



4. Bible Study

10 minutes

King David Helps Others: 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13

Set Up: Mephibosheth was a man who was crippled and needed the help of others to get by in life.

Give the boys a small taste of what interdependence is like. Have some small reward on hand (trinkets, candy, etc.). Divide the boys into small groups of two or three. Blindfold one boy in each group. Bind the feet or legs of the other boys so they can't walk. Now, in full view of the boys who are lame, place obstacles (seat cushions, large boxes, chairs, etc.) between the boys who are blind and the reward. The boys who are lame can't get a reward unless the boys who are blind go and get it. The boys who are blind can't get the reward unless they are directed verbally by the boys who are lame. If one of them is directed into an obstacle, the commander leads him by the shoulders back to the starting point. The team that reaches the reward first wins. Then tell the story of 2 Samuel 4:4 and 2 Samuel 9:1-13.

Commander Says: Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son named Mephibosheth. When Mephibosheth was five years old, news came of an invading army. His nurse picked him up to flee, but in her haste she dropped him, and he became crippled.

Later, King David asked whether there were any of King Saul's family to whom he could show kindness. A servant of Saul's was brought to King David. He said that Jonathan's son Mephibosheth was still alive but crippled. David sent for the man.

When Mephibosheth was brought before the king, David told him not to be afraid. David said that he would give him all of the lands that Saul, Mephibosheth's grandfather, had owned. David even invited him to always eat at the king's table, as if he were a prince of the royal family. So Mephibosheth came to live in Jerusalem at the palace, and his grandfather's lands and servants became his own. Because of his friendship with Jonathan, King David reached out and was kind to Jonathan's son.

Review: Ask: "What was wrong with Mephibosheth?" (*He was crippled in both feet.*) "Who was Mephibosheth?" (*King Saul's grandson.*) "Who was Jonathan?" (*King Saul's son.*) "What did David do for Mephibosheth?" (*Gave him all of his grandfather's land and let him live in the king's palace.*)