

Scripture

2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13

Memory Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:15

NIV: *Always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.*

TEV: *At all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people.*

Lesson Focus

David showed God's love to Mephibosheth.

Lesson Goals

- 1 Tell how David was kind to Mephibosheth;
- 2 Describe ways he or she may be kind;
- 3 Plan a way to express kindness to someone.

Life Focus



Age Level Tip

Draw attention to any kind actions you observe in your class with comments like, **That was kind of you, Jared, to help Nomfundo when she dropped her pencil. Thank you.** Reinforce the positive behaviours, instead of always focusing on negative behaviours.

The King's Kindness



5 - 15 minutes

MATERIALS

Bible, paper, pen.

PREPARATION

On paper or a chalkboard, write the word "kind" in large capital letters.

PROCEDURE

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15 aloud. **Today in our Bible story we are going to hear about someone who promised to be kind.** Show the word "kind." **Let's make the word *kind* with our bodies.** Ask, **How many people will it take to make the letter *K*?** (Three people, or one person holding out his or her arms.) Help children form the letter *K*, either standing or lying on the floor. Continue guiding children to form the letters *I*, *N*, and *D*.



20 - 30 minutes

The King's Kindness

The Bible story may be told by one teacher in a large group, or in small groups with individual teachers.

MATERIALS

Bible for each child.

BIBLE SKILLS

Second Samuel is the book of the Bible that is all about one king. To find the name of this king, read 2 Samuel 9:1. Help children find the reference and identify the name "David."

INTRODUCTION

If you moved into a new house in a different neighbourhood, what would change for you? (Different school, friends, church, etc.) **Our Bible story today is about someone whose life became VERY different because he moved to a new place.**

STORY SUMMARY

Tell the following story in your own words.

MEPHIBOSHETH'S TERRIBLE DAY

A long time ago, in the palace at Jerusalem, there lived a little boy called Mephibosheth (pronounced Muh-FIB-oh-sheth). He was the grandson of Saul and a son of Jonathan. In one terrible day Mephibosheth's life changed! Both his father, Jonathan, and his grandfather, Saul the king, were killed in a battle. Mephibosheth's nurse (the woman who took care of him) heard the sad news. She picked him up and ran away from the palace as fast as she could. Little Mephibosheth must have been feeling very frightened.

The nurse was running away because she wanted to save Mephibosheth's life. The nurse thought Saul's enemies might try to kill Mephibosheth. But the nurse was in such a hurry that she dropped the little boy. His feet were badly injured.

HARD TIMES

Mephibosheth grew up safely, but his feet did not work very well any more. **What actions do you use your feet for? What things might have been hard for Mephibosheth to do?** He was not able to work in the field growing food. He couldn't go to battle as his father and grandfather had done. Many crippled people in those days were treated unkindly. They were often given the food and other things that no one else wanted.

THE SCARY MESSAGE

One day something VERY unusual happened to Mephibosheth. A man named Ziba came to the house where Mephibosheth lived. Ziba had a message from King David.

"Mephibosheth," Ziba said. "King David wants you to come to the palace. You must come with me."

How would you have felt if you were Mephibosheth?

MEPHIBOSHETH'S BIG SURPRISE

Mephibosheth was shaking with fear as he bowed down to the king. He was afraid that he might be killed because he was a grandson of king Saul!

"Mephibosheth!" David called out with excitement.

"I am your servant," Mephibosheth said, too afraid to look up.

David saw that Mephibosheth was really scared. He said, "Don't be afraid. I will be kind to you because your father, Jonathan, was my best friend. I will give you all the land that belonged to your grandfather, Saul. Also, I want you to eat with me at my table every day."

Mephibosheth couldn't believe what he had heard. The king had invited Mephibosheth to eat with him every day!

Mephibosheth was surprised and asked, "Why are you treating me so well. I am not important at all."

"Your father and I promised each other that we would be kind to each other's families," King David explained.

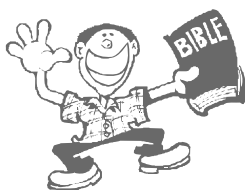
How do you think David felt about his good friend's son? David cared very much about Mephibosheth because he was Jonathan's son.

THE KING'S NEW FRIEND

But that wasn't all! David knew that, because Mephibosheth was crippled, he could not work in the lands David had given him. David called to his servant Ziba. "You and your sons are to farm the land I have given Mephibosheth," David announced. "Bring in the crops you grow there. Mephibosheth will eat with me!"

Ziba bowed and said, "I will do everything you have commanded me to do."

David treated Mephibosheth with great kindness, as if he were David's own son. Mephibosheth spent the rest of his life in Jerusalem, and he ate at the king's table.



CONCLUSION

If the Bible story was told in a large group, divide class into small groups now. Lead children in reviewing the Bible story and applying the Bible truths to their lives. Complete *iNdlela Student Activity Pages* for Lesson 27.

MATERIALS

Bibles, copies of *iNdlela Student Activity Pages* for Lesson 27.

PROCEDURE

Designate a chair in your classroom as the "hot spot." **When you are in the hot spot, pretend to be either David or Mephibosheth. We'll ask you questions about the story. Who would like to be in the hot spot first?** The child in the hot spot chooses to be David or Mephibosheth and answer one or more questions from the group such as, "David, what did you promise Mephibosheth's father, Jonathan?" "What did you say to Mephibosheth when he came to see you?" "Why were you kind to Mephibosheth?" "Mephibosheth, how were you crippled?" "How did you feel when Ziba came to get you?" "How did David surprise you?"

After several children have had a turn ask,

» **What choice did David have to make?**

(To keep his promise or not. To be kind to some-one others might call an enemy.)

» **What did David do to show kindness?**

» **Why do you think it's wise to be kind to others?** (Shows our love for God. Helps others. People will treat us in kind ways, too.)

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15 aloud with the children. **This**

verse was written to people who were all in the same church. God wanted people to be kind not only to those in their church - but also to people who WEREN'T in their church. God wants us to be kind whenever we have the chance - not just to our friends.

» **What are some ways we can be kind to someone?** Children may take turns sitting in the hot spot, telling times they may be kind. Encourage children to be specific in their responses.

» **How can you be kind to someone who is older than you? younger than you?**

» **How can you be kind to someone on the playground? in your neighbourhood?**

Direct children to complete 'All of Me' on Page 1 of the *iNdlela Student Activity Pages*.

Close the activity in prayer asking God to help the children show kindness in the ways they mentioned.





20 - 30 minutes

Choose one of the following activities to help your students explore the relationship between the Bible truth they have been studying and their day-to-day experiences.

Empathy Option What's It Like?

MATERIALS

Bibles, several blindfolds, one or more garden gloves, coins, paper clips, pencils.

PROCEDURE

1. **What things would Mephibosheth have had trouble doing?** (Walking, working in a field or as a soldier, making his own meals.) **How did the king's kindness help Mephibosheth?** (David provided food and servants to help him.)

2. **How does God want us to treat people?** Volunteers respond. **God wants us to be kind not only to our friends but to everyone else, too.**

3. **Today we are going to do an activity to imagine what it would be like to have a disability. Then we will think of ways to be kind to someone with a disability.** Group children in pairs and lead them in one or more of these activities. At the end of each activity invite children to suggest ways to be kind to someone who has that disability:

(1) Each child takes a turn to wear a blindfold while his or her partner leads the child around the room. Help children imagine what it would be like to be blind by asking, **What would you do at break time if you were blind? When would you need help in your class at school?**



(2) Each child takes a turn to plug ears with fingers while child's partner talks. Children will experience what it is like to have difficulty hearing.

(3) Each child takes a turn to wear a garden glove and try to pick up one or more small objects (pencils, coins or paper clips). This will help children see what it would be like to have a muscular disease that would make activities like this difficult.

TEACHING TIPS

1. In your conversation, emphasise that disabled people sometimes look different due to their disability, but they have the same feelings and experiences that people without physical disabilities do.
2. Have children take turns role-playing. One child wears a blindfold, while another child acts out doing something kind for the "blind" child, such as opening the door for the blind child or leading the blind child to a chair. Give each child a chance to role-play the disabled person and the kind person.

Game Option The Kindness Game

MATERIALS

Bibles, one copy of Resource D from *iNdelela Student Activity Pages* onto card for every two children, scissors.

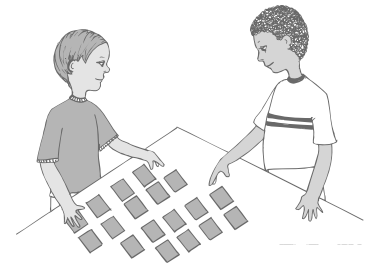
PROCEDURE

1. **How do you feel when a child at school is horrible to you?** (Angry. Sad.) **How do you feel when someone is kind to you?** Volunteers answer. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15 with the children. **How does God want us to treat each other?** Volunteers answer. **What are some ways that you can be kind at school?** (Let someone else go first. Help someone who fell down.) **What are some ways that you can be kind at home?** (Share with my brother or sister. Help my Mom and Dad.)

2. **Today we are going to play a game to help us remember ways to be kind.** Divide group into pairs. (You may need to be one child's partner.) Pass out copies of Resource D and scissors to each pair. One child in each pair cuts out the pictures on Resource D page 1, while the other child cuts out the pictures on Resource D page 2. Pairs combine their cards and shuffle them.

3. To play the game, children put the cards face down in rows. First player turns over two cards. If both cards show pictures of kind actions, the child collects both cards. If both cards show unkind actions or one kind and one unkind action, the child turns cards face down again. The game continues until all 12 cards showing kind actions have been collected.

4. Children may change partners and play again.



Praise Time

PRAYER

Think of someone you know who is frightened, sad or sick. Volunteers tell about the situations. **How could you show that person kindness?** Volunteers respond. Repeat 1 Thessalonians 5:15 substituting names of people in place of the words "each other and everyone else." Lead children in prayer, asking God's help to be kind.

WORSHIP SONG

Sing a song about kindness or showing love to others.

Distribute the *iNdelela Student Activity Pages* before students leave. Call attention to the Read-aloud Story and Questions to Talk About to be done at home.