

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Treat everyone with love.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God wants us to treat others with compassion.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 9, David and Mephibosheth

MEMORY VERSE:

"Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Explorers often find new people with customs and rituals they're not familiar with. In King David's time it was the custom for the new king to kill or imprison all the old king's family members. But David had compassion on Saul's grandson Mephibosheth and treated him well the rest of his life.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to love everyone like you love us!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

LARGE GROUP LESSON

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Treat everyone with love.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God wants us to treat others with compassion.

KEY PASSAGE:

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INTRO:

An unusual video went viral on the Internet in the last few years. It was shot by a drone flying over an uncharted part of a jungle, and the drone captured tribesmen from a primitive culture. The people in the video had never had outside contact with the rest of the world, and the drone did not go unnoticed. The tribesmen hurled their spears at the drone to try and knock it out of the air.

I know that sounds strange to all of you. You guys are growing up in an age where drones are nothing unusual. Some of you have probably flown one. But put yourself in the shoes of those tribesmen. They've never seen a car or an airplane or even a cell phone. When they see this strange white object hovering in the air, making a loud buzzing sound with its propellers, they had no idea what it was. Maybe they attacked the drone because they were afraid of it. Maybe they were just curious and wanted to get a closer look. The bottom line is, they were as confused about the drone as we are about the way they live.

Missionaries and explorers go through a great deal of training before they travel to places where they expect to encounter tribes like these. First contact is always a touchy situation. We have no language in common, and there's no way of knowing if the people will be friendly. What's more, many of the customs and rituals still practiced by these people are very strange to us. Someone who is disrespectful or rude and rejects what to them is a kind gesture can suddenly find themselves in big trouble. When you go on a trip like this, it is important that you eat what is given to you, that you follow their customs as much as you can, and that you show love and compassion, not just so that you survive, but so you can build a bridge and make new friends.

There's a wonderful story of compassion written about David.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

After many years of running for his life, David finally became king of Israel when the former king, Saul, died in battle. By custom the king's son was supposed to become the next king, but all of Saul's sons, including David's friend Jonathan, died in battle. Saul did have a grandson, a young man named Mephibosheth, who was the son of his dear friend Jonathan, who had a claim to the throne. In those days a man like David, taking the throne from someone else's family, would seek out every last surviving descendant of that king and kill or imprison them. Not David. Let's take a look at how David broke that violent tradition.

READ 2 SAMUEL 9

MAIN POINT:

David's decision to welcome Mephibosheth had to come as a surprise, not just to Mephibosheth but to everyone. As long as he was alive and free, Mephibosheth could be viewed as a threat to David, as the rightful heir! David ignored the critics to fulfill a promise to his dear friend, Mephibosheth's father. He welcomed Mephibosheth like one of his own sons and treated him with kindness.

David ignored tradition to teach us how to love everyone with kindness and respect. When we meet people who are different than us, we need to show the same love and compassion. Whether we are traveling overseas or just down the street, we need to remember everyone is a child of God, and God wants us to love everyone the way He loves us.

DRIVE IT HOME:

You don't have to travel to a foreign country. There are kids who were raised different from you even in your own schools. I'm sure you are thinking of some right now. What did you think when you learned they were different? How did you react when you see someone with an unusual diet, or a certain style of clothing, or a unique way of doing things?

Many people, when they see things that are strange and different, react by laughing at those differences. It's not just a kid's thing either. Adults do it too. People mock and make fun of other people for all sorts of reasons. Maybe they hold different political views. Maybe they don't follow the traditions we do. We get angry. We want them to conform. We want them to be like us.

We will never build bridges with those people by mocking them. You will never win new friends by teasing, badgering, and bullying others to be like you. Just as missionaries learn to eat the foods and follow the customs of tribesmen in the jungle, we need to learn to accept our differences and love them anyway. We can learn why they do things differently, and even if we don't agree, we can respect each other.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

As the family of God, it is our job to welcome everyone with love. It is our job to treat everyone with compassion. We should be a friend to the lonely. We should be a defender of the outcast. We should be the hands and feet of Jesus, who was never shy about reaching out to people who no one else loved. We need to look past differences, and love our neighbors.

Are you willing to be like David? Can you befriend someone who is different? Can you show compassion to everyone? You can, and with God's help, you will!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to love everyone like you love us!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Do you know any words in a foreign language?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalms 25:5

Have the kids sing the memory verse in the style of their favorite pop/rock singer.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of Duck Duck Goose to get everyone moving.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 2 Samuel 9

What promise did David make to Jonathan?

Who was Mephibosheth?

What did David do to show love to Mephibosheth?

Is it easy to show love to people who are different than you?

What is one thing you can do to spread God's love this week?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the chance to love someone different than us this week.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Do you know any words in a foreign language?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalms 25:5

Have the kids sing the memory verse in the style of their favorite pop/rock singer.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of Duck Duck Goose to get everyone moving.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 2 Samuel 9

Why did David invite Mephibosheth into his home?

How did David's treatment with Mephibosheth differ from the tradition of the time?

Why is it important for us to love everyone?

Is it easy to show love to people who are different than you?

What is one thing you can do to spread God's love this week?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

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*In Jesus' name,
Amen*