

David and Mephibosheth

Lesson 4



Scripture: 2 Samuel 9

Bible Memory: Proverbs 17:17

“A friend loves you all the time.” (ICB)

“A friend loveth at all times.” (KJV)

Focus: ♥ God wants us to be kind.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

David and Jonathan’s friendship turned out to be a reciprocal one. At first, it appears as though Jonathan was the primary giver. In this lesson, however, we realize that the friendship was not only lifelong but also affected coming generations. When have you received the steadfast love of a friend? When have you given to a friend? Take a minute to thank God for the friend you have today.

Bible Background for the Teacher

In God’s timing, David became king of Israel. In the changeover of power, Jonathan and Saul were both killed in battle. Jonathan left a son, Mephibosheth. At age 5, this son had been crippled by a fall (2 Samuel 4:4). Now David honors a promise made to his friend Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:14, 15). King Saul’s helper Ziba and his family and helpers became helpers of Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth also ate daily at the king’s table.

Lesson 4 at a Glance

1 GETTING STARTED

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *explore being injured or disabled*.



Quick Step
Helping Things



What It’s Like



Where Does It Hurt?

HeartShaper Materials

- Resources CD Ability Cards printable file

Other Materials

- none
- guest who is disabled
- doll, bandage

2 BIBLE DISCOVERY

Use all these activities to help children *tell how David was kind to Mephibosheth*.



Sing and Pray



Bible Time
David and Mephibosheth



Bible Review



Bible Memory

- Resources CD, Resources sheet 2 crown 4a and hats 4b and 4c, Resources CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file

- CD player, tape, Bible, child-size crutch, prepared Bible Memory unit center posters

3 GROW AND GO

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *name ways they can be kind*.



Quick Step
K Is for Kind



Bible Memory Collage
(unit center)



Be Kind Walk Game

- Make-n-Share for lesson 4 and stickers

- Resources CD Be Kind Anytime printable file

- Resources CD, Resources CD Ability Cards and People Who Help printable files

- blunt-tip scissors, washable markers

- prepared Bible Memory unit center posters, blunt-tip scissors, glue sticks, washable markers

- scissors, construction paper, tape, CD player

Closing the Hour

- Heart Tugs issue 4

- none

Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **explore being injured or disabled**.

Welcome

- Use a Scout puppet to greet the children.
- Place a name tag on each child, gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child; then guide the child to a learning center.
- Provide a container in which children can place their offering money.

Quick Step Helping Things

Before class, print the cards from the CD.

SAY: **♥ God wants us to be kind to people who have been hurt or are disabled. Let's look at pictures that show things that help people who are hurt or disabled.** Show the pictures one by one and discuss how the items help people who are disabled or hurt. ASK: **How does a ____ (name of item) help someone who is hurt or who has a problem with a body part?**

Play a game, using the cards. Shuffle the cards. Have a child draw one card and then act out the pictured item.

ASK: **What do you think it would be like not to be able to use your legs? your eyes?**

How would you feel if you were hurt and someone was kind to you?

What It's Like

SAY: **Today's Bible story is about David being kind to a young man who was disabled. ♥ God wants us to be kind. Let's explore with our guest what it's like being hurt or disabled.**

Introduce your guest. Invite him to talk to the children about his injury or disability. Have him talk about what is hard for him to do, who helps him, what equipment he uses. If you do not invite a guest, show the equipment and talk about how it helps someone who has been hurt or is disabled.

ASK: **Have you ever been hurt and had to use ____ (name of equipment)? Do you know anyone who is disabled? How can you be kind to that person?**

Where Does It Hurt?

SAY: **When you are hurt, you need help. People who help you are kind. ♥ God wants us to be kind. Let's explore what it is like taking care of others who have been hurt and can't do things for themselves.**

Place the bandage on a leg, arm, or the face of the doll. Tell the children to pretend the doll is hurt where the bandage is. **If you were hurt where the doll is hurt, what might be hard for you to do?** Move the bandage to another body part and repeat the activity.

ASK: **What would be hard for you to do if your arm were hurt? if your leg were broken?**

Have you ever been hurt? Who helped you?

Especially for 4s!

Suggest what task would be difficult to do with an injury to the chosen body part. (Example: ASK: **Would it be easy to lift that arm to put your shirt on?**) Have 4s pretend to try the difficult task.

Focus

♥ God wants us to be kind.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.



Be sensitive to children with disabilities. Read the Special Needs Help for lesson 4 on the *Resources* CD for tips on how to explain learning differences to children.

Materials

Resources CD Ability Cards printable file



Materials

guest who is disabled (or equipment for a person who is injured or disabled [wheelchair, crutch, elastic bandage, shoe boot, hearing aid])



Materials

doll, bandage



Teaching Tip

If possible, have several dolls so each child can care for one.

Cleanup

Sing the "Cleanup Song" from *Resources* CD as you lead children in cleaning various areas of the room.



Focus

♥ God wants us to be kind.

Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2 Use all these activities to help children **tell how David was kind to Mephibosheth.**

Materials

Resources CD tracks 1 and 4, CD player, Bible



Materials

Resources sheet 2 crown 4a and hats 4b and 4c, tape, child-size crutch



Before class

Punch out and assemble the crown and hats.



How to Say It

Mephibosheth Meh-*fib*-o-sheth
Ziba Zye-buh

Teaching Tip

A broom handle or yardstick can be used as a crutch for Mephibosheth.

Materials

Resources sheet 2 prepared crown and hats from Bible Time



Materials

Resources CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file, prepared Bible Memory unit center posters (see unit 1 pages)



Sing and Pray

Sing “God Teaches Us to Care” and “A Friend Loves You.”

PRAY: **Dear God, You are so kind to us. Thank You! Help us to be kind to others. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Show the word *Bible* on the Bible’s cover. SAY: **This word is *Bible*. Let’s spell it together.** Do so. **Today’s Bible story comes from the Old Testament Bible book of 2 Samuel, chapter 9.** Show 2 Samuel 9. Say **“Old Testament” with me.** Do so. **Let’s find out who was kind in our Bible story today.**

Bible Time

Place the crown and hats on three children. SAY: ♥ **God wants us to be kind. Today we will learn about a time when King David was kind to a young man named Mephibosheth. Say that name with me.** Do so. **A man named Ziba was Mephibosheth’s helper.** Point to each child as you name the Bible name. **Whenever I say one of these three men’s names, the child pretending to be that person can step forward. The rest of us will say your name.** Practice doing so; then tell the story, pausing for a response.

Review who David was: played harp for King Saul, fought Goliath, best friend of Jonathan, ran from King Saul. **A long time has passed since David ran from King Saul, and now David is grown up and is the new king of Israel. One day David sent for one of King Saul’s helpers named Ziba.**

Ziba told David that Jonathan’s son Mephibosheth was still alive. When Mephibosheth was 5 years old, there was an accident and Mephibosheth couldn’t use his feet anymore. Let’s give him a crutch to help him walk. (Do so.)

David sent Ziba to get Mephibosheth. Then David told Mephibosheth three things. Help me count as I tell you what David said. First (hold up first finger): **“I will be kind to you.” Second** (hold up second finger): **“I will give you all the land that belonged to your grandfather, King Saul.” And third** (hold up third finger): **“You will always be able to eat at my table.”**

Then David told Ziba that Ziba and his family were to help farm King Saul’s land for Mephibosheth. David was kind to Mephibosheth. ♥ God wants us to be kind to others too.

Bible Review

Give the headpieces to three different children. Ask questions such as the ones below and have the class answer by pointing to the child wearing the appropriate headpiece.

ASK: **Who wanted to do something kind for King Saul’s family?** (David)
Who told David that King Saul’s grandson was still alive? (Ziba)
Who came to live in King David’s palace? (Mephibosheth)

Bible Memory Proverbs 17:17

Before class, print and display the motions from the CD.

Have volunteers hold up the unit center Bible Memory posters. Say the Bible Memory together while doing the motions. Turn posters around. Say the verse several times without using the poster picture cues.

Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

- 3** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **name ways they can be kind**.

Quick Step *K* Is for Kind

SAY: ♥ God wants us to be kind. The word *kind* starts with the letter *k*. Let's make a picture page that will show us some ways to be kind.

Assist children in completing their pages. Talk about each scene. Children can place the *K* stickers where needed to complete the words and also next to the children on the folded flaps who are being kind to those who need help. Guide the children to name ways to be kind to others.

ASK: **How are the children on the folded picture flaps being kind to others?**

How can you be kind to someone today?

Bible Memory Collage (unit center)

Before class, make copies of the printable file from the CD.

SAY: **Our Bible Memory is about being a good friend. Good friends are kind to one another. ♥ God wants us to be kind. Let's say our Bible Memory together. Then we will add some pictures to the last poster.**

Say the Bible Memory together. Give each child a Be Kind Anytime paper. Guide children to finish coloring the sun and moon and then cut out all the pieces. Glue the pictures to the poster that says "all the time." Talk about ways to be kind all the time.

ASK: **What is a time when you can be kind?**

Who can you be kind to all the time?

Be Kind Walk Game

Before class, make copies of both printable files from the CD. Cut apart the cards and pictures.

SAY: ♥ God wants us to be kind. Let's play a game and remember how we can be kind to people.

Mix up the cards and pictures with the construction paper, and tape in a circle on the floor. Have each child select a card, a picture, or a paper to stand on. Play "God Teaches Us to Care" as children move around the circle. Pause the music. Allow any child who is standing on a picture or card tell how to be kind to that person. Repeat as time allows.

ASK: **What could you do to be kind to the person whose picture you are standing on?**

Who do you know that you can be kind to?

Especially for 4s!



Have the children walk around in a circle and stop when the music stops. Show one picture at a time and let them name ways to be kind to that person.

Closing the Hour

• Be sure children who are leaving have their activity projects and this week's *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to help their children finish the dot-to-dot picture. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Focus

♥ God wants us to be kind.

Materials

Make-n-Share for lesson 4 and stickers, blunt-tip scissors, washable markers (or crayons)



Materials

Resources CD Be Kind Anytime printable file, prepared Bible Memory unit center posters (see unit 1 pages), blunt-tip scissors, glue sticks, washable markers (or crayons)



Materials

Resources CD track 1 and CD Ability Cards and People Who Help printable files, scissors, construction paper, tape, CD player



Something More!

Instead of doing this game cakewalk style, put the cards in a bag for children to pass around. When the music stops, let the child holding the bag take out a card and tell a way to be kind to the pictured person.

David and Mephibosheth

Lesson 4 Extra Hour



Scripture: 2 Samuel 9

Bible Memory: Proverbs 17:17

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“A friend loveth at all times.” (*KJV*)

Focus: ♥ God wants us to be kind.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

David and Jonathan’s friendship turned out to be a reciprocal one. At first, it appears as though Jonathan was the primary giver. In this lesson, however, we realize that the friendship was not only lifelong but also affected coming generations. When have you received the steadfast love of a friend? When have you given to a friend? Take a minute to thank God for the friend you have today.

Bible Background for the Teacher

In God’s timing, David became king of Israel. In the changeover of power, Jonathan and Saul were both killed in battle. Jonathan left a son, Mephibosheth. At age 5, this son had been crippled by a fall (2 Samuel 4:4). Now David honors a promise made to his friend Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:14, 15). King Saul’s helper Ziba and his family and helpers became helpers of Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth also ate daily at the king’s table.

Lesson 4 at a Glance—Extra Hour

1 MORE! GETTING STARTED

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *explore being injured or disabled*.



Active Play

Quick Step
Scout’s Game



Puzzles

Being Kind



Wonder

A Puzzling Experience

HeartShaper Materials

- none
- *Heart Tugs* issue 4
- none

Other Materials

- Scout puppet
- pencils
- preschool puzzles, mittens, blindfolds, noise-canceling headphones

2 MORE! BIBLE DISCOVERY

Use all these activities to help children *tell how David was kind to Mephibosheth*.



Sing & Pray

More! Sing and Pray



Bible Time

Bible Time—Another Way!
David and Mephibosheth



Bible Review

More! Bible Review



Bible Memory

More! Bible Memory

- *Resources* CD, *Resources* sheet 2 crown and hats from first hour Bible Time, *Teaching Picture 4*, *Resources* CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file

- CD player, Bible, masking tape

3 MORE! GROW AND GO

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *name ways they can be kind*.



Scout

Quick Step
Scout Is a Kind Friend



Craft

Tabletop Kindness Reminder

Saying Good-bye

- none
- *Resources* CD Tabletop Kindness Reminder printable file
- *Heart Tugs* issue 4

- Scout puppet, 3 different (non-dog) stuffed animals
- blunt-tip scissors, glue sticks, washable markers
- none

More! Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **explore being injured or disabled**.

Transition Time

- Greet new arrivers, giving each a name tag.
- Gather children in a circle. Hand an adhesive bandage to one child. Have the child tell about the last time he needed to use a bandage. Continue until everyone has had a turn.
- Serve a snack. Follow your congregation’s policy for restroom breaks.

Quick Step Scout’s Game

SAY: If you get hurt, it’s nice to know people who will be kind to you and help you. ♥ God wants us to be kind. Scout is going to play a game with us. He will whisper something to me. When I tell you what Scout said, you can point to or shake the part of your body Scout is talking about. Have Scout whisper to you. **Scout says, “I can’t walk.”** Children can shake a leg. Continue with statements such as “I can’t see” or “I can’t hear.”

ASK: If you hurt your ____ (name a body part), what’s something that would be hard to do?
Who could be kind and help you if you were hurt or disabled?

Especially for 4s!



Have Scout name a body part for the children to move or wiggle. Talk about what it would be like if that body part did not work correctly.

Being Kind

SAY: ♥ God wants us to be kind. We can be kind to people who are hurt and disabled. Let’s finish a puzzle that shows a person who is disabled.

Guide children to complete the dot-to-dot puzzle in today’s *Heart Tugs*. Talk about who is disabled and what it means to be disabled or permanently hurt. Discuss how to be kind to someone who is disabled.

ASK: Do you know anyone who is disabled?
Have you ever been hurt? Who was kind and helped you?

A Puzzling Experience

SAY: There are lots of people in the world who are hurt or disabled. ♥ God wants us to be kind to people who are hurt or disabled. Let’s explore what it would be like to be hurt or disabled. We are going to work some puzzles while we wear mittens, blindfolds, and headphones.

Group children into pairs. Have each pair take turns putting on the mittens or blindfolds or headphones and attempt to work together to do a puzzle. Talk about how it is difficult to do the puzzles while using each item.

ASK: What was difficult to do with the mittens?
Could you finish the puzzle with the blindfold on?
Was it difficult to hear when you were wearing headphones?

Focus

♥ God wants us to be kind.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.



Be sensitive to children with disabilities. Read the Special Needs Help for lesson 4 on the *Resources* CD for tips on explaining learning differences to children.

Materials

Scout puppet



Materials

Heart Tugs issue 4,
pencils



Materials

preschool puzzles,
mittens, blindfolds, noise-canceling headphones



Teaching Tip

Instead of using mittens, use masking tape to wrap the thumb to the first finger of each child.

Focus

♥ God wants us to be kind.

More! Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2 Use all these activities to help children **tell how David was kind to Mephibosheth.**

Materials

Resources CD track 1, CD player, Bible



More! Sing and Pray

Sing “God Teaches Us to Care.”

PRAY: **Dear God, we want to obey You. We want to be kind. Thank You for Jesus who is kind. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

SAY: **When we are kind, we offer to help someone else. What are some ways we can be kind?** Allow children to respond. **Today’s story is about a king who was kind. We can read this story in the Bible book of 2 Samuel, chapter 9.** Show 2 Samuel 9.

Materials

Resources sheet 2 crown and hats from first hour Bible Time, *Teaching Picture 4*



Bible Time—Another Way!

Before class, place the crown and hats in three different areas of the room.

Walk the children to the David crown 4a and begin the Bible story. SAY: **David wanted to do something kind for King Saul’s family. David asked a helper of that family to come to him.** Go to Ziba’s hat 4b. **The helper’s name was Ziba. Ziba said that King Saul’s son Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth. Can you say Mephibosheth?** Do so. **Mephibosheth couldn’t walk. His feet had been hurt in an accident when he was 5 years old. Is anyone here 5 years old?** Allow responses. **In today’s Bible story, Mephibosheth is now older, but he still could not walk.**

Go to Mephibosheth’s hat 4c. **David told Ziba to bring Mephibosheth to him. When Mephibosheth arrived, David told him three kind things. Help me count the things David said to Mephibosheth. First, David said (hold up first finger), “I will be kind to you.” The second thing David said was (hold up second finger), “I will give you the land that belonged to King Saul.” And the third thing was (hold up third finger), “You will always be able to eat with me.”** Show the teaching picture. Talk about what it might have been like to eat at a king’s table.

King David told Ziba that Ziba and his family were to help farm King Saul’s land for Mephibosheth. David was kind to Mephibosheth. ♥ God wants us to be kind to others too.



How to Say It

Mephibosheth Meh-*fib*-o-sheth
Ziba Zye-buh

Materials

masking tape (or painter’s tape)



More! Bible Review

Before class, use the tape to make three numbered squares on the floor.

SAY: **Let’s review the three things David did to be kind to Mephibosheth.** As each child hops through squares 1, 2, and 3, have the other children name the three things David did to be kind: promised to be kind, gave King Saul’s land to Mephibosheth, and said Mephibosheth would eat with the king.

ASK: **What is a way that David was kind?**

Who was David kind to?

Materials

Resources CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file, Bible



More! Bible Memory Proverbs 17:17

Before class, print and display the motions from the CD.

SAY: **Let’s say our Bible Memory and do the motions.** Do so. ASK: **Who would like to read the Bible Memory from my Bible?** Help children find and “read” from your Bible. **Can you say the words with your eyes closed?** Do so. **This week, find someone at home to teach these words and motions to. That would be a kind thing to do! You can be a friend to that person.**

More! Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

- 3** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **name ways they can be kind**.

Quick Step Scout Is a Kind Friend

ASK Scout: **What kind of friend are you, Scout?** Scout whispers to you. **Oh, you're that kind of friend?** Scout nods his head. **Tell us more!** Scout whispers to you.

Show first animal. **This is Scout's friend Nicky. Yesterday Nicky dropped all his food down the steps, so Scout got a basket and helped Nicky gather his food.** Scout nods. **Let's clap for Scout.** Have children clap.

Show the second animal. **This friend of Scout's loves to run and play in the bushes, but her mom won't let her play outside by herself. So Scout offered to play with her.** Scout nods. **Let's clap for Scout.** Do so.

Show third animal. **When Scout's friend Lucy was born, her ears did not work. She can't hear. So when danger is near, Scout runs to her and paws at her.** Scout nods. **Let's clap for Scout.** Do so. Scout takes a bow.

If you think Scout is a kind friend, stand and say, "Scout, you are kind!" Allow for responses. **♥ God wants us to be kind too, the kind of friend that Scout is.**

ASK: **How was Scout kind to his friends?**

How can you be kind to someone who needs help?

Tabletop Kindness Reminder

Before class, make copies of the tabletop reminder.

SAY: **♥ God wants us to be kind. Our Bible story was about how David was kind to Mephibosheth. Let's make a craft that will remind us to be kind every day.**

Encourage children to color their watches and draw pictures of ways they can be kind. Assist as needed as they cut out, fold, and assemble the craft. Help them glue their watches where indicated. Ask children to share with others their drawings of ways to be kind.

ASK: **When are some times during the day that you can be kind?**

How will you be kind in the morning? afternoon? evening?

Who can you be kind to?

Especially for 4s!



Before class, cut out the watches and reminders. Talk to children about where they are in the morning, afternoon, and evening. Who can they be kind to in those places? How?

Saying Good-bye

• Play a guessing game. Make statements such as "Guess who was kind enough to help me get things ready for class time" or "Guess who was kind enough to say thank you to me during class time."

• Be sure children have projects made in class and this week's *Heart Tugs*. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Focus

♥ God wants us to be kind.

Materials

Scout puppet, 3 different (non-dog) stuffed animals



Materials

Resources CD Tabletop Kindness Reminder printable file, blunt-tip scissors, glue sticks, washable markers (or crayons)



Cleanup

Have the children work in pairs to clean the classroom. Emphasize how they are being kind to each other, helping each other, as they clean.

