



## Unit .11

### Session .04

# A King Shows Kindness

## Scripture



## 2 Sam. 9:1-13

**1** And David said, “Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” **2** Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” And he said, “I am your servant.” **3** And the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?” Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet.” **4** 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, at Lo-debar.” **5** Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. **6** And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, “Mephibosheth!” And he answered, “Behold, I am your servant.” **7** And David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of

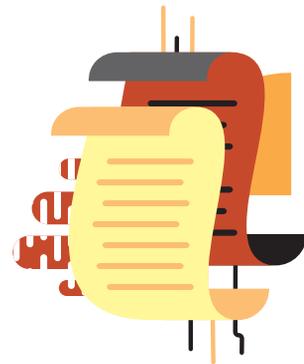
Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always.”

**8** And he paid homage and said, “What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?”

**9** Then the king called Ziba, Saul’s servant, and said to him, “All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master’s grandson. **10** And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master’s grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master’s grandson shall always eat at my table.” Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. **11** Then Ziba said to the king, “According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table, like one of the king’s sons. **12** And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba’s house became Mephibosheth’s servants. **13** So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king’s table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

**What are some ways we can intentionally seek out how to do good for others?**

**What wrong motives might guide our good deeds?**



## 99 Essential Doctrines

### Adoption

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Adoption into God's family is one of the positive benefits of justification. Not only are we pardoned from the judgment against us through justification, but we also experience a change of identity—we become children of God (John 1:12; Gal. 4:5). Through adoption our relationship with God, which was once lost through the fall, is now restored, resulting in the benefits of being an heir of God and a co-heir with Christ (Rom. 8:16-17).

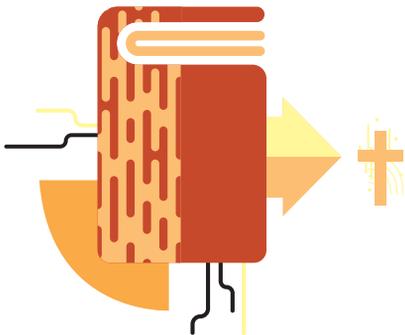
## **Main Point**

**God's grace through Christ invites us to come sit at His table as His children.**

**What does it tell us about God that He stoops down to bless us?**

**Put yourself in place of Mephibosheth. How would you have reacted had you received the blessings he received?**

**Why should God's grace to us motivate us toward greater love and obedience to Him?**



## Christ Connection

King David extended undeserved and unexpected kindness to Mephibosheth when he restored his lost estate and invited him to eat at the king's table with his own sons. God has extended kindness to us by graciously adopting us into His family as His children through Christ. As God's forgiven children, we look forward to celebrating at His table in His kingdom forever.

# Our Mission



## Head

**What is the connection between grace and obedience?**

**How should the grace of God in our lives motivate us to greater obedience to Him?**



## Heart

**What does this story teach us about our motives when it comes to serving others?**

**How does the gospel challenge any selfish motivations toward giving or serving others?**



## Hands

**How do our lives imitate Mephibosheth in this story? How should our lives imitate David's actions in this story?**

**What acts of kindness might you display this week to those who may have physical or mental differences?**

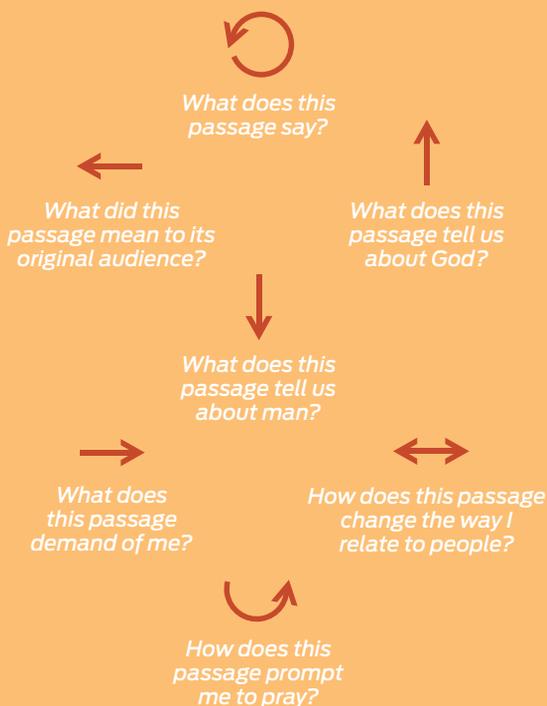
# Daily Devotions



Day 1

## 1 Samuel 20:1-42

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



As Saul's son, Jonathan was the rightful successor to the throne. From a worldly perspective, he was the next in line to become king of Israel, and with that role would come great wealth and power. But God does not operate according to humanity's expectations or customs. He had chosen David, not Jonathan, to succeed Saul. Jonathan knew that and Jonathan accepted it.

As Jonathan and David prepared to part ways, Jonathan asked David a question that assumed something important: that David would be king, not him. Jonathan recognized that he, and his family, would stand or fall at the whim of his friend David.

There are times in our lives when God does the unexpected, the unorthodox. There are times when what we think we earned, what we think we deserve, goes to another. Perhaps we feel passed over. Or it might be that a good friend becomes better friends with someone else. Whatever it is, we will find ourselves in the same position as Jonathan. Will we resist God, will we fight and push back, digging in our heels over what we feel we deserve? Or will we trust God, yield to Him, and acknowledge that His ways are higher than ours?

**How should Christ's humility in dying a death He did not deserve shape the way you see what you have earned or deserve in life?**

# 2 Samuel

## 9:1-5

No one may have known of David's promise to Jonathan to be kind to his family. It had been made many years before, most likely in privacy. And even if someone knew about it, who would dare challenge the king to make good on such a promise? It was a promise most people would have understood David for breaking, or at least forgetting about. But that wasn't what David did. In a time when he could finally turn his attention to the internal affairs of the kingdom rather than focus on defending Israel from external threats, David proactively sought out someone from Jonathan's family to show kindness to.

We should take note of David's integrity in the moment, but we should only pause there, not stop there. As we read this account, we need to read it through a gospel lens, one that forces us to relate with Mephibosheth, not King David. We were like Mephibosheth, spiritually lame and in desperate need of the King's mercy and kindness. And the beautiful thing is, we didn't have to go to Him to receive such kindness. We couldn't. Instead like David, God proactively came looking for us. And when He found us, He heaped such kindness upon us that we never could have hoped for.

**What is your emotional response to considering how God came looking for you?**

# 2 Samuel

## 9:6-10

We see Mephibosheth act twice and speak twice. Twice, Mephibosheth paid homage to David (v. 6,8), including falling facedown at least the first time. And his words matched his posture. He is David's servant (v. 6), who is but a dead dog (v. 8). If we had to summarize Mephibosheth in this account, we would probably describe him as being humble and in fear. That makes sense since he has been called before the king, the one who has the authority and the power to take his life if he chose.

Again, as we read this account through Mephibosheth's lens, most of us would readily admit that we would have assumed a similar posture. We, too, would have recognized the precarious position we were in. We, too, would have entered in fearful humility, hoping that we would be able to express to the king that we were no threat.

Now, we need to keep that picture in our minds as we think about coming before God, the King of kings. How do we enter His presence? Not with fear but with bold confidence (Heb. 10:19). Not because we aren't dead dogs—we are—but because of what Christ has done in our place. Because Christ has taken our sin and given us His righteousness, we approach God not merely as His servants but as His loved children.

**Why is it important we approach God in humility?**

## 2 Samuel 9:11-13

David's act of kindness was extravagant. With one spoken edict, Mephibosheth became a wealthy man. But most surprising of all, Mephibosheth would not need to eat any of the produce of the lands restored to him; he would eat at the king's table, as one of his sons. It is the high point of the narrative, the perfect place to put one's pen down or move to the next chapter. But that is not how the account ends. Instead we read the anticlimactic "His feet had been injured."

Why return to this seemingly insignificant detail? Why not end on the high note of Mephibosheth eating with David as a son? Perhaps this concluding sentence is there merely to remind us of how unlikely an event this was. To remind us of the fall and rise of Mephibosheth. That could be. But there may be another reason. Perhaps this is to remind us of who we are supposed to relate to in the story—not David, but Mephibosheth. Perhaps we need to remember how great of a fall and rise we have experienced in Christ Jesus—how He extended kindness and grace to us when we were spiritually hopeless and helpless. Perhaps the story ends where our application is supposed to begin.

**How do you tend to read the stories in Scripture—through the lens of the hero or through the lens of the ones in need of a hero? How should our understanding of the gospel shape how we read?**

## Ephesians 2:1-10

This passage from Ephesians can be seen as a compact, yet beautiful and rich, summary of the core message of the gospel. We are confronted with our sin problem in verses 1-3, then verse 4 begins with two of the most powerful words in Scripture: "But God." What follows is a moving summary of the work of Christ and how we are saved by grace through faith in Him.

Did you see it in verse 7? Did you see how the display of God's immeasurable riches of His grace is described? That's right, His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. It is often easy to see how the Old Testament helps us read the New Testament, but there are times, like this one, where the New Testament helps us read and see the beauty of the Old.

**In what ways has God showed you His kindness beyond salvation this week?**