

Samuel 9:1–13

Samuel 9:7

BIBLICAL PASSAGE:

MEMORY VERSE:

“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.”

2 Samuel 9:7

We want our children to be loving, caring individuals who reveal the nature of Christ in their daily lives. David’s relationship to Mephibosheth is a model of God’s loving concern. For our children to reflect love like David directed toward Mephibosheth, they must first feel blessed and loved at their parent’s table. They need to feel cherished. The love you direct toward your children will help God turn them into loving individuals.

Read 2 Samuel 9: 1–13. Jonathan was the son of King Saul, who wanted to kill David. But David was Jonathan’s best friend. As Jonathan saved David’s life from his father’s wrath they made a covenant to care for one another’s families. David was able to keep that covenant by showing

lovingkindness upon Mephibosheth, Jonathans’ crippled child. Mephibosheth had been hidden from David from his earliest memory. When David summoned him to court he must have felt it was a death sentence. But instead, David brought him into the court, gave him the honor of eating at the king’s table, and restored to him the family lands of Saul and Jonathan. In this David acted as God acts toward us. He blesses us not because we are deserving, but because of the sacrifice of Christ Jesus.

Much of the lesson this week concerns how David demonstrated love to one who didn’t expect it, didn’t feel he deserved it, and feared David. Do your children expect your love? Do they feel they deserve it? Do they fear you?

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIME

Connect . . .

First, a family member finds an old storybook the parents used to read as a bedtime story. Next, the family reads this story together. Then, the family discusses memories of the story itself and the time spent reading it.

Explore . . .

A family member reads 2 Samuel 9: 1–13. Next, the family discusses: **The Bible is God’s Word, but sometimes we have to work to get the meat out. Sometimes its truth is not stated directly but is instead shaped in the form of stories—like Jesus did with His parables. How do the stories of Scripture—like this one about David and Mephibosheth—reveal to us God’s love for us?**

Transform . . .

The family discusses ways to open their home to others to show them the love of Christ Jesus.

Pray that God would make you a loving, outgoing family that demonstrates God’s love in practical ways to those who are “hiding from the King.”