

Underdogs

“Mephibosheth: Rags to Riches”

2 Samuel 4, 9

Small Group Plan

Mephibosheth is a difficult name to remember and pronounce, but his story not only illustrates the amazing love of King David, a man after God’s own heart, it also represents the very heart that David is trying to imitate — the heart of God himself.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Has your life or life situation ever reversed in a day? Explain.
- Has anyone ever gone to great lengths to show kindness to you? How?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

INTRODUCING MEPHIBOSHETH

2 Samuel 4:4

⁴ Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became crippled. His name was Mephibosheth.

- David clearly loved Jonathan, but how would you describe David’s relationship with Jonathan’s father, Saul?
- Why was David able to separate the two relationships and how does this motivate him to look for Mephibosheth?

DAVID SEARCHED FOR MEPHIBOSHETH

2 Samuel 9:1-4

¹ David asked, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” ² Now there was a servant of Saul’s household named Ziba. They called him to appear before David, and the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” “Your servant,” he replied. ³ The king asked, “Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God’s kindness?” Ziba answered the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet.” ⁴ “Where is he?” the king asked. Ziba answered, “He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.”

- Why was David searching for Mephibosheth?
- How would you describe Mephibosheth before he came to David?
- Mephibosheth is living in “Lo Debar” which means “no pasture.” How does this describe his life-situation?

DAVID CALLED FOR MEPHIBOSHETH

2 Samuel 9:5-8

⁵ So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel. ⁶ When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, “Mephibosheth!” “Your servant,” he replied. ⁷ “Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.” ⁸ Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”

- What do you think Mephibosheth might have been thinking about as he made his way to Jerusalem?
- Why did David immediately tell Mephibosheth that he has nothing to fear?
- Who else in scripture frequently says, “don’t be afraid” and why is this a major message from God?

DAVID SHOWED KINDNESS TO MEPHIBOSHETH

2 Samuel 9:9-13

⁹ Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s servant, and said to him, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. ¹⁰ You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master’s grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.” (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) ¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, “Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table like one of the king’s sons. ¹² Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica, and all the members of Ziba’s household were servants of Mephibosheth. ¹³ And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king’s table, and he was crippled in both feet.

- Imagine how Mephibosheth felt, moving from life in the shadow of shame to life at the table of the king?
- How would you describe the spirit and attitude of Mephibosheth as he accepts David’s kindness?

