- Water/Cup one per student

## Lesson:

### **1) Introduction to Lesson**

**5 minutes**

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.  
Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

\*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students

Say to students:

**Can I get you to start looking for 1 Samuel now while we continue our introduction? 1 Samuel is the reign of King Saul, 2 Samuel is the reign of King David.**

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

**Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at each picture name what happened and what we learned from that lesson.**

**Lesson 1:** Israelites wanted a king and rejected God – we learned we should be content

**Lesson 2:** Saul is anointed – we learned that we need to watch how people try to influence us and to be a positive influence on others.

**Lesson 3:** Saul is rejected by God for being disobedient. – we studied that Saul disobeyed God's commands and was punished for his actions. We learned that we need to obey God to please Him.

**Lesson 4:** David is anointed and chosen by God. – we learned that it is not what you look like that matters but it is what your heart is like that does. David was a man after God's own heart.

**Lesson 5:** God, through David, conquers Goliath. David stood up for God and we learned so should we. We don't fight physically but we use the sword of the Spirit – the Word of God. We learned we can stand up for God when we trust in Him and study His Word so we can use it effectively to cut down the arguments of others.

**Lesson 6:** Saul seeks David's life. God rescues David from Saul numerous times and we learned that we can and should trust in God to take care of us even in troubled times.

**Lesson 7:** Saul died for his disobedience and David becomes king. We learned that God will punish the guilty and exalt the humble. We need to be humble and obedient like David.



## 2) King Saul Shows Kindness to Saul's Family

15-20 minutes

**Optional:** Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Have students turn to 1 Samuel 17:58. Explain that **today we will see David shows kindness. Remember that Saul was King and he had sons and daughters. David's best friend was Saul's son Jonathan who was killed in battle the same day King Saul died.**

\*Show visual aid pictures while you read from the Bible.

Read **1 Samuel 17:58, 18:1-4**

Read **2 Samuel 4:4**

**What happened to King Saul's son Jonathan?** He was killed in battle along with his father.

**When the nurse heard about this what happened?** She ran to escape but dropped his young son Mephibosheth and because of the fall he could no longer walk.



Read **2 Samuel 9:1-13**

**Why did David want to show kindness to Mephibosheth?** For the sake of Jonathan and his relationship with him.

**Is it always easy to be kind?** Let students answer

**Would it be even harder to be kind to a family whose dad had tried to track you down and kill you for something you didn't do?**

**What does this show about David?**

**Do you like it when others are kind to you?**

## Read Leviticus 19:18

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.”

**David's obligation required him to love even his enemies, a principle which is taught throughout the Scriptures, even in the New Testament when Jesus said we need to love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-37).**

**What does the Bible say about treating others?** We need to love others, and not seek any wrong doing towards them. Jesus says that includes even enemies.

**David showed kindness to Mephibosheth. He was willing to love and care for him because of his promise to Jonathan and David's motive to obey God, since God is love and first loved us and wants us to be perfect in our love towards others.**

**Are there people to whom you can show kindness to this week?** Let students answer

**Is there someone in your home or neighbourhood that could use a hand?**

**Could you do a chore that belongs to someone else at school or home?**

**Think of someone you can do something nice for each day of the week. Try to help as many different people as you can.**

If time and desired, read the words on the visual aid sheet that summarizes the story.

### 3) Loving Kindness Bean Bag Craft (Tracking Kindness)

15 minutes

Gather and prepare supplies for the Bean Bag Kindness Craft before class.

Tell students: **We are going to make a craft that will help us keep track of our kindness and remind us to be kind to others, just like David was.**



#### Instructions:

- Take two pieces of cloth and put together back to back, have students cut out a heart shape through both pieces at the same time with scissors.
- With stapler and/or white glue, have students staple/glue the two pieces together, leaving an opening between the two bumps of the top part of the heart just large enough to slip a bean through. (see picture).
- Cut the red string and using a pencil, needle, or end of scissors, push the string through the front and back of the hearts top opening (see picture and do yourself if choosing the needle).
- Tie the ribbon in a bow to close the opening. Glue wiggly eyes, small red piece of yarn (for smile) and red pom pom (nose) onto the front of the heart bag.
- Let dry for remainder of class.

Hand out beans to each student in a plastic bag and tell them:

**Whenever you do something kind for someone, untie the ribbon and put a bean in the beanbag heart. Then, tie it closed again. How long will it take you to fill your heart? What a nice way to remember to keep a loving heart – just like David!**

Turn to **1 Corinthians 16:14** and read

**The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 16:14**

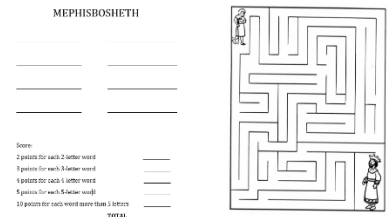
***“Let all that you do be done with love.”***

#### 4) Mephibosheth Maze and Word Create Activity

10 minutes

Hand out activity sheet, read the directions and let students choose which activity they would like to do.

Help as needed. You may have to give some suggestions for words for the first activity to get them started.



#### 5) Practice Being Kind Take-Home Sheet

10 minutes

During the week they will have the opportunity to put into practice what they learned about the importance of kindness. (Hand out the calendar to take home and record what happens during the week).

Read the sheet together as a class and let them take it home to fill in.

**Hopefully this chart will be a positive influence on you to remind you to be kind!**

**Practice Being Kind**

Each night this week, take time to list the different situations or people that you had an opportunity to show kindness to. Think of that, write down how you decided to react, and if your reaction was positive or negative. If not, say what you could do next time around.

**A Confidentiality Pledge:** "Let all that you do be done with love."

Day	Opportunity to Show Kindness	Your Reaction and If Positive or Negative
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		

Example: After middle school, people started to cheer for me. I felt good about it and I liked it. I was happy to be cheered for.

Example: I was angry with a friend and I didn't talk to him for a while. I was sad and I didn't know what to do. I was angry with him and I didn't know what to do.

#### 6) Optional: Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **Psalm 47:7** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: "For God is the King of all the earth" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point up when you say "GOD", pretend to put a crown on your head as you say "KING", make a circle shape with hands as you all say "EARTH", etc. and then go through verse as a class with gestures.

**Psalm 47:7 says:**

***For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.***

#### 7) Optional – Snack: Grapes to Share and Show Kindness

5 minutes

Have grapes in front of you. Ask the students, **"how can we show kindness with the food we have?"** Let them answer...share, give to others, give to those in need.

**What should we do with these grapes?** Let students answer – share with others, give to those in the church, give some to mom/dad, etc. Do what the children suggest if appropriate.

Explain that, **"Today we learned that David was kind to Mephibosheth, even though he didn't know him. David chose to be kind. Let's discuss all the ways we can be kind to others in our lives today including family, friends, strangers, people in need, people at school, etc.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands if needed. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking. What did they like best about today's Bible reading? What if anything confused or troubled them?

#### 8) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you from song list.

## **9) Close in prayer**

\*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

**Thank You Lord for all You provide us. God, help us to trust You as You rule over us. No earthly king can compare to the perfect King Jesus whom we have ruling over us. Help us to be content, to trust, to stand up to negative influences and instead be a positive influence to those around us. Help us to totally obey You and walk in Your ways. We pray we will have a heart like You God that is loving, kind, wise, helpful, obedient, and fair. Help us to carry on even in times of trouble knowing You will rescue and protect us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!