

10 LESSONS FOR A LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE

LESSON 8 // SHOW KINDNESS

Big Idea: People who live significant lives are kind and gracious. We see this in the story of David and Saul's grandson Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9. David showed exceptional kindness to Mephibosheth in spite of the way Saul had mistreated David.

The starting point for kindness like this toward others is knowing God and His kindness toward us. God's love, goodness, kindness and grace move Him to compassionately save and forgive us. This should move us to be gracious, kind and compassionate as we follow His example. You must change your thoughts about people and your treatment of people based on the way God thinks about and treats them. Then your expressions of kindness can have a transforming effect on their lives, as David's kindness did for Mephibosheth.

2 Samuel 9:1-12 (NIV) *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 summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" "At your service," he replied.³ The king asked, "Is there no one still alive from 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 lame 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."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!" "At your service," 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."*

Discussion Questions:

This weekend we learned that showing kindness is part of living a significant life. What part of the message spoke to you the most and why?

Extending kindness begins with receiving it from God. What do you believe God thinks about you? How has he been kind to you?

What act of kindness have you shown to someone recently? How do you think it impacted them?

Read Ephesians 2:4-10. Like Mephibosheth, we don't deserve God's kindness. How can we, as the church, better demonstrate kindness toward one another and the world?

To show kindness, we must change our thoughts about others and our treatment of them. Who is one person that you struggle to show kindness to and why?

Prayer Focus: Lord, strengthen us in our inner most being, to receive your kindness and extend it to others. Thank you for your kindness and mercy toward us. Help us to be vessels that you can flow through. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ask Your Group: Who in your life needs your kindness? How can you express kindness to them this week?