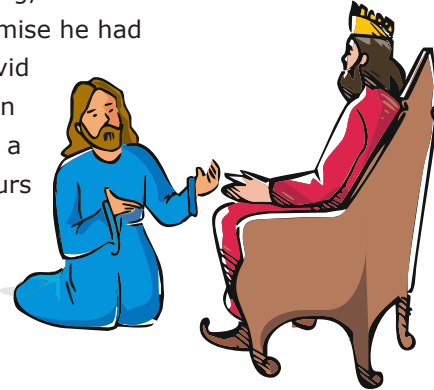


## David Blesses Mephibosheth

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

2 Samuel 9

Once David became King, he saw to it that he kept the promise he had made to Jonathan. David poured blessings out on Jonathan's son. This is a picture of how God pours His grace out on those who accept his gift.



## Day #1: Kind to the Unkind

King Saul started out so well, but his life took a terrible turn when he took his focus off of God. Saul became so jealous of David that he couldn't think straight (James 1:8). Saul spent years trying to kill David, but God protected David from Saul's evil plans. God's plan was for David to become the next King, and Saul could never stop God's plan! (Psalm 33:11)

No matter how badly Saul treated David, David always treated Saul with respect. Sadly, Saul and Jonathan were both killed in a battle against the Philistines. When David heard that these two men had been killed, he was terribly sad (2 Samuel 1:11). He sang a song of sadness and ordered that it be taught to all of the Israelites. David sang:

✝ *"In life Saul and Jonathan were loved and gracious. In death they were not parted. They were faster than eagles. They were stronger than lions...My brother Jonathan, I'm filled with sadness because of you. You were very special to me."* - 2 Samuel 1:23, 26a

After the way Saul tried to kill David, no one would have blamed David if he had thrown a party when he heard that Saul was dead. But David was not glad. He knew that God had anointed Saul as the King of His people. He respected the King's position. He treated Saul with respect, and God would bless David for it.

✱ We should live in the same way that David did. He was kind to the man who was trying to kill him! Is there anyone who treats you badly? Discuss what they do to you and how you can be kind in return.

*Don't pay back evil with evil. Don't pay back unkind words with unkind words. Instead, pay them back with kind words. That's what you have been chosen to do. You can receive a blessing by doing it.* - 1 Peter 3:9

Don't "get even." Instead, get a blessing from God!

## Day #2: Promise Keepers

David became the next King over Israel (2 Samuel 2:4, 5:3). David trusted the Lord, and the Lord was with him (2 Samuel 7:3). God blessed David and made wonderful promises to him (2 Samuel 7:8-16, 8:1-18).

David remembered the promise he and Jonathan had made to each other.

✝ *Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace. In the name of the Lord we have taken an oath. We've promised to be friends. We've said, 'The Lord is a witness between you and me. He's a witness between your children and my children forever.'" - 1 Samuel 20:42*

David began to ask if Jonathan had any children. David found out that Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was crippled in both of his feet. David ordered that Mephibosheth be brought before him. David intended to bless the son of Jonathan who was also the grandson of Saul.

It would have been very easy for David to forget about his promise. After all, it was made between he and Jonathan and Jonathan was no longer alive. But, the Bible tells us that David is a man after God's own heart. We can see a very godly characteristic here. David will keep his promise to Jonathan. God ALWAYS keeps His promises (Joshua 21:45). God is truth. He cannot say He will do something and then fail to do it. When God makes a promise, it is as good as done.

✱ As followers of the God who ALWAYS keeps His promises, we should keep our promises. Do not make a promise without thinking it through. It is much better not to make a promise than to make a promise and break it.

If you tell a friend that you will help him, then help him. If you say you will pray for someone, then pray for her. In this way, you will be showing godly character.


## Day #3: Before the King

Imagine that one day, a message was sent to your teacher. It said that the principal wanted to see you. You would wonder, "Why me? Am I in trouble?" It might feel like a very long walk to his or her office. As you waited outside the office, you might have butterflies in your stomach wondering if this would be a good meeting or a bad meeting.

We can be sure that Mephibosheth had the same butterflies in his stomach as he was brought before King David. He wondered what the King had in store

### Day #3 continued:


for him. This simple man bowed down low in front of King David. But David told him he had nothing to fear. David said:

 "I'm going to give you back the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul. Besides that, you will always eat with me at my table."

*Mephibosheth knelt down again and said, "Why should you care about me? I'm worth no more than a dead dog." - 2 Samuel 9:7b-8 CEV*


What had Mephibosheth done to earn David's blessing? Was he a great warrior? No, he could not even be a soldier because his feet were crippled. Was he a wealthy businessman? No, he could not even hold a job. By Mephibosheth's own admission, he was not wealthy or important. Was David going to bless Mephibosheth because he was such a nice person? No, David had never even met him before.

David was showing another godly characteristic by treating Mephibosheth this way. He was showing him GRACE. Grace is giving blessings to someone who doesn't deserve it, who hasn't earned it, and can never repay it. Our God is a God of GRACE!

 This week, can you show God's character like David did? Think of one kind thing you can do for someone who did not earn it or deserve it. BE sure to follow through and do this without being repaid in any way!

## Day #4: Because of Jesus

Yesterday, we read about the blessings that David wanted to pour out on Mephibosheth. Clearly, Mephibosheth did not earn these blessings. And there was no way this crippled man could ever repay the King's generosity. Of all the people in the kingdom that David could have blessed, he chose to bless Mephibosheth.

 David said, "Don't be afraid. I'll be kind to you **because Jonathan was your father.**" - 2 Samuel 9:7a

Look at the verses above. Why did David choose to be kind to Mephibosheth? David was being kind to this man simply because of who his father was. Mephibosheth was greatly blessed because of his relationship to the one who deserved the blessings. We, too, are immeasurably blessed when we have a relationship with Jesus, who deserves all blessings, glory, and honor.


Just like Mephibosheth, we are imperfect. We have nothing to offer God, the King above all kings. But when we put our trust in Jesus, God gives to us all of the blessings that Jesus deserves.

*Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.*

### Day #4 continued:

*Those blessings come from the heavenly world. They belong to us because we belong to Christ. - Ephesians 1:3*


When we put our trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven, we are made holy, sin no longer has power over us, we are adopted as God's sons and daughters, and His very Spirit lives inside of us. The Bible says, "God freely gave us His grace because of the One He loves." (Ephesians 1:3-14)

 If you have placed your trust in Jesus, offer a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for all that He has freely given you. These are gifts that can never be repaid. He gives His grace to you because you believe in His Son.

## Day #5: Dine with the King

David promised to give Mephibosheth all of the land that once belonged to Saul. David even provided servants to farm the land so that Mephibosheth would be provided for. Then David said, "And Mephibosheth will always eat at my table." (2 Samuel 9:10)


What a wonderful offer for the undeserving, imperfect Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth did not have to do anything but **accept** and **receive** the blessings! Now Mephibosheth had a choice to make. Would he trust King David, or go back to his life without the King? 2 Samuel 9:13 tells us:

 *And Mephibosheth, who was crippled in both feet, lived in Jerusalem and ate regularly at the king's table.*

Mephibosheth trusted David! He accepted the blessings that the King offered him! He left his old life and moved to where the King lived. He traded in the crusts of bread that he once begged for, and received the rich food of the King's feast!

In the same way, we must trust that God is a good and faithful King. We must choose to believe that He is the only way to cure imperfect, sinful people. When we accept what Jesus did for us, we will receive the blessings of peace, joy, righteousness, and eternal life.

After we accept the grace God offers us because of His perfect Son, His plan is for us to become His faithful disciples. We are called to eat at His table as His sons and daughters. This means we stay close to Him, remain with Him, abide with Him, learn from Him, and enjoy His presence!

 The next time you eat a meal together as a family, take notice of a few things. When you eat with others, you talk to them, you listen to them, you laugh with them, and you learn more about each other. God wants to spend this intimate time with you. Your King has invited you to pull up a chair at His table! Spend time with Him; abide with the King.