

Kindness

[Mephibosheth]



THE BIG IDEA

God shows great kindness to us, so we can be kind to others.



MEMORY VERSE

See resource FOS4 Ideas for Learning Memory Verses.

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.



KEY VERSE

2 Samuel 9:7 (ESV)

David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always."



READ

1 Samuel 20:12-17; 2 Samuel 4:4; 2 Samuel 9.



DISCUSSION

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask them to write down something kind they will do for someone in the coming week.

They fold it, write their name on the front, and put it in a box. The following week hand them out again. Each child can read what they said they would do and see if they have done it. The children should only tell the group about these if they want to.

Resources

▶ Praise Songs

See Resource FOS5



Love, Joy, Peace, by Shelley Spiers

YouTube

Fruit of the Spirit Children's Song

https://bit.ly/FOS_Song

▶ Game

See Resource FOS1



Musical Pair Chairs

▶ Crafts

See Resource FOS3



Portraits

Kindness Kid (PDF)

▶ Programme Card

Jars of Sunshine

https://bit.ly/AB_Sunshine_Jars

Ideas to get you started

- Share your sweets
- Talk to a new child at school
- Write a thank you note
- Sharpen all the pencils at your desk
- Ask a new child in the street to play
- Put your coat away without being asked
- Give someone a compliment
- Donate some old toys to charity



The Talk

[Ask] "Have you got a best friend?"

[Give the children time to tell you who their friend is.] Well, there were two boys in the Bible who were really good friends. Their names were David and Jonathan. They were such good friends they would have done anything for each other.

Jonathan was a prince - His father was the king, King Saul. David wasn't a prince and yet God had told David that he would be the next king, not Jonathan. That seemed really strange, but David and Jonathan were still really good friends. They didn't know all that was going to happen, but they knew they always wanted to be friends. David promised that no matter what happened, he would always be kind to Jonathan and his family.

Many years later so much had happened. There had been a big war and Jonathan had been killed and Jonathan's father the King had been killed. So David was now the new king, just like God had said. Even though so much had happened and so many years had passed, David remembered his promise and wanted to keep it. He wanted to be kind to Jonathan's family. Normally in those days, a new king didn't care about the family of the old king. Normally the new king wanted rid of the old king's family. David wasn't like that. He had made a promise. "Is there anyone from old King Saul's family alive, so that I can show them kindness?, he asked one day. "One of Saul's servants is still around", his servants answered, "We could ask him". So, they brought in the servant of the old King. His name was Ziba. "Is there anyone still alive from King Saul's family who I can show God's kindness to?" asked David. David wanted to show God's kindness to others. He knew that God was good and that God had been kind to him, and so he wanted to show God's kindness to others.

[Ask] Did you know that God has been kind to us too? What do you think God has given you

to show His kindness? [Give the boys time to answer']

God gives us so many things but the greatest thing that God did to show His kindness to us, was send Jesus into the world to die for us. You see, we have all done things that are wrong. We've all sinned but God loved us so much He sent Jesus into the world to take our sin by dying on the cross. That means that we can be forgiven from our sin and one day live with Him forever in Heaven. God showed kindness in sending Jesus for us. If we have trusted Jesus to be our Saviour, then we can be kind to others because we know how kind God has been to us.

David found that there was still someone alive from Jonathan's family. He was a young man called Mephibosheth. That's a hard name to say, isn't it? Meh-fib-o-sheth. Can you try to say it? Mephibosheth had been dropped on his feet when he was only 5 years old and he had never been able to walk properly again. His life must have been hard, but David had made a promise to Jonathan that he would always be kind to his family, so he sent for Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth came in front of David and he must have been terrified. What was going to happen to him! David said to him, "Mephibosheth, don't be afraid. I'm going to show you kindness because of your father, Jonathan. I'm going to give you land and servants, and you're going to come and eat at my table every day." Wow! Can you imagine how Mephibosheth felt? The king was going to be kind to him! He was going to have his own land and his own house, and he was going to eat at the King's table every day! How amazing it all was.

God had been kind to David and now David was kind to Mephibosheth. **God has been kind to us too!** He sent Jesus into the world for you, and you can trust in Jesus to be your Saviour and forgive all your sins. Then you can go out and be kind to others because God has been kind to you.