

LESSON 8

DAVID HELPS A LAME PRINCE



OBJECTIVES

1. To define kindness and explain why it is important.
2. To identify ways to be kind.
3. To identify to whom we can show kindness.

MEMORY VERSE

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

(John 13:34-35)

PRAYER

1. Thank You for guiding us safely through another week.
2. Thank You for all that You have given us. Everything we have and everything we are, You gave us.
3. We thank You for the kindness You have shown us. We are unworthy of it.
4. Please help us show kindness to others who are not as fortunate.
5. Please teach us compassion and give us the will to help them so that Your name will be glorified.



Overview

1. David wishes to remember Jonathan

- a. Seeks out Jonathan's family
- b. Restores Saul's land to Mephibosheth
- c. Brings Mephibosheth to the palace

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Holy Spirit

3. Life Application—Do You Have Kindness?; Case Study: Sean and Joseph

4. Activity—Receiving Kindness; Pass It On



Background Knowledge for Teachers

David and Jonathan were best friends (1 Sam 18:1).

Before David killed Goliath, David was relatively unknown. However, after he performed the great deed, he attracted King Saul's attention. He was the youngest of his family and had been given the task of shepherding the family's sheep. When Israel went to war against the Philistines, his brothers went to fight, but he stayed home to tend the sheep. During a visit to his brothers, he heard the Philistine champion Goliath blaspheme God. This angered David. David faced Goliath and killed him by slinging a stone straight into his forehead. Subsequently, David presented himself to King Saul. While there he met Jonathan, Saul's son.

David and Jonathan quickly became friends. Upon hearing David speak to Saul, Jonathan's soul "was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul" (1 Sam 18:1b). "Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul" (1 Sam 18:3). Jonathan gave David his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt. These gifts demonstrated their bond.

Later, Jonathan demonstrated his loyalty to David (1 Sam 20). During a dinner, Jonathan spoke to Saul regarding David's absence during dinner. This aroused Saul's anger, which caused him to throw a spear at Jonathan. He now knew of his father's intention to kill David. Jonathan warned David and watched him leave the city to escape Saul.

God removed Saul's kingship.

In the end, Saul and his sons died in battle. Saul disobeyed God twice. He performed an unlawful sacrifice and failed to obey God by sparing King Agag. His disobedience angered God. As a result, God removed him as king and made David Israel's new king. More importantly, God was no longer with Saul. He would not communicate with Saul through prophets

or dreams, which distressed Saul (1 Sam 28:15).

Without God's guidance, Saul turned to sorcery for help. Saul disguised himself and approached a medium to raise the spirit of Prophet Samuel. In the séance, the medium saw the image of Samuel ascending out of the earth. The image told Saul that he and his sons were to be killed in the battle with the Philistines (1 Sam 28:19).

The Philistines went to war against the Israelites. The Israelites could not hold off the Philistines, so they fled. The Philistines slew many Israelites. In the battle, Saul was severely injured by an archer. To prevent his capture by a Philistine, Saul killed himself with his own sword. In the battle, Saul's three sons, including Jonathan, died (1 Sam 31:6).



Reaching Out to Your Students

At this age, your students are developing social relationships with their peers. Their focus is starting to shift away from their parents and family to their peers. They will begin forming bonds with other children. Their ability to connect with others depends on their ability to understand themselves and their peers, and their behavior towards their peers.

Kindness is an important trait for your students to develop. Kindness is a friendly deference shown to another. By showing kindness to others, your students will form bonds based on positive qualities: respect, compassion, and empathy. When forming friendships based on kindness, your students will be more inclusive of others in their social groups. They will be less likely to exclude those that are different or perceived to be unattractive. There has been research that shows that nice and kind people are perceived as people whom peers would like to befriend, both at school and at the workplace.

As a religious education teacher, your role is to support the students' development into good Christians. You should encourage your students to socialize and form bonds with other students and the community based on positive qualities, such as kindness. At the same time, you should discourage your students from forming cliques. When you encourage students to be kind, you teach your students to empathize and love others regardless of who they are. This trait will help your students to develop into good persons who accept and respect all persons.



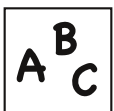
Opener

5 Minutes

What is kindness? [Let students answer.] Kindness is the quality of being kind. Someone who is kind shows kindness to others. Showing kindness to others means relieving others of unpleasant things when possible.

Kindness is everywhere, but we don't always see it. Does anyone have stories of kindness that you have experienced or witnessed recently?

In the winter of 2012, a New York City police officer noticed that a seemingly homeless man sitting on the streets did not have any shoes. As the night was bitter and cold, the police officer asked the man about his shoes. He replied that he had none, but that it was OK. Out of compassion, the police officer went to a nearby shoe store and bought a \$100 pair of shoes and socks. He then gave them to the man. Once a photo was released of the police officer giving the shoes to the man, this touching story spread all over the media.



Vocabulary

kindness: the quality of being kind

compassion: a feeling of wanting to help others who are in need (e.g., sick, hungry, alone, etc.)

empathy: the feeling of understanding what someone is going through and sharing their emotions

lame: having a disabled body part, especially a limb, that causes you to be unable to move freely on your own



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

David wishes to remember Jonathan

Prior to his death, Jonathan made David promise not to “cut off [David’s] kindness from [his] house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth” (1 Sam 20:15). Jonathan later died with his father Saul in a battle with the Philistines, and David became king.

To establish his kingdom, David fought a series of battles with neighboring kingdoms (2 Sam 5:17-25; 8). The LORD was with David and his campaigns were successful. The LORD gave him peace from all his enemies and within Israel (2 Sam 7:1; 8:15).

With peace in his kingdom, David desired to honor his promise to Jonathan. David said to his court, “Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” (2 Sam 9:1). Ziba, one of Saul’s servants, was found and brought to David. He told David that a son of Jonathan was still living. His name was Mephibosheth, and he was lame in both feet.

Mephibosheth became lame during an accident at a young age. Mephibosheth was five years old when Jonathan and Saul died in the battle with the Philistines. When his nurse heard of their deaths, she took him to flee. During their haste, Mephibosheth fell. He was injured during the fall, which resulted in his being lame.

Mephibosheth presented himself before David. Mephibosheth was very afraid of David because Saul, his grandfather, treated David so poorly. David shocked Mephibosheth when he told him, “Do not fear for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually” (2 Sam 9:7). David then commanded Ziba to manage the property and possessions of Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth moved to Jerusalem and he ate at David’s table continually.

Kindness is a very important characteristic. It is important enough for Paul to list it as a characteristic of the fruit of

the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22). The fruit of the Holy Spirit manifests itself in different forms, and all of them are related. You can see that David also exhibited faithfulness by keeping his promise to Jonathan even though Jonathan had already passed away. When we show kindness, we’re also giving love to others.

David demonstrated great kindness when he accepted Mephibosheth. Though David made a promise to Jonathan, he had no obligation to be so generous. David was the victor and the house of Saul, the loser. David could have given a small token to honor his promise to Jonathan. Instead, David restored the property of Saul to Mephibosheth. This act gave Mephibosheth assets and a source of income to provide for his family. David also commanded Ziba and his household to manage Mephibosheth’s land because Mephibosheth’s disability prevented him from actively manage his property. Ziba would be able to manage it properly to ensure that it provided a constant source of income. David also gave Mephibosheth a permanent place at his table. This act gave Mephibosheth status in society. It demonstrated to the Israelite society that Mephibosheth was friends with the king and that he had access to the king. David’s kindness was greatly magnified because Mephibosheth could not possibly repay David due to him being lame in both legs.

David’s kindness serves as an example for Christians. We should be kind to others, especially those who need our help. We avoid the poor, the handicapped, and the undesirable because they possess nothing to attract us. But Jesus went to these people to preach the gospel, to heal, and to perform miracles (Mt 11:5). In addition, Jesus was also an undesirable person (Is 53:2). Thus, we should follow Jesus and David’s examples and help those who need help.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet, and guide students to complete the worksheet. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. good, good, credit
2. enemies, nothing, reward, sons, unthankful, evil
3. love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
4. David restored all of Saul’s land to Mephibosheth. He put Ziba, Saul’s servant, in charge of Mephibosheth’s harvest to ensure that Mephibosheth would always have food. He invited Mephibosheth to eat at his table continually.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.

When God blesses us with the Holy Spirit, we must do our best to display its characteristics. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22-23). If we live out these characteristics in our lives, we become the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Mt 5:13, 16) and proclaim to the world that Jesus Christ is in us and that we belong to Him.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What was the content of David's covenant with Jonathan?** David promised not to forget to show kindness to Jonathan's family once he was in a time of peace.
- 2. Who was the only survivor in the house of Saul?** Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan.
- 3. How was Mephibosheth handicapped?** He was lame in both feet.
- 4. How did Mephibosheth become handicapped?** While he and his nurse were fleeing, he fell and became lame in both feet.
- 5. List the three things David did to show his kindness to Mephibosheth.** David restored Saul's land to Mephibosheth. He ordered that Ziba, one of Saul's servants, and his family manage Mephibosheth's property. David invited Mephibosheth to eat at his table continually.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Do You Have Kindness?

Kindness is an important characteristic for a Christian to possess. It is the act of being nice to someone, or doing good to someone to make the person feel more comfortable and loved. Good deeds stem from empathy and compassion. Paul acknowledged the importance of kindness when he included it as a characteristic of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). Jesus also demonstrated kindness by directing His ministry and healing to the poor and weak. Jesus often criticized the rich and powerful for their abuse of the poor and weak. Thus, as Christians with the promised Holy Spirit, we must demonstrate kindness in our lives.

Kindness benefits the people around you. When you are kind, you create a feeling of comfort, peace, joy, and acceptance in others. This feeling generates a positive impression on them, which will motivate them to do good deeds as well. Those who you treat with kindness might try to reciprocate your act of kindness, or they might be kind to other people. In many situations, they will do both. This was the case of David and Jonathan. Jonathan showed kindness to David by warning him that Saul was planning to kill him (1 Sam 20). After David was established as king, he was kind to Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9:7, 9-10).

[Pass out Life Application Worksheet #1, and complete it with the students.]

Other than the kindness shown by David to Mephibosheth, can you think of another story in the Bible where kindness was shown? [Give students time to respond.]

There are many good examples of kindness in the Bible. Let us look at one example in Matthew 14:13-21.

- 1. When Jesus saw the multitude, He was "moved with compassion" for them (v. 14). What does it mean to be "moved with compassion"?** It means to feel the pain of the other person in your heart, to have empathy, and to feel that you want to help the other person.

2. **What was the first thing recorded in this passage about what Jesus did as a result of being moved with compassion?** He healed their sickness.
3. **Right now, none of us are doctors. In what ways can we help the sick, as the Lord Jesus does?** We can help bring them food, care for them, brighten up their day with flowers or cards, or spend time with them.
4. **What else did Jesus do for the multitude that also showed kindness?** He fed them.
5. **How did Jesus “benefit” from doing the acts of kindness to the multitude?** Nothing. He did it out of love for them.
6. **Did David expect to receive anything from helping Mephibosheth? Let’s read Luke 6:32-35. What does it teach us about the spirit of showing kindness?**

We must learn to be kind to those who may not reciprocate our kindness. It is a natural desire to be repaid for kindness, thus we might limit ourselves only to those who might help us in return. However, we must remember that David did not have such an attitude. He helped Mephibosheth, who was unable to reciprocate his kindness because of a disability. When David fled from his son Absalom, Mephibosheth was unable to come to David’s aid (2 Sam 19:25-26). You must follow David’s example and be kind to all, especially those who cannot repay you.

The Bible describes Jesus as having “no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him” (Is 53:2b-3). Yet in spite of this, Jesus was able attract many to Him due to His kindness. He healed the sick, cast out demons, and preached the gospel to the poor and weak. When we do good, we can bring people to God.

* * * * *

2. Case Study: Sean and Joseph

[Print out copies of the scenarios, one for each student. Cut the paper so that each scenario is on its own sheet. Hand out Scenario 1 first, and then ask students to read it and answer the questions that follow. After the students have finished with Scenario 1, go over it as a class. Repeat the process with Scenario 2 and Scenario 3.]

Scenario 1

Joseph is a new student at Sean’s school. He’s having a hard time adjusting to his new school. He is a bright student, but he prefers reading novels to playing basketball. He is also very shy because he has bad acne that scars his skin. He has no friends and is very lonely.

One day, Kyle and Jake, two of Sean’s classmates, found Joseph by himself reading. As a joke, they took his book and decided to play keep away. Joseph could not keep up with Kyle and Jake. It did not take long for Joseph to give up.

1. Why do you think Kyle and Jake decided to do what they did?
2. How do you think Joseph was feeling at this moment?
3. If you were present at the scene, what would you have done to show kindness to Joseph?

Scenario 2

Sean saw what Kyle and Jake were doing. He understood that what they were doing was very wrong. Even though Kyle and Jake thought that they, including Joseph, were having fun, Sean knew that Joseph did not see it that way. He knew that Joseph was offended and hurt.

Sean felt the need to intervene. He went over to Kyle and Jake and took the book away from them. He spoke to them directly and firmly, telling them never to do this again or he would report it to their teacher. He knew that doing that might offend his two classmates, but he also knew that he should do the right thing. He then walked over to Joseph and returned the book to Joseph.

1. How do you think Joseph feeling was at this moment?
2. Think of a time when someone was kind to you. How did you feel then?

Scenario 3

Joseph said “thank you” to Sean, and then turned and headed to his next class. Sean started walking with Joseph, and they began to talk. Joseph slowed down, so Sean helped push his wheelchair.

Actually, Joseph had Muscular Dystrophy. He cannot walk. He could not keep up with Kyle and Jake and that was why he gave up so quickly. Joseph was used to the bullying and teasing. He was actually surprised when Sean helped him. Joseph was nervous, but also glad that he had found a friend in Sean.

1. How do you think Sean was feeling after he helped Joseph?
2. How did Joseph’s disability change your view of the situation?

We must remember that we are children of God, called out by Him, for special blessings, but also for a special duty. This duty is for us to spread His salvation to all mankind. Part of this mission includes doing good in our everyday life, to anyone, everyone, as best as we can.



Activity

1. Receiving Kindness/2. Pass It On

10-15 Minutes

1. Receiving Kindness

The students are beginning to form their individuality. Part of this development is to form their confidence and personal strength by understanding their importance. Unfortunately, during this time, they may also become extremely self-centered. In this activity, the students divert their attention away from their ego and examine a time when they received someone’s kindness.

All of us have received acts of kindness at some point in our lives. In order for the students to understand how to be kind, it is necessary for them to analyze the times in which they have been the recipients of kindness. In addition, the students need to reflect on how they felt and how it impacted them.

Have the students perform the following:

1. Write down five times when someone was kind to them. They don’t have to be grand acts. It could be something as simple as a person giving them smile or saying “Hi.”
2. Describe how they felt and thought after receiving the kind act.

Then, lead a discussion with the students on how this act impacted them. How did they feel? Did they act differently afterwards? What new insights did they have?

2. Pass It On

Materials

- Card stock
- Markers
- Scissors
- Ruler, optional

Instructions

1. Have the students prepare five 4x6 cards made of card stock.
2. The students will write “Kindness. Pass it on.” on each card.
3. For the next week, the students will each perform at least five kind acts. After performing a kind act, the students give a “kindness card” to the recipient and tell them to “pass on” the kindness.
4. For next week’s class, the teacher can ask the students which acts of kindness they did throughout the week.

UNDERSTANDING THE COVENANT MADE BETWEEN DAVID AND JONATHAN

David and Jonathan's friendship is a gift of God's love. It shows:

1. Loyalty of spiritual brotherhood
2. Pure and abiding friendship
3. The power of faithfulness

God made a wonderful bond of friendship between them, sealed by a covenant.

Let's read 1 Samuel 18:1-4, and fill in the blanks.

"Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

Do you know why they entered into a covenant?

1. Jonathan and David both had the same qualities. They both feared God and trusted in God.
2. Jonathan knew that David was destined by God to become the next king of Israel.
3. As a sign of this covenant, Jonathan took off his robe and armor, sword, bow, and belt and gave them to David.
4. Jonathan put his own life in danger by standing up for David when Saul tried to kill David (1 Sam 20:30-31).
5. When David had to flee for his life, they exchanged kisses of farewell to show their faith and loyalty in each other. "Then Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, "May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.'" So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city (1 Sam 20:41-42).
6. David continued to honor his covenant with Jonathan after his friend's death. He found Jonathan's bones from battle and buried them properly (2 Sam 21:12-14). He also showed great kindness to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9:1-13).

How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

- a. He restored Saul's land to Mephibosheth.
- b. He ordered Ziba and his sons to serve Mephibosheth by working the land and bringing in the harvest.
- c. Mephibosheth was to eat at his table continually.

UNDERSTANDING THE COVENANT MADE BETWEEN DAVID AND JONATHAN

David and Jonathan's friendship is a gift of God's love. It shows:

1. Loyalty of _____ brotherhood
2. Pure and abiding _____
3. The power of _____

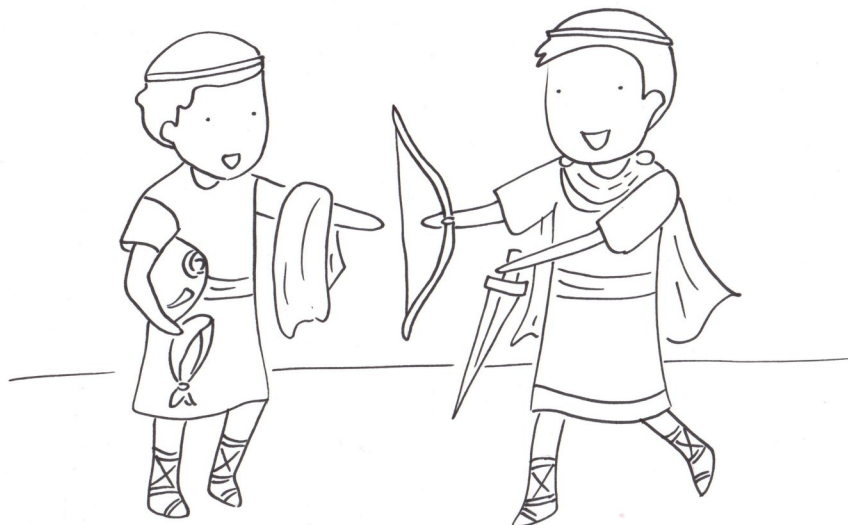
God made a wonderful bond of friendship between them, sealed by a covenant.

Let's read 1 Samuel 18:1-4, and fill in the blanks.

"Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the _____ of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore. Then Jonathan and David made a _____, because he _____ him as his own soul. And Jonathan took off the _____ that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

Do you know why they entered into a covenant?

1. Jonathan and David both had the same qualities. They both _____ God and _____ in God.
2. Jonathan knew that David was destined by God to become the next _____ of Israel.
3. As a sign of this _____, Jonathan took off his _____ and _____, _____, _____, and _____ and gave them to David.
4. Jonathan put his own life in danger by _____ up for David when Saul tried to kill David (1 Sam 20:30-31).



5. When David had to flee for his life, they exchanged kisses of farewell to show their _____ and _____ in each other. "Then Jonathan said to David, 'Go in _____, since we have both _____ in the name of the LORD, saying, "May the _____ be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.'" So he arose and _____, and Jonathan went into the city (1 Sam 20:41-42).
6. David continued to _____ his covenant with Jonathan after his friend's _____. He found Jonathan's bones from battle and _____ them properly (2 Sam 21:12-14). He also showed great kindness to Jonathan's son, _____ (2 Sam 9:1-13).



How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

- He _____ Saul's land to Mephibosheth.
- He ordered Ziba and his sons to serve Mephibosheth by _____ the land and _____ in the harvest.
- Mephibosheth was to _____ at his table continually.



DO YOU HAVE Kindness?

There are many good examples of kindness in the Bible. Let us look at one example in Matthew 14:13-21.

1. When Jesus saw the multitude, He was “moved with compassion” for them (v. 14). What does it mean to be “moved with compassion”?
2. What was the first thing recorded in this passage about what Jesus did as a result of being moved with compassion?
3. Right now, none of us are doctors. In what ways can we help the sick, as the Lord Jesus does?
4. What else did Jesus do for the multitude that also showed kindness?
5. How did Jesus “benefit” from doing the acts of kindness to the multitude?
6. Did David expect to receive anything from helping Mephibosheth? Let’s read Luke 6:32-35. What does it teach us about the spirit of showing kindness?

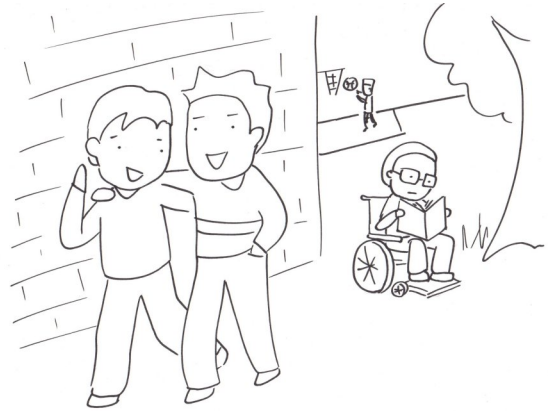


Case Study: Sean and Joseph

Scenario 1

Joseph is a new student at Sean's school. He's having a hard time adjusting to his new school. He is a bright student, but he prefers reading novels to playing basketball. He is also very shy because he has bad acne that scars his skin. He has no friends and is very lonely.

One day, Kyle and Jake, two of Sean's classmates, found Joseph by himself reading. As a joke, they took his book and decided to play keep away. Joseph could not keep up with Kyle and Jake. It did not take long for Joseph to give up.



1. Why do you think Kyle and Jake decided to do what they did?
2. How do you think Joseph was feeling at this moment?
3. If you were present at the scene, what would you have done to show kindness to Joseph?

Scenario 2

Sean saw what Kyle and Jake were doing. He understood that what they were doing was very wrong. Even though Kyle and Jake thought that they, including Joseph, were having fun, Sean knew that Joseph did not see it that way. He knew that Joseph was offended and hurt.

Sean felt the need to intervene. He went over to Kyle and Jake and took the book away from them. He spoke to them directly and firmly, telling them never to do this again or he would report it to their teacher. He knew that doing that might offend his two classmates, but he also knew that he should do the right thing. He then walked over to Joseph and returned the book to Joseph.



1. How do you think Joseph feeling was at this moment?
2. Think of a time when someone was kind to you. How did you feel then?

Scenario 3

Joseph said “thank you” to Sean, and then turned and headed to his next class. Sean started walking with Joseph, and they began to talk. Joseph slowed down, so Sean helped push his wheelchair.

Actually, Joseph had Muscular Dystrophy. He cannot walk. He could not keep up with Kyle and Jake and that was why he gave up so quickly. Joseph was used to the bullying and teasing. He was actually surprised when Sean helped him. Joseph was nervous, but also glad that he had found a friend in Sean.



1. How do you think Sean was feeling after he helped Joseph?
2. How did Joseph’s disability change your view of the situation?

E2 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 8—David Helps a Lame Prince

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**John 13:34-35**)

Fill In the Blank

1. And if you do _____ to those who do _____ to you, what _____ is that to you? (Luke 6:33)
2. But love your _____, do good, and lend, hoping for _____ in return; and your _____ will be great, and you will be _____ of the Most High. For He is kind to the _____ and _____. (Luke 6:35)

Short Answer

3. List the characteristics of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23).
4. Describe how David was kind to Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9:7, 9-10).