



## PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**July 11, 2021 – Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:1-13)**

### **Prepare to Wonder**

### **Faith Word: Belong**

When David was growing up, his best friend was King Saul's son, Jonathan. Jonathan helped David escape when his father wanted to kill David. Jonathan and David made a covenant, a promise, to always take care of each other and each other's families.

Our story today takes place after King Saul has died and David is established as king. He remembered his promise to Jonathan. David sent for a man named Ziba. Ziba had been a servant in King Saul's household. David asked Ziba if there were any surviving family members from Jonathan's household. Ziba told him that Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, was still alive and he was disabled.

When David learned of Mephibosheth, he sent for him. Mephibosheth may have been afraid that David would have him killed because he was a descendant of King Saul. New kings often killed family members of the old king because they were afraid they would try to take the kingdom. Instead, King David returned some of Jonathan's property to him and arranged for servants to take care of the property. David did all that and more. He invited Mephibosheth to eat with him at his table every night.

David made sure that he not only cared for Mephibosheth, but he made him feel like he belonged. He treated him as a member of his own family by dining with him every night. Children can understand that friends and family are important and that when we share, invite, and include, we are helping everyone along in God's family. One spiritual gift a child might have is being a good friend or finding ways to include others. Help children see these gifts in themselves and in their friends. God invites all people to the table, and so should we.

### **Wonder with Me**

#### **READ the Bible Story**

- Babel, from 2 Samuel 9:1-13 (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed below, or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

**9** David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

**2** Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

"At your service," he replied.

**3** The king asked, "Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"

Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet."

**4** "Where is he?" the king asked.

Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar."

**5** So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

**6** When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.

David said, "Mephibosheth!"

"At your service," he replied.

**7** "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table."

**8** Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

**9** Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's steward, and said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. **10** You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

**11** Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's<sup>[a]</sup> table like one of the king's sons.

**12** Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth. **13** And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet.

## **WATCH the Bible Story**

- <https://youtu.be/jEHhyH2Kb3c>

## **SHARE the Faith Word**

Faith Word: Belong – means to know you are accepted and included in God’s family.

### **WONDER Together:**

1. What does it mean to belong?
2. What makes you feel like you belong when you are with your friends?
3. Why does god create each perons to be unique and different?

## **Spiritual Practice**

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 14 & 15). On page 15 (*and below*) you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

**King David invited Mephibosheth to always eat with him, even though hew as not family. He treated Mephibosheth like he belonged to King David’s family.**

**What is one way your family can treat someone as family?**

**Consider volunteering at a homeless shelter, sitting with others or sharing a meal.**

**Pray that God will help you make others feel like they belong.**

## **Go in Peace**

**Blessing:** Touch your child and say: **“May God show you ways to make all people feel like they belong.”**

**Prayer:** **Dear God, help me work to show all people they are important and that they are loved and belong to You. Amen.**

## **Additional Activity for each age group**

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)

### David and Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 9:1-13

King David was thinking about his best friend, Jonathan, who had died. King David asked one of his helpers, "Is there anyone in Jonathan's family whom I can care for?" David's helper said, "Jonathan has a son whose name is Mephibosheth." King David asked some of his helpers to find Mephibosheth.

When the helpers brought Mephibosheth to King David, he said, "Don't be afraid. I want to be kind to you. Your father, Jonathan, and I were good friends. I would like you to eat with me at my table." King David invited Mephibosheth to eat with him always, and he gave Mephibosheth everything that had belonged to Mephibosheth's father and grandfather.

**I wonder:** How can you show care to someone else?





# Color Sheet for all



## Faith Word—Unit 2

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BELONG



# Preschool Activity

## Eat Like a King (Snack)

**Supplies:** paper plates, plastic spoons and forks, napkins, snack foods (you may even try some items that they would have eaten in Bible times – nuts, cheese, bread, raisins, olives)

Give your child a paper plate, a napkin, utensils needed and snack items.

**Say: David invited Miphibosheth to eat with him every night. We eat with people too. By eating together, we spend time together and talk to one another. We grow closer to the people we share a meal with.**

- **Let's sit down and share a snack together and enjoy spending time with one another.**

# Early Elementary Activity

## Chosen Family

**Supplies:** None

**Say:** In our Bible story, King David treated Mephibosheth like family because David was friends with Mephibosheth's dad.

**Wonder:** Do you know that you don't have to be related to feel like family? What do you think makes people feel like family?

**Say:** Many of us have people in our lives who are like family. These people are called "chosen family." Let's name some people who can be part of a chosen family. Almost anyone can be part of your chosen family.

# Older Elementary Activity

## Chosen Family

**Supplies:** None

**Say:** In our Bible story, King David treated Mephibosheth like family because David was friends with Mephibosheth's dad.

**Wonder:** Do you know that you don't have to be related to feel like family? What do you think makes people feel like family?

**Say:** Many of us have people in our lives who are like family. These people are called "chosen family." Let's name some people who can be part of a chosen family. Almost anyone can be part of your chosen family.



# David is Kind to Mephibosheth

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s n o g u o f s o k a l n e v i  
b a f f p l s i c r o a t s t s  
o n o s d n a r g o p e m s o o

## Word Bank

King David  
Jonathan  
Ziba  
servant  
kindness  
Mephibosheth  
land  
grandfather  
King Saul  
produce  
grandson  
food  
table  
Jerusalem  
City of David  
Mica  
King of Israel  
battles  
victories  
spoils of war

# David is Kind to Mephibosheth

