

THE KING'S TABLE

Mephibosheth
2 Samuel 4:4;
9:1–13
1009 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives all good gifts.

BIBLE VERSE

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Psalm 107:1

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God gives all good gifts.

LAW & GOSPEL

We think we own and deserve everything we have in this life, forgetting that God is the giver of all good things.

God loves us with an unconditional love. He forgives our thanklessness for Jesus' sake and continues to provide us with all that we need for our body and life.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, suffered crippling injuries at age 5 while escaping Saul's enemies with his nurse. Once David established his kingdom, his thoughts turned to any possible survivors from Saul and Jonathan's line. Discovering Mephibosheth, David bestows on him Saul's land and fortune. Mephibosheth's family moves to Jerusalem, where he always eats at the king's table.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1–13 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read the section "Daily Prayers and Table of Duties" in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Whiteboard and dry-erase markers
- Mason jar and feathers
- Play dishes
- Crutches and mittens
- Digital device
- Popcorn and candy corn
- Paper hearts

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

PRAY

Gracious heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together to study Your Word. Help us to learn how You give us all good gifts. In Your name we pray. Amen.

SAY

- Talk about kings to see what children know about them. Say, **Today we will hear about how a king shared the blessings God gave him with a man who needed help. Blessings are the good gifts God gives us.**
- Who is usually invited to Thanksgiving dinner? Often it's family, friends, and people we love. Would you invite people who might not like you or your family? In our story today, we learn about an unusual guest at King David's table.**

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or more of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- FOR LEARNERS WHO ARE YOUNGER** Reinforce how God blessed David with a palace and many good gifts. He worked in David's heart so David shared what he had with Mephibosheth. Say, **God gives us good gifts too and helps us share them with others.** Ask children to name ways God blesses them (e.g., food, clothing, parents, forgiveness through Jesus) and ways they can share their blessings with others (e.g., share toys, make cards for people, sing in church).
- FOR ARTISTIC LEARNERS** Invite children to draw stick figures and pictures on a whiteboard or a large sheet of paper as you tell the Bible narrative. Then ask them to retell the story using the pictures
- FOR OLDER LEARNERS** Have students retell this story in their own words using modern-day names and situations.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose a few questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- Why was David kind to Mephibosheth?
- What was surprising about the way David treated Mephibosheth?
- Can you think of times in your life that have been difficult but God still provided His gifts?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- David showed thankfulness to God by helping others.
- David showed kindness to Mephibosheth because he had made a covenant with Jonathan and God, and to show thankfulness for God's gifts to him.
- In ancient times when a new king took the throne, he usually killed all the members of the family that had been in power. Instead of treating Mephibosheth like an enemy, David treated him like his own family and brought him to the king's table.
- Guide discussion about the way God provides for us.



CHRIST CONNECTION

In Christ, God has given us more than we could ever deserve: forgiveness, salvation, and adoption into God's family forever.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Ask children to use their hands to make a circle “crown” over their head whenever they hear “king.”

Remember King David? When he was a boy, he took care of his father’s sheep. Then he became a soldier and worked for King Saul. In King Saul’s house, David met Prince Jonathan, King Saul’s son.

Prince Jonathan and David became best friends. They promised to be good and kind to each other’s families. One day there was a bad war. Prince Jonathan and King Saul were both killed in the war. David became the new king.

I wonder . . . do you think David remembered his promise to his friend Jonathan? *Pause for answer.*

Let’s find out.

Yes! King David told his helpers, “I want to be kind to Jonathan’s son. Find out where he lives and bring him to me.”

The name of Prince Jonathan’s son was Mephibosheth. He lived far away from David. He couldn’t walk because his legs had been hurt when he was a little boy. King David’s helpers found Mephibosheth and brought him to King David.

King David told him, “Your father, Prince Jonathan, was

my friend. Now I want to be your friend too. I am going to help you as I promised him I would. Come and live in my palace. Eat at my table just like my children do.”

King David gave Mephibosheth a big farm. He told him, “I will give you the land that once belonged to your grandfather, King Saul. I will tell my servants to be kind to you. They will take care of the farm and give you whatever fruits, vegetables, and cattle grow there so you always have whatever you need.”

Mephibosheth was happy when he heard this. He came to live near King David. Every day they ate together at King David’s house as a family.

God was loving and kind to David. He gave King David many blessings. He helped him show love and kindness to Mephibosheth and share his blessings with him. God loves us and blesses us with good gifts too. He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior from sin. God gives us power to be kind to others. He helps us share our blessings with them.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

David was anointed by Samuel to be king, but the years before he took the throne were not always easy. David fought in many battles. King Saul was very jealous of David. He wanted his son Jonathan to be king, even though it was against God’s will. **Saul’s son Jonathan became very good friends with David**, and Jonathan helped protect David from Saul. **Jonathan and David made a promise to the Lord that they would always protect each other’s families.**

Both King Saul and Jonathan died in battle. **David became king of Israel, and God blessed the kingdom.** As the years passed, it was safe and prosperous. David had many blessings for which to thank God. David remembered the promise he had made with Jonathan. **He went looking for anyone left in Jonathan’s family so that he could show the kindness of God to them.**

There was a servant from Saul’s house named Ziba. He

knew that Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth, who had been injured when he was five years old. When Saul and Jonathan died, Mephibosheth was in danger because he was heir to the throne. His nurse had rushed him from the city, but she dropped Mephibosheth in her hurry, and he could no longer walk. Now, Mephibosheth had nothing and lived in a very desolate place. David was so happy to find him and bring him to the king’s palace.

Mephibosheth was terrified to see David. David said, “Don’t be afraid. I will show you kindness for the sake of your father, Jonathan, and I will give you all the land that was Saul’s. You will always eat at my table.” Mephibosheth bowed down and couldn’t believe that David would do such a thing. From that time on, Mephibosheth ate at the table just as if he was one of David’s sons. David gave him all the land that had been his father’s and he was well cared for. Mephibosheth was filled with joy.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

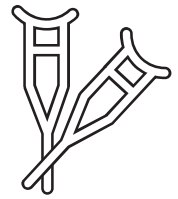
Turkey Hunt

Glue a paper circle face to a mason jar. Add wiggle eyes and a triangle beak. Hide feathers around the room. Have the children search for the turkey feathers. When they find a feather, have them add it to the jar. At the end of the game, take the feathers out one at a time. For each feather, have children name a way God has blessed them.



Learn about Disabilities

Help children begin to learn and understand more about disabilities by having students use crutches like Mephibosheth. Or have children cover their ears with thick mittens and listen to a recorded story played softly on a device. Talk about how they felt not being able to hear well. Remember to also talk about what people with disabilities can do, not just what they can't do. Say, **Sometimes our ears or eyes or feet don't work the way God intended. But God gives us many blessings still, even when we have problems** (e.g., hearing aids, glasses, and wheelchairs). **God also blesses us by giving us people to care for us. God is good to us!**



Play Dough Dinner

Set out play dough, utensils, and play dishes. Encourage the children to make food to serve a friend. Ask, **What food are you making? Who gives us our food? Yes, God blesses us with food and other good gifts. He helps us share our blessings with others.**



Sharing Snack

Give some children popcorn and some candy corn. Talk about God's gifts and how God helps us share our blessings. Have children share some of what they got with one another so everyone ends up with both treats. Have them count out two candy corn pieces and name two blessings they are thankful for.



Turkey, Turkey, Pumpkin Pie

Play Duck, Duck, Goose but use the words Turkey, Turkey, Pumpkin Pie. Then have children name blessings God gives them that they are thankful for. Remind them that blessings are God's good gifts to us. Write the name of each blessing on a precut heart and give it to the child. Save the hearts to use at closing.



Action Bible Verse

Say the Bible Verse, and show children the actions.



Oh give thanks to the LORD, *Fold hands in prayer.*
for He is good, *Point up.*
for His steadfast love endures forever! *Hug self.*
Psalm 107:1 *Make book with hands.*

LEAVE

SAY

Today we learned that God is good. He blesses us with good gifts and helps us share our blessings with others. Let's ask God to help us share our blessings this week by showing love for others.

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for Your gifts of love. Thank You for [name of blessing]. Repeat prayer, having each child name the blessing shown on his or her heart. Help us share our blessings with others. For Jesus' sake. Amen.