

Investigating God's Word...

YEAR FOUR

**1 Samuel 1-12,
1 Chronicles 1-20**

Sunday School Curriculum

Winter Quarter

Lesson Sequence

Winter Quarter

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the ***Investigating God's Word...*** curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	I Chronicles 1-9
Week Two	II Samuel 1, I Chronicles 10
Week Three	II Samuel 2:1-3:5
Week Four	II Samuel 3:6-4:12
Week Five	II Samuel 5, I Chronicles 11:1-9
Week Six	II Samuel 6:1-11, I Chronicles 11:10-13:14
Week Seven	II Samuel 6:12-23, I Chronicles 14:1-16:6
Week Eight	II Samuel 7, I Chronicles 16:7-17:27
Week Nine	II Samuel 8, I Chronicles 18
Week Ten	II Samuel 9
Week Eleven	II Samuel 10, I Chronicles 19
Week Twelve	II Samuel 11:1-12:14
Week Thirteen	II Samuel 12:15-31, I Chronicles 20
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Spring Quarter:	II Samuel 13-24, I Chronicles 21-29



Lesson Ten

II Samuel 9

Suggested Schedule

Welcome <i>Psalms 148:1-3</i>	2-3 min.
Drill Time <i>David and Jonathan</i>	5 min.
W.O.W! <i>Mercy</i>	5 min.
Historical Context <i>Timeline</i>	2-3 min.
Bible Investigation <i>II Samuel 9</i>	20-30 min.
Lesson-At-Home <i>Ephesians 2:4-5</i>	2-3 min.

Overview

Now that David has enjoyed great victories over his enemies, the kingdom is secure and peaceful. At some point in his reign, he remembers his covenant with Jonathan and seeks to show kindness to any of Jonathan's surviving family. One of Saul's former servants, Ziba, is summoned to the palace and asked if any descendant of Saul still lives. King David is told about a crippled young man named Mephibosheth who lives in Lo Debar. He is a son of Jonathan! What a perfect candidate for some kingly mercy and kindness.

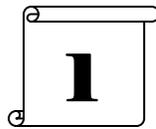
Understandably, Mephibosheth appears before the king in great fear and trembling. He probably thought David would make him his slave—or worse! David tells Mephibosheth that he is giving him all of Saul's lands AND a place forever at the king's table. What great kindness. Mephibosheth is stunned, referring to himself as an undeserving, dead dog. David reiterates his kindness, even instructing Ziba to now become Mephibosheth's servant. The story ends with this crippled lad living in Jerusalem so he can eat at the king's table just like the king's sons.

Preparation

Read and meditate on II Samuel 9.

Teaching Encouragement

I daresay that you will not find a more complete picture of God's mercy to sinners in Jesus Christ than in II Samuel 9. There are only thirteen verses here, so take your time and drink them in with your students! Help them to view themselves as Mephibosheths. They are crippled by sin. From birth, they are light years away from the kingdom of God. They belong to the household of God's enemy. They are dead dogs. Just like Mephibosheth, there is nothing about them that deserves the grace and mercy of God. Yet God—like David—grants mercy out of His covenant with His Son, Jesus. Only because of that covenant of grace do we have the opportunity to sit at the LORD'S table and enjoy status as adopted sons. Do you get the picture? Spend plenty of time letting this text paint a beautiful tapestry for your students. Enjoy how God foreshadows our own salvation through this beautiful story!



Welcome

Greet the children. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students to study today, read Psalm 148:1-3.

¹ Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. ² Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. ³ Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars.

Say: *Have you ever thought how amazing it is that the angels praise the LORD all the time? And even the sun, moon and stars praise God too! All of God's creatures praise God simply because He created them. Do you praise God regularly since He has made you too? Let's give praise to God right now for His Word!*



Drill Time

Now, let's move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *Who was David's best friend? How did Jonathan find out that his father, Saul, wanted to kill David? How did Jonathan protect David from Saul? What did David and Jonathan do that demonstrated their deep friendship?*

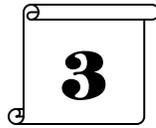
Call on volunteers or select students.

Answers:

1. Jonathan.
2. Saul actually told Jonathan!
3. Jonathan told David about his father's schemes. Jonathan also alerted David by shooting arrows while David hid.
4. They made a covenant to look out for each other and for their descendants.

Say: *David and Jonathan knew what true, Godly friendship was all about. They made an oath to one another to look out for each other's families forever. We will see if David keeps his promise to Jonathan in our reading today.*

The answer to today's *Drill Time* questions are found in **I Samuel 19-20**.



W.O.W!

Our *W.O.W!* (Word of the Week) this week is **MERCY**. **Write it on the board.** This is a word you have heard many times before. So, who can tell me what it means? **Allow answers.**

The word MERCY actually has a few different meanings. The one we want to focus on today is this: To show MERCY is to grant kindness and compassion to those who need it the most. In other words, MERCY is something that people in great despair or in dire circumstances truly need.

Your church may have a MERCY ministry. This is typically a ministry to those who have problems that they cannot take care of themselves, due to poverty, sickness or some other circumstance.

God is the greatest giver of MERCY, isn't He? The Bible describes Him as a MERCIFUL God because He cares for people who have absolutely nothing to offer in return. He cares for you and me.

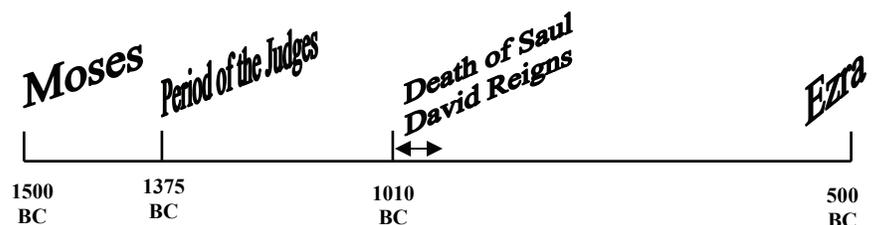
In our reading, we will see a great example of MERCY for someone in great need. Pay close attention as we move on to our Bible Investigation time.

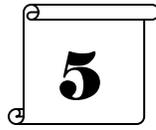


Historical Context

If necessary, draw this timeline on the board to help the students put the lesson in historical context.

When today's lesson took place





Bible Investigation

Have your students turn in their Bibles to II Samuel 9.

Introduction: *David has now been reigning over all Israel for quite some time. God has given him victory after victory. King David is ruling God's people in justice and righteousness. Will he keep on following the LORD? Let's see, as we continue our study today in II Samuel 9.*

Read II Samuel 9:1.

¹ David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

Discussion: *I need to put this in perspective for you. When a new king came into power back in those days, one of the first things that he would do was make sure the family that had been in power would never reign again. Most kings would even kill the last king's whole family to make sure that his own children would always reign. So, before King David we had King Saul, right? If David was just like any other king, would he want to show kindness the house of Saul? [No!] Then why did David ask if there was anyone left in the house of Saul for him to show KINDNESS to? [Because of the covenant between David and Jonathan.]*

Let's read a portion of this covenant again. Turn in your Bible to I Samuel 20.

Read I Samuel 20:12-13.

¹² Then Jonathan said to David: "By the LORD, the God of Israel, I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favorably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know? ¹³ But if my father is inclined to harm you, may the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away safely. May the LORD be with you as he has been with my father.

Discussion: *Just as we reviewed during DRILL TIME, Jonathan was looking out for David since they both knew that Saul was trying to kill David.*

Listen to what Jonathan says next. Read verses 14-15.

¹⁴ But show me unfailing kindness like that of the LORD as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, ¹⁵ and do not ever cut off your

kindness from my family—not even when the LORD has cut off every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth.”

Discussion: *Did you hear Jonathan’s request? He asked for David to show kindness to his family as long as David lives. Jonathan knew that the LORD was going to make David king of Israel. So, he wanted David to show his descendants HESED kindness (merciful love) all through his reign.*

Let’s see David’s response. Read verses 16-17.

¹⁶ So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the LORD call David’s enemies to account.” ¹⁷ And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

Discussion: *Did David make this promise to Jonathan? [Yes.] Yes, they made a covenant with one another because they loved each other like brothers. So now we remember why David is asking if any of Saul’s descendants still exist. He is keeping his promise to Jonathan, even though Jonathan has long been dead!*

Application: *Do you keep the promises you make to your friends? We are most often promise-breakers, especially when a lot of time has passed. Over fifteen years had passed since David made this promise to Jonathan. He could have easily broken his covenant. But he didn’t!*

Let’s return to II Samuel 9. Read verses 2-3.

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.”

Discussion: *Wow! There is still a son of Jonathan in the kingdom! But, what’s wrong with this son of Jonathan? [He is crippled in both feet.] This young man could sure use David’s MERCY, couldn’t he?*

Let’s read on. Read verses 4-5.

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.

Discussion: *We don’t know exactly where Lo Debar was. But we know one thing—it was a LONG way from the king’s palace! This*

crippled son of Jonathan was staying in some house in some far off place. What do you think was going through his mind when he was summoned to the king's palace? Allow answers.

Let's continue. Read verses 6-7a.

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...

Discussion: *Stop there for a moment. What did Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan, do when he came into the presence of King David? [He bowed down to pay him honor.] Why do you think that Mephibosheth would be afraid? [Because he was a grandson of King Saul! He knew that kings tend to wipe out the families of the last king.] David knew he would be afraid, so he comforted him. Listen to what he says next.*

Read verse 7.

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: *Wow! David goes above and beyond what he promised to Jonathan. What did he do for Mephibosheth? [He gave him all of Saul's land and said he always had a place at the king's table!] To be at the king's table meant that David made this crippled young man into a member of his own household! Even though he was a son of Saul, he became a son of David—because of David's love for Jonathan. How amazing is that!*

How will Mephibosheth respond to this great MERCY?

Let's find out. Read verse 8.

⁸ Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

Discussion: *Do you think Mephibosheth was stunned by the MERCY of David? I think so! He thinks of himself as a "dead dog." How are things for a dead dog? [Not very good!] Yet, this "dead dog" now has land and life at the king's table. What incredible MERCY!*

Let's read on. Read verses 9-10.

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.)

Discussion: *Just having land wouldn't do a crippled boy much good, would it? So how else did David provide for Mephibosheth? [By commanding Ziba and his family to farm the land and provide crops for him.] Basically, Ziba is now Mephibosheth's servant. Wow!*

Let's read on. Read verse 11.

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.

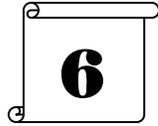
Discussion: *There it is. Mephibosheth became just like one of the king's sons. It was like David adopted him! Was there anything special about Mephibosheth to make David treat him with such HESED kindness? No! David treated him with this great love and mercy because of His covenant with Jonathan.*

Let's finish this chapter. Read verses 12-13.

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.

Discussion: *What a wonderful ending. Poor, crippled Mephibosheth basically lived at the king's palace. He was given great MERCY by the just and righteous King David.*

Conclusion: *Boys and girls, you and I are just like poor, crippled Mephibosheth. We are born into a family that is an enemy of God. We live far, far away from God's Kingdom. We are crippled by our sin. We have nothing! Yet God has MERCY on all those He will have MERCY on, because of His love and covenant with His Son, Jesus. Because the Father loves the Son, he extends MERCY to sinful people like you and me. In Christ, we are given a seat at the great banquet table of God! In Christ, we are adopted as sons of God! Do you see the picture? This is not just a story of a crippled boy—this is the story of all who receive the MERCY of God. Read this story to yourself again and again, putting yourself in the shoes of Mephibosheth. God gives great MERCY in Jesus Christ for poor, crippled sinners like you and me!*



Lesson-At-Home

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Ephesians 2:4-5) together.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Say: *Isn't this the picture of Mephibosheth? He was a dead dog from Lo Debar. We are dead in our transgressions and sins. What do we all need? MERCY! And, MERCY can only be found in the LORD Jesus Christ. It is only by grace that we can be saved!*

Review the verses a couple of times.

Direct the students' attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today's lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.