

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 86: DAVID IS KIND TO MEPHIBOSHETH
2 SAMUEL 9:1-13

And David said, Is there still anyone of Saul's family living, so that I may be a friend to him, because of Jonathan? (Remember, David made a promise to be kind to Jonathan and anyone in his family)

Now there was a man from Saul's people - a servant named Ziba - and they sent him to David; and the king said to him, Are you Ziba? And he said, I am. And the king said, Is there anyone of Saul's family still living, so that I may be a friend to him in God's name? And Ziba said, There is a son of Jonathan, who is lame because his feet are damaged. And the king said to him, Where is he? And Ziba said to the king, He is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar. Then King David sent for him, and had him taken from Lo-debar, from the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel. And Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, came to David, and bowed down by falling on his face, and gave him honour. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered and said, Your servant is here. And David said to him, Have no fear: for truly I will be good to you, because of your father Jonathan, and I will give back to you all the land that was Saul's; and you will have a place at my table always. And he went down on his face before the king, and said, What is your servant, for you to notice a dead dog like me? Then the king sent for Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, All the property of Saul and of his family I have given to your master's son. And you and your sons and your servants are to take care of the land for him, and get the fruit of it, so that your master's son can have food: but Mephibosheth, your master's son, will have a place at my table always. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. Then Ziba said to the king, Every order which you have given to your servant will be done. As for Mephibosheth, he had a place at David's table, just like one of the king's sons. And Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica. And all the people living in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth. So Mephibosheth went on living in Jerusalem; because he ate all his meals at the king's table; and he didn't have the use of his feet - he was not able to walk.

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Then the king sent for Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, All the property of Saul and of his family I have given to your master's son. **2 SAMUEL 9:9**

86. DAVID IS KIND TO MEPHIBOSHETH

2 SAMUEL 9:1-13

MEMORY VERSE:

"Let your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; for Your law is my delight."
PSALM 119:77

TRUE OR FALSE

1. David said, "Is there still anyone of Saul's family living, so that I may be a friend to him, because of Jonathan?" TRUE or FALSE
2. Ziba told David that there was no one left from Saul's family.
TRUE or FALSE
3. There was a man named Mephibosheth who was Jonathan's son, and he came to David and fell on his face before him. TRUE or FALSE
4. David told Ziba, Saul's servant, that he gave all of Saul's property and belongings to Mephibosheth. TRUE or FALSE
5. David told Ziba that his whole family and his sons and servants were going to work for Mephibosheth and harvest his fruit for him. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Did King David find anyone from Jonathan's family left alive?
2. Mephibosheth had something wrong with him. Do you remember what it was?
Was he lame in both feet, meaning he couldn't walk?
3. Did David let Mephibosheth eat at his table just like one of his own sons?
4. Did Mephibosheth have a young son named Mica? Yes, he did!
5. Did Ziba, Saul's servant, and all his family serve Mephibosheth like Kind David told him to?

Lesson 86

Optional - Have a Feast in the childrens' honor!

Use crackers, grapes, cheese, apple slices - have the children decorate a cup that would have been used at the feast in honor of Mephibosheth!

You can role play - having the children take turns being Mephibosheth and David - remember, Mephibosheth was crippled!

Encourage the children to be kind to those at home, at church, at school. Ask them to name some things they can do for others to be kind to them.

Some suggestions are:

Bringing a gift to someone.

Opening the door for someone.

Letting another go first before them in line.

Sharing or giving someone else the last cookie or treat instead of eating it yourself.

Telling someone that you love them, giving them a hug.

Ask the children for more answers! Challenge them to be kind to others during the upcoming week.

Lesson 86 Optional Activity

Physical Limitations

We learned in our story today about a boy named Mephibosheth who was lame in both of his feet. Some people suffer from different ailments which may limit the use of their hands. There are many children who have different kinds of physical limitations. This game will help us to understand what it may be like to not have the use of your hands. Let's find out what that may be like.

For every two children, you will need an elastic or cloth bandage, a glass of water, a newspaper, and a buttoned jacket or sweater. Form pairs. Have one partner from each pair wrap up the other's hands (both) in elastic bandages, so he or she cannot use any fingers. Have the child with the wrapped hands complete the following exercises:

Drink a cup of water.

Page through a newspaper or book.

Put on a buttoned jacket or sweater and button all of the buttons.

Switch roles so the other partner can experience the same thing. Ask the children what it was like to not have the use of their fingers. What do they think it would be like to not have the use of both of their feet? In today's story, we learned how David showed kindness to a boy Mephibosheth who could not use either of his feet.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be kind towards others, even if they are their enemies. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.