

WEEK 3

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Showing kindness is
in God's game plan.

BIBLE

David and Mephibosheth:
2 Samuel 9:1–13

ABOUT THIS WEEK

There's more to playing a game than winning—you'll need good sportsmanship, too. This week, we'll take a look at the time when David was a "good sport" by showing kindness to Saul's descendant, Mephibosheth. Even though Mephibosheth's family once caused David great pain, David's care for Mephibosheth inspires us to remember that **showing kindness is in God's game plan**.

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Race To Kindness

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, line the kids up behind a masking tape line. Have them take turns in pairs racing back and forth. Encourage kids to cheer one another on. Remember to cheer on both those who win, and those who don't!*
- It's not always easy to be kind. But even when it's hard, God wants us to be kind. Today's story is all about God's game plan for us. God's game plan says we should be kind to others!

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | 2 Samuel 9:1–13 (David and Mephibosheth)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below!*
 - **TODDLER HACK:** *You can show a video about Mephibosheth [like this](#) for toddlers. Feel free to play it a few times!*
- David was now the king of Israel. It was all part of God's game plan for David to be the new king.
- **Everyone give me two thumbs up!** God's game plan is awesome!
- Before David was king, a man named Saul was king. King Saul had a son named Jonathan. Jonathan and David were best friends. **Everybody say, "Besties!"**
- But King Saul had *not* been kind to David. In fact, he was super mean to David. **Everybody say, "Booo!"**
- By the time David became king, Saul, Jonathan, and nearly everyone in their family had died.
 - But David still remembered Jonathan's kindness. So he wanted to be kind to someone in Jonathan's family, too.

- Tap the side of your head with your finger and say, "Good idea, David!"
- David asked around, "Is there anybody left in Saul and Jonathan's family that I can be kind to?" They said that there was one person. Jonathan had a son. His name was super long. Are you ready for it? His name was Mephibosheth! Wow!
 - Do you want to try saying that with me? Me-phi-bo-sheth!
 - Mephibosheth was still alive and not very far away! David called for Mephibosheth. He set the table, and invited him to have a seat at his table!
 - Rub your tummies and say, "Yum!"
- Mephibosheth got to eat with the king! I wonder what kind of food David served him. I'm sure it was the very best food!
 - What do you think David served at his table?
 - David was so kind! But that's not all. King David invited Mephibosheth to his table and also invited him to be part of his family. He told him that he could eat with him every day, if he wanted. That's so amazing!
- David knew that God was the most kind. God was super kind to David. God gave David a super kind friend like Jonathan, and that's how David was super kind to Mephibosheth. Being kind is always in God's game plan!

BIG IDEA | Showing kindness is in God's game plan.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Introduce the kids to today's Big Idea using the following hand motions.*
 - Showing kindness ([Sign language for "kindness"](#) or have kids shake hands with each other.)
 - is in God's (Point up.)
 - game plan (Open palms like a book.)

VIDEO | Teaching Video, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](https://vimeo.com/935647707/319fc75524). (https://vimeo.com/935647707/319fc75524) If you're short on time, show the illustrated [Bible story video](https://vimeo.com/996228693/8de7833fd7). (https://vimeo.com/996228693/8de7833fd7)*

ACTIVITY | Kindness Tag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play a simple game of "Tag" where a leader is "it" and has to tag the kids. Once tagged, the kid has to sit down. Anyone else can tag a sitting kid to bring them back into the game.*
- Great job being kind to each other so we could all keep playing!
- David showed kindness to Mephibosheth. He brought him to eat at his table and be a part of his family. He thought about what Mephibosheth needed, not just about himself.
- We can show kindness like that, too. We can care about what others need, not just what we need. And when it's hard to be kind, we can ask for God's help! **Showing kindness is in God's game plan.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for being so kind to us. You teach us to be kind, too. Help us to show kindness to others. Amen.

SHARING TIME

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids take turns answering the following questions.*
- Who was the king before David? Was he kind to David? *Saul. No!*
- Who was Saul's son and David's best friend? *Jonathan.*
- Why did David set the table? *To show kindness to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth.*
- What is one way you can show kindness?
- Showing kindness is whose game plan? *God.*

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 33:11 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.*
- "But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."