

17.28 Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:1–13)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [. . .] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *type of Christ*: a person or event that pictures Jesus
- *nurse*: a fulltime babysitter; a nanny

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Samuel 4:4 Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled, and as she fled in her haste, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

9:1 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 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.

Introduction/Review:

Last week we learned that God was with David wherever he went as he warred against God’s enemies. [A quick review with the flashcards from the last lesson is recommended.] We also learned that children who belong to Jesus also have enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil.

This week we have a story that gives us a picture of what Jesus is like. David pictures Jesus—he is what is called a “type” of Christ. We are in the story too. The man David helps, Mephibosheth, pictures us. I’ll try to help you see these pictures as I tell the story.

Story:

Remembering

After David's wars, when he was back home in his house at Jerusalem, David got to thinking about his old friend Jonathan. He remembered the promise they had made to each other about nineteen years before. They had said they would be kind to each other's children. Now David wondered, "Are there any grandchildren of Saul left, especially Jonathan's children, so that I may be kind to them because of my promise to Jonathan?"

Right away, we can see a picture of Jesus in David. Jesus is the One who came to "seek and to save" those who are lost in sin (Luke 19:10).

Preparing

Someone told David about a man who had been a servant to Saul. This servant's name was Ziba [ZEE bah]. David sent for Ziba.

"Ziba," David said. "Are any of Saul's grandchildren living that I may show kindness ✓because of my love for and my promise to Jonathan?"

"There still is a son of Jonathan."

✓David's heart must have leaped for joy—a son of *Jonathan* was still live. But ✓what Ziba said next might have made David sad. "He is crippled in both his feet."

You see, this is what had happened. Jonathan's son was five years old when Jonathan died in battle. The family left at home knew they needed to run away and hide. Jonathan's son had a nanny (a full-time babysitter also called a nurse) who picked the boy up in order to run away, but as she "hurried to leave, he fell and became crippled" (2 Samuel 4:4, NIV).

Here's another picture. We are like that crippled boy who couldn't walk. We are unable to come to God on our own because of our sin.

Now that boy had grown up to be ✓about twenty years old and even had a young son of his own.

David asked, "Where is Jonathan's son?"

Ziba answered, "He lives in the house of Machir [MAH keer] in Lo-debar [Lo DEE bar] in northwest Gilead" [locate]. Apparently, ✓Jonathan's son still needed special care, and the man named Machir provided him a home.

Keeping

Ziba went to Lo-debar and brought Jonathan's son and his family to Jerusalem. When the young man came before David, he bowed down, putting his face to the floor in honor to King David. Then David called Jonathan's son by name, "Mephibosheth!" [meh FIB O sheth].

This is the name of Jonathan's son. It's a hard one—Mephibosheth. Try saying it one syllable at a time.

Here's another picture. David, picturing Christ, knew the name of Jonathan's son. Jesus, the Bible says, calls his people by name. He knows our names.

I wonder what Mephibosheth was thinking. ✓Was it, "My grandfather Saul said David was our enemy, but my father loved him like a brother. Who was right? What will he do to me—the grandson of the ex-king?"

Accepting

Mephibosheth said out loud, however, "Your servant."

Immediately, David calmed Mephibosheth. "Don't be afraid. Because you are Jonathan's son, I will definitely show you kindness. You can count on it. I will give you all the land that your grandfather, Saul, used to have. I want you to eat with me at my table always just as my sons do."

Kindness! Great kindness! Wonderful kindness came from David to Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was overwhelmed. Again, he bowed and said, "What is your servant that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

Let's again look at the picture: David blessed Mephibosheth with far more than he could ever dream. God blesses His children with numberless blessings so that His children bow before Him and give Him praise.

Then David called for Ziba, Saul's servant. "I've given to Mephibosheth everything that was Saul's. I've asked him to eat with me all the time. Now you, your fifteen sons, and your twenty servants do what Mephibosheth tells you to do and farm the land. Give him the money from harvesting the crops so that he is provided for. However, he will eat with my family."

"I'll do everything you command," answered Ziba. So now Mephibosheth had servants and ate with King David. What a wonderful picture of God's care for His own.

Lesson[s] from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

As David sought out Mephibosheth, so Jesus came to seek and to save those who were lost.

As David called Mephibosheth by name, so Jesus, who knows all things, calls his people by name. He knows their names.

David blessed Mephibosheth with far more than he had ever dreamed of. God blesses His children with numberless blessings so that His children bow before Him and give Him praise.

Activities:

- Play dough: crutches; food; plate; silverware
- Snack: grapes and/or a small sandwich
- Get a crutch or two and have students practice walking with crutches.
- Think of ways and demonstrate how a cripple gets around; *e.g.*, with crutches; in a wheelchair; having a person on each side support the person.
- Talk about ways to help a crippled person; *e.g.*, fetch needed items; make a meal.
- Review questions: (Game: Print the small pictures of David's eating at a table. Back with paper towel. Students will place one picture on a flannel board for each correct answer to a question.)
 1. How did Mephibosheth become lame? [When his nurse hurried to get him to safety, he fell.]
 2. David asked a question about Jonathan's family. What was that question? ["Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"]
 3. What was the name of Saul's servant who answered David's question? [Ziba.]
 4. David promised Mephibosheth three things. Name one. [1. "I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. 2. I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father. 3. You shall eat at my table always."]
 5. Fill in the blank. To eat at the king's table was to be treated like one of the king's _____. [Sons.]

Memory Verse[s]: (KJV)

- Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Handwork:

- Print and have students color the picture found at 16e67c438f05de20128d80bd160c9421.gif (361×361) (pinimg.com).

type of Christ

Mephibosheth

nurse

ISRAEL

IN THE TIME OF KING DAVID









David's Promises to Mephibosheth

1. I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan.
2. I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father.
3. You shall eat at my table always.



