



Session 3: David and Mephibosheth

God's Hope is for everyone, even people on the outside.
Heroes Of Hope look for opportunities to show kindness.



Bible Story

Our Hero Of Hope in this story is King David, who shows kindness to someone whose life was a struggle and who may even have been afraid of David.

Background

- ◆ Before David was made king, he was best friends with Jonathan, the son of King Saul.
- ◆ When Jonathan was a grown up, he had a son called Mephibosheth – we'll call him Meph.
- ◆ When Meph was only five years old, Jonathan and King Saul both died in a battle with the Philistines. So, David became the new king.
- ◆ When King Saul died, some of his family were afraid that David's army would come after them. So, they fled from their homes.
- ◆ A nurse was carrying Meph as they ran away, but she accidentally dropped him and his feet were very badly injured meaning that he wasn't able to walk. (2 Sam 4:4). We don't hear about Meph for quite a few years. He was probably kept out of the way and out of sight, because of his disability and because his family were afraid of King David.

Bible Passage Part 1 - Read 2 Samuel 9

Read the passage or watch an animated version of the story (link below and on web page).

The story continues...

- ◆ Meph lived in the king's household for the rest of his life and he learned how to show kindness to other people, just like David.
- ◆ Even though David messed up lots of times, he still continued to show love and kindness to people, which pleased God.
- ◆ Year's later, one of David's descendants (his 'Great x 27' grandson) would be the most important Hero Of Hope that ever lived...

Animated Bible Story

If you'd like to watch an animated version of today's Bible story, you may want to click on either of the following links. Both will take you to external sites with suitable versions of the stories.

(CMSI bears no responsibility for the content on these pages).

Flipbuilder Story Book: <https://online.flipbuilder.com/zrww/citj/>

Elevate Kids : <https://elevatekids.com/i-will-treat-others-the-way-god-would-want-me-to-treat-them/>
(Hard to find good videos for this story, but if you can cope with the rollercoaster bits on this one, it tells the story quite well!)



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Bible Passage: 2 Samuel 9 [International Children's Bible]

1 David asked, "Is there anyone still left in Saul's family? I want to show kindness to this person for Jonathan's sake!"

2 Now there was a servant named Ziba from Saul's family. So David's servants called Ziba to him. King David said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

He answered, "Yes, I am Ziba, your servant."

3 The king asked, "Is there anyone left in Saul's family? I want to show God's kindness to this person."

Ziba answered the king, "Jonathan has a son still living. He is crippled in both feet."

4 The king asked Ziba, "Where is this son?"

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

5 Then King David had servants bring Jonathan's son from the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar. **6** Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, came before David and bowed facedown on the floor.

David said, "Mephibosheth!"

Mephibosheth said, "I am your servant."

7 David said to him, "Don't be afraid. I will be kind to you for your father Jonathan's sake. I will give you back all the land of your grandfather Saul. And you will always be able to eat at my table."

8 Mephibosheth bowed to David again. Mephibosheth said, "You are being very kind to me, your servant! And I am no better than a dead dog!"

9 Then King David called Saul's servant Ziba. David said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. **10** You, your sons and your servants will farm the land for Mephibosheth. You will harvest the crops. Then your master's grandson will have food to eat. But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, will always be able to eat at my table."

(Now Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants.) **11** Ziba said to King David, "I am your servant. I will do everything my master, the king, commands me."

So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as if he were one of the king's sons. **12** Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica. Everyone in Ziba's family became Mephibosheth's servants. **13** Mephibosheth was crippled in both feet. He lived in Jerusalem and always ate at the king's table.