

David is Kind to Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13



Old Testament 6
Part 1: David

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 6 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13; Zechariah 7:9-10; Matthew 7:12; 1 Corinthians 13:4

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Be kind to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Be Kind to Others"](#)
- ["Being Kind to Others"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [King David and His Sons Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 6 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- David the King A Beka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; card 2.1: No one knows what the cherubim looked like, other than having wings; card 5.6: The text says that Absalom's head was caught. Whether it was by his hair or neck is unknown.)
- "Hateful Henrietta" illustration [see suggested script at end of this lesson]: Use a grouchy face or a picture of a grouchy little girl for Henrietta, or use a pattern from Sarah Richey's *Creative Bible Teaching: Volume 1* (p. 58). Put the figure or picture on the board. As you talk about ways Henrietta should behave, write them on the board. [Could also make a flipchart to illustrate the story.]



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must learn to look for ways to be kind to everyone: not just those I know and love, but also to those who may be “different.”

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION:

Review last week’s lesson.

David’s best friend was Jonathan, one of Saul’s sons. David made a promise to Jonathan to take care of his children. One of Jonathan’s son was crippled/disabled. What does that mean? Do you know anyone who is crippled/disabled? (Discuss the handicaps of people they may know.) How are we supposed to treat people who walk, talk, or look differently than we do? Let’s see what we can learn from David.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. During an intense battle with the Philistines, three of Saul’s sons were killed. When Saul heard that Jonathan, Malchishua, and Abinadab were dead, he decided that he would rather die than be killed by the Philistines. He killed himself by falling on his own sword (1 Samuel 31). One of Saul’s sons named Ishbosheth was not part of the battle and survived.



NOTE: According to 2 Samuel 21:8, Saul had at least two more sons by his concubine Rizpah and five grandsons by his oldest daughter Merab from her marriage to Adriel, which Michal (Saul’s younger daughter and wife of David) apparently raised.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the articles “[King Saul—Killed by a Philistine and an Amalekite?](#)” and “[Did All of Saul’s House Die Together?](#)” on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study of alleged Bible discrepancies regarding the death of Saul and his sons.

2. When news of the deaths of Saul and his sons reached the palace, the rest of the family became afraid that they would be killed, too. Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth who was only five years old at the time and was being taken care of by a “nurse” (comparable to a nanny). His nurse hurried to get the little boy to safety, but as she hurried, she dropped him. He was badly hurt and was never again able to walk normally (he became “lame”). She took the little boy to a place where she thought he would be safe (Lo Debar, east of the Jordan, to the house of Machir).
3. Meanwhile, Ishbosheth, the last surviving son of Saul, became king of Israel in his father’s place, instead of David, as God had decided. The country became divided between those that wanted David to be king and those that believed Ishbosheth should be king, because he was Saul’s son. Ishbosheth served as king for only two years, before he was murdered (2 Samuel 4).
4. The country that had been divided came together to ask David to be their king in Saul’s place. David had been acting as king over part of the country for 7 ½ years, with his headquarters in Hebron (2 Samuel 2:1,4,11). When he finally became king of all of Israel, he led his country to victory in many more battles against its enemies. He also gathered great wealth to be used in

the building of a beautiful Temple to God. After several years of working to be a good leader for his people, he remembered his promise to his good friend Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:14-17).

5. He asked his servants to find out if any of Saul's family (grandchildren or other descendants) were still living so that he could show them "the kindness of God." One of David's servants told David that a son of Jonathan was still alive. So David sent for Mephibosheth in Lo Debar. By this time, Mephibosheth was old enough to be married and had a son of his own. When he was asked to come to the king's palace in Jerusalem, he was probably afraid. When he came to David, he bowed low to the king, with his face on the floor, as a sign of respect (and acknowledgement that the king had the power to do whatever he wished with Mephibosheth). But David assured him that he meant no harm, telling Mephibosheth that he only wanted to keep the promise he made to Jonathan—that he only wanted to show him kindness. David promised to give to him all that was rightfully his as a descendant of King Saul.
6. Not only did David give back to Mephibosheth the land that had been King Saul's, but David also invited him to eat at his table regularly. It was a great honor to eat with the king even once; to be invited to eat at the king's table regularly meant that he was being accepted as one of the king's family and was under the king's protection.
7. King David was generous and kind to this young man. In Bible times, handicapped people were often doomed to become beggars, dependent on handouts from strangers. It does not appear that Mephibosheth had to beg for food or live in poverty like others who were crippled or disabled; he had lived in safety in the house of Machir, in Lo Debar. But to be accepted once again in his homeland and promised a lifetime of honor by the king was a great blessing.
8. Mephibosheth was "different" because he could not walk. Some people are "different" today because they cannot see or hear or speak. Some people are "different" because they look different or speak a different language. But just as David was kind to Mephibosheth, we can and must be kind to others—no matter who they are, where they're from, how they talk, or how they look. Kindness means doing nice things for others. It also means being polite (having good manners) and being compassionate. Jesus never laughed at anyone who was "different." He always treated others with respect and kindness, looking for ways to help them. If we want to be like Him, we must do the same. Read what God said to Samuel before he anointed David to be king (1 Samuel 16:7).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Mephibosheth is called "Meribbaal" in 1 Chronicles 8:34 and 9:40. Some scholars believe that Merib-baal was the actual name of this grandson of Saul (son of Jonathan) but that many years later scribes substituted "bosheth" (Hebrew for "shame"). The word "baal" was a title frequently given to various idols and is used in the Old Testament many times to refer to pagan gods in Canaan and other parts of the Middle East.

Others think that Merib-baal was Jonathan's son's original name, at a time when "baal" was not completely associated with idol worship; the name then may have meant "the Lord's man." Perhaps scribes changed his name or perhaps his name was changed because he was not considered a "whole" man and therefore not suitable to follow in his father's footsteps.



PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[David is Kind to Mephibosheth Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Sewing Cards](#)” (provided in activity sheets): Write the words “BEE kind to others like David was kind to Mephibosheth” on half-sheets of cardstock or 8-inch squares of posterboard (one for each child). Punch holes on all four sides of the cards, at one inch intervals. Cut lengths of yarn long enough to “sew” through the holes, all the way around the cards. Provide bee cutouts for the children to glue onto their cards. Give each child a card and length of yarn to “sew.” [Tablets of bee cutouts can be purchased at teachers’ supply stores; cutouts or line-drawings of bees can also be found online or in childrens’ coloring books.] ([Bee Cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Borrow crutches, a wheelchair, or blindfold children and let the children experience what it feels like to need help. Make sure to emphasize that we do not make fun of others because they are different.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Tic-Tac-Toe or Hang-man: Divide the class into two teams and play Tic-Tac-Toe or Hang-man with clues from lessons in this unit (See [O.T 6 Review Questions](#) for example questions; Tic-Tac-Toe [instructions](#) and [board](#) provided in activity sheets)
- “[I Was Caught Being Kind](#)” (provided in activity sheets): Divide a sheet of copy paper into several sections. In each section, write “I was caught being kind.” Make at least one copy per child in your class, and cut them apart. Before class, give the cards to several members of the congregation; ask the members to give the cards to children that they see being kind or helpful. Challenge the children to do kind things for others that day, before and after worship services. Variation: Make a small chart for each child titled “I Will Be Kind to Others.” Give stickers and the charts to the parents of your students. Ask the parents to reward their children with stickers during the week for acts of kindness.
- “[Memory Verse Cutout](#)” (provided in activity sheets): Divide the class into teams. Write each word from the memory verse on separate cards, and give each team a set. Mix the cards in each set up, and let the teams race to try to put the cards in the proper order.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Tic-Tac-Toe or Hang-man: Divide the class into two teams and play Tic-Tac-Toe or Hang-man with clues from lessons in this unit (See [O.T 6 Review Questions](#) for example questions; Tic-Tac-Toe [instructions](#) and [board](#) provided in activity sheets)
- “[I Was Caught Being Kind](#)” (provided in activity sheets): Divide a sheet of copy paper into several sections. In each section, write “I was caught being kind.” Make at least one copy per child in your class, and cut them apart. Before class, give the cards to several members of the congregation; ask the members to give the cards to children that they see being kind or helpful. Challenge the children to do kind things for others that day, before and after worship services. Variation: Make a small chart for each child titled “I Will Be Kind to Others.” Give stickers and the charts to the parents of your students. Ask the parents to reward their children

with stickers during the week for acts of kindness.

- “[Memory Verse Cutout](#)” (provided in activity sheets): Divide the class into teams. Write each word from the memory verse on separate cards, and give each team a set. Mix the cards in each set up, and let the teams race to try to put the cards in the proper order.
- Have the children read the following:
 - 2 Samuel 9
 - *If Jesus Came to My House*, by Joan G. Thomas, Harper Collins Publishers (DISCLAIMER: Skip two pages depicting worship. You could tape them together.)

SONGS:

“BE KIND TO OTHERS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Jesus Loves Me”)

Help somebody when you can,
Baby, woman, child, or man;
There is work for you to do,
Be forever kind and true!

CHORUS:

Be kind to others. Be kind to others.
Be kind to others. God wants you to be kind.

“BEING KIND TO OTHERS”([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “Bringing in the Sheaves”)

Being kind to others, being kind to others;
Being kind to others, every night and day.
Being kind to others, being kind to others;
Jesus ever taught us that we must obey.

CHORUS:

O we must be kind! O we must be kind!
Jesus ever taught us that we must be kind.
(REPEAT)

“Hateful Henrietta”

(adapted from Sarah Richey’s “Hateful Henrietta” in
Creative Bible Teaching: Volume 2, p. 52)

Henrietta really has a problem getting along with others! At school, she is so hateful to everyone that no one wants to be her friend. It doesn’t seem to bother Henrietta at all when she hurts other people’s feelings. She is even rude to her teachers. When she is around people who have to wear thick glasses or braces or who walk with crutches, she makes fun of them and calls them terrible names. There are kids in her classes who are from other countries who talk and dress differently, and Henrietta makes fun of them too! Some children smell funny, and others look dirty or have holes in their clothes. Henrietta is sure to say unkind things to them as well.

At home Henrietta is hateful to her family. She treats her little brother very badly and calls him a “sissy” because he wants to play with her. She yells at her older sister for coming into her room uninvited. She even talks back to her mother and daddy!

Henrietta is one of the unhappiest people in the world! I wonder why?!

Henrietta needs to learn some important Bible verses. Ephesians 4:32 tells us that we should “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.” Colossians 3:12 tells us that we should “put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.”

God wants us to be happy, and we are happiest when we do what is right, including being kind to others. Can you think of ways Henrietta could change and be kind?

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



David is Kind to Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13



Old Testament 6
Part 1: David

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Old Testament 6 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13; Zechariah 7:9-10; Matthew 7:12; 1 Corinthians 13:4

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Be kind to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Be Kind to Others"](#)
- ["Being Kind to Others"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [King David and His Sons Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 6 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- David the King A Beka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; card 2.1: No one knows what the cherubim looked like, other than having wings; card 5.6: The text says that Absalom's head was caught. Whether it was by his hair or neck is unknown.)
- "Hateful Henrietta" illustration [see suggested script at end of this lesson]: Use a grouchy face or a picture of a grouchy little girl for Henrietta, or use a pattern from Sarah Richey's *Creative Bible Teaching: Volume 1* (p. 58). Put the figure or picture on the board. As you talk about ways Henrietta should behave, write them on the board. [Could also make a flipchart to illustrate the story.]



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must learn to look for ways to be kind to everyone: not just those I know and love, but also to those who may be “different.”

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 6 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 6 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [O.T 6 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Remind the children that it usually takes as much or as little time to be kind as to be mean, hateful, and disrespectful.

Make up a role play about a mean child at school and one about a nice child at school. Show examples of being kind and being mean.

Draw or copy a clock face on the board and talk about ways we can be kind and respectful and polite all day long. [Cutouts of clocks are available from teachers’ supply stores.]

YOUNGER CHILDREN: Let them color and/or decorate their own clock faces.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.

