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The Fugitive Heir

Community
We build positive relationships.

POWER TEXT

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17).

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Samuel 20:12-15; 2 Samuel 9
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 70, p. 713
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 89-92
- Student story on page 22 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 3, The Father
- No. 22, Christian Behavior
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that they can reflect God's love to others.
- **Feel** the desire to love and accept others as Jesus does.
- **Respond** by accepting God's call to share His goodness with others.

POWERPOINT

We reflect God's love when we treat everyone kindly.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Saul has tried to kill David on several occasions. It would be natural for David, on becoming king, to kill all the descendants of Saul so there would be no threat to his throne. Instead David asks if there are any relatives of Saul left. When he discovers that Mephibosheth, a son of Saul's son Jonathan, is still alive, he sends for him. Mephibosheth offers to become David's servant. Instead David provides for him as if he were his own son. He gives Mephibosheth everything that belongs to Saul and invites him to eat at his table every day. David gives all of this freely to Mephibosheth. His gifts to Mephibosheth remind us of God's many gifts freely given to us.

This is a lesson about community.

Just as King David freely gave land and a place in his home to Mephibosheth for as long as he lived, so God offers us free gifts, salvation, and a home with Him for the rest of our lives. Although Mephibosheth did not do anything to deserve the King's favor, David treated him kindly because of his great love for Jonathan, just as God treats us with kindness for the sake of His only Son, Jesus. As Christians we can reflect God's love by accepting others regardless of whether they deserve our attention.

Teacher Enrichment

For Jonathan's sake—"Jonathan died with his father Saul at the battle of Mt. Gilboa ([2 Samuel] 1:4, 17, KJV). His son Mephibosheth was then only 5 years old (ch. 4:4). Since Mephibosheth now had a young son, the experience here related must have taken place a number of years after David had come to the throne" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 639).

He fell on his face—"Mephibosheth realized that his life was at the mercy of the king. If David had so desired, he could have given orders for his execution in order that the seed of Saul might be completely wiped out of existence, and that there would be no possibility for a rival to arise from that source who might claim the throne" *(The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 639).

Who in my class needs to receive the assurance of God's love through me? How can I express love and acceptance to them?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text. **Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.**

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Kindness to the Undeserving* *B. Treated With Kindness*	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 17. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, letter to parents (see p. 144), offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	three Bible questions, rewards for all Bibles, table, table setting, food Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Forgive and Forget*	Bibles, paper, pencils, markers or matches
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Kindness Without Comment*	
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Kindness to the Undeserving

Before Sabbath School begins, write the following where all can see it.

_____ You must be kind toward others before God will accept you.

_____ God loves you, accepts you, and treats you kindly no matter what you do.

_____ You will treat others kindly as long as they respect you and treat you the same way.

_____ When you are kind, loving, and forgiving to others who don't deserve it, you are making a difference in their lives for Jesus.

Say: **Let's read Romans 15:5, Galatians 6:2, and Ephesians 4:32. I need two volunteers to go to the board and put a check by the sentence describing kindness toward others that you most agree with.**

Debriefing

Ask for volunteers to tell why they checked the sentences they chose. Discuss the meaning of kindness and try to come to an agreement on what it really means. Say: **Grace is God's undeserved kindness to us. With deepest kindness He pursues us, finds us, forgives us, and fills us with everything we need to live full and wonderful lives in His power. Once we experience God's love, kindness, and grace to us, we will want to share His gifts with everyone, even the most undeserving person. Let's say together our power text, James 1:17:**

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17).

The power point for this week reminds us that

We reflect God's love when we treat everyone kindly.

B

Treated With Kindness

Say: **Think of someone who was especially kind to you when you least expected it. Be ready to tell the class about it.**

Involve the class in the following discussion:

Say: **Without naming names, tell us about someone who was especially kind to you when you least expected it. How did you feel? What do you think made that person show such kindness?**

Tell about a time you did something that really hurt your parents, but because they love you, they freely forgave you. Think about God, our Father in heaven, and His goodness to us. Why does He forgive us when we do wrong? What can we do to love and accept God's children the way He loves and accepts us? Let's say our power text together, James 1:17:

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17).

Our power point calls us to remember that

We reflect God's love when we treat everyone kindly.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"We Are the Family of God" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 114)
"You Are My Hiding Place" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 96)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place. Send a letter to the parents, informing them about the mission offering (see letter on p. 144).

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Call on one or two volunteers to describe a time they were the recipients of a gift of unconditional love. Then explain that one of the ways we respond to God's gift of grace to us is to give an offering. Collect the offering at this time.

Prayer

In a prayer activity, open by thanking God for Jesus, His gift of grace sent to die in our place. Then pause and encourage class members to give silent thanks for this gift in their own words. Then thank God for all His gifts of love we experience in our lives. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ three Bible questions
- ☐ rewards for all

Introducing the Bible Story

Call on a volunteer to come to the front of the class to answer three Bible quiz questions. Before you ask the questions, tell the class that if he or she answers all three Bible questions correctly, you will give rewards to the entire class (something that they will appreciate), but the class is not allowed to help the person answering the questions. Ask two moderately difficult questions, but make the third one so difficult that you are sure the volunteer will not know the answer. Afterward, give the rewards to the volunteer and the rest of the class anyway.

Debriefing

Ask the class to describe how they felt when they received the reward. Ask the volunteer to explain how he/she felt having received the undeserved reward. Say: **Today our story is about a young man who could have expected death, but instead got treated like royalty.**

Accommodation for students with special needs

Help students with certain special needs (i.e., learning disabilities, hearing impairment, intellectual disabilities) to better understand the questions of the Bible quiz by providing visual cues, illustrations, or actual objects so that these learners could engage and participate.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ table
- ☐ table setting
- ☐ food

Experiencing the Story

***NOTE to teachers*:**

For this activity, inquire in advance if any of the students has food allergies. Bring only food items that all students could have without developing an allergic reaction to them.

Preparation: In the middle of the room, set up a table of treats, fruit, or "finger food" such as fresh vegetables with dip. Keep it simple. Make the table as attractive as possible (tablecloth, candles, napkins, nice serving dishes, etc.).

Say: **After Saul and Jonathan died, King David showed great kindness to Jonathan's son Mephibosheth. Let's read about all the circumstances surrounding David's kindness.** (Have volunteers take turns reading 1 Samuel 20:12-15; 2 Samuel 9.)

Ask: **What did David do for Mephibosheth? Why do you think David did such kind things?**

Have class members stand about 10 feet away from the table you have prepared. Say: **It was a great privilege for Mephibosheth to eat at the king's table. Today I'd like you to think about people who've been especially kind to you. I'll name some special times or situations and give you a moment to think of someone. As you name each person, take a step toward our "king's table."**

Read the following: **Think of:**

someone who was kind to you in a new place.
someone who was kind to you at school.
someone who was kind to you at church.
someone who was kind to you when you were afraid.
someone who was kind to you unconditionally.

When all are at the table, say: **Now think of a person to whom you can show kindness.** Pause. **Before we enjoy our feast, let's pray, thanking God for His great kindness to us and asking Him to help us reflect His love and kindness in our interactions with others.** Prayer can be individual, silent, or offered by leader. Say: **As we choose to live for Jesus we need to remember that**

We reflect God's love when we treat everyone kindly.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Organize the students into groups of three or four. Have each group find a demonstration of kindness in the Bible and prepare a short pantomime of it. (As needed, supply groups with the following texts: 1 Kings 18; Jonah 1-4; Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 19:1-10.) Then have each group perform its pantomime and see if the rest of the class can recognize the incident.

Debriefing

Say: **Let's review our power text again, James 1:17:**

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17).

Let's remember that

We reflect God's love when we treat everyone kindly.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Guide students with special needs who experience difficulty with this activity to groups that offer them assistance in participation. Build on their strengths and encourage them to contribute in ways that allow them to feel comfortable, accepted, and valued.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ markers OR matches

Forgive and Forget

Give out pieces of paper to the class members and have them list on the paper some wrongs that others have done to them. Then demonstrate how our sins are forgiven and disregarded by destroying the papers in some way (burning, tearing up, using broad-tip marker to cross out words, etc.). Stress that when we disregard the wrongdoing of others and treat them kindly, we demonstrate God's love in action.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you believe God has done with all the records of your past sins? What about your future sins? (See 1 Corinthians 13:5 and Psalm 130:3.) How will you treat others, in light of 1 Corinthians 13:5? How can your actions be pure demonstrations of genuine love?**

Say: **Let's remember to apply the principle we learned from our power point this week:**

We reflect God's love when we treat everyone kindly.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Give instructions slowly. If needed, explain again or ask a volunteer to repeat the instructions so that students in general and especially those with certain special needs may understand how to complete this activity.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

Kindness Without Comment

Allow time for students to share with the class if they had the opportunity to be generous, hospitable, or kind during the past week.

Invite the students to take a few moments of silence to think of some people who have been treated unkindly. Then ask them to think about how they can show kindness to those individuals. Ask the students to carry out their acts of kindness. They are to say nothing about what they are doing, but show kindness through actions to someone they identified as a person who had been treated unfairly.

As we choose to live for Jesus we need to remember that

We reflect God's love when we treat everyone kindly.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Ask God to enable each of your students to show kindness and help those who are less fortunate.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **David covets Bathsheba. God wants us to treat others in our community with honesty and respect.**

Notes

Student lesson

The Fugitive Heir

When did you experience someone extending to you kindness though you did not deserve it? In the following Bible story someone extends grace to a person who thought he did not deserve it. This account helps us understand what it takes to build positive relationships with people.

One day King David was thinking. He was remembering his very best friend, Jonathan, who had died in battle. So the king started to inquire, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" (2 Samuel 9:1).

But why would King David want to do something kind for the grandson of King Saul? In King David's day, if one king acceded to the royal throne after another king, it was the custom to kill all the members of the first king's family so that the second king wouldn't have to worry about his new position.

Yet David's servants obeyed the royal command and went searching for a man named Ziba [ZY-buh], who had been one of King Saul's servants. Ziba arrived at the palace, and David asked him, "Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?" (verse 3).

Ziba told David that one of Jonathan's sons was still alive. His name was Mephibosheth [me-FIB-o-sheth], and he had a disability. Now a young man, he had been living quietly in hiding in the home of a wealthy man who had been protecting him.

After David heard the report, he sent for Mephibosheth. Just imagine how Mephibosheth must have felt when he heard that King David wanted to see him! He must have heard the stories about what great friends his father, Jonathan, and King David had been. He had been 5 years old when his father died. Since then he had been receiving false reports from David's enemies. Over time Mephibosheth had built prejudice against King David. So he reported to the palace with fear in his heart.

When Mephibosheth arrived at the palace, he bowed down low before David. The king's words astonished him.

"'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'" (verse 7).

Think about it. One minute Mephibosheth had nothing. The next minute he was rich. In an instant he became the owner of a lot of land and a very special guest at the king's table! David restored to him King Saul's personal properties. Moreover, King David ordered Ziba and his 15 sons and 20 servants to farm the land and take care of it for Mephibosheth and his family.

David's gift to Mephibosheth was completely unexpected. The Bible tells us that when Mephibosheth ate at the king's table, he was treated just like one of the king's sons.

The king's hospitality, generosity, and kindness won the confidence and trust of the young Mephibosheth, melting the prejudice that he had harbored against the king.

What a great illustration of unconditional love and mercy! A story that helps us better understand God's amazing love for us that by far exceeds the love we can extend to our dearest friends.

Love is an attribute of God, our heavenly Father. His love is so great that we cannot comprehend it with our finite human minds. For example, loving our enemies is contrary to human nature. We can extend love to the unloving only when we allow God to fill us with His love. Some of God's attributes that we can practice by the power of His Spirit include: love, kindness, goodness, compassion, generosity, forgiveness, and holiness. The acts of kindness and generosity that are rooted in God's love have a profound influence on others. That's why the Bible encourages us to extend God's love to those around us: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7). Let us allow God's character of love to be reflected in our character!

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Samuel 20:12-15; 2 Samuel 9
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 70, p. 713
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 89-92
- Our Beliefs, nos. 3, 22, 11

POWER TEXT

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17).

POWER POINT

We reflect God's love when we treat everyone kindly.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 18.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:12, 13 and this week's lesson, "The Fugitive Heir."

MAKE Find or make a small gift box. Write the power text on a small card and place the card inside the box. Reread to review the power text each day this week.

DO Brighten up someone's day with an act of kindness.

PRAY Ask God to help you share His perfect gifts.

Monday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:14, 15.

THINK After thinking about your power text, think of three times you received something good from someone when you didn't earn it.

THANK Call, write, or talk to each of the people who showed you kindness and thank them.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you extend grace to others.

Tuesday

READ Read 2 Samuel 9:1-5 and Proverbs 14:21.

WRITE In your Bible study journal,* write about two Bible characters who were kind to someone undeserving.

HELP Share God's love with someone in need today.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the opportunity to share His love.

Wednesday

READ Read 2 Samuel 9:6-8.

THINK Why was David kind to Mephibosheth?

TALK With an adult, discuss how you could show kindness to others because of your friendship with Jesus. How is this like David's kindness toward Mephibosheth because of his friendship with Jonathan?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to make your friendship with Jesus spill over through acts of love and kindness to others.

Thursday

READ Read 2 Samuel 9:9-13.

THINK In the story of David and Mephibosheth, sometimes the role of Ziba is overlooked.

WRITE Put yourself in the place of Ziba, and, in your Bible study journal, write a short paragraph about why you are so willing to help Saul's grandson.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the people He has used to help you receive and understand His grace.

Friday

READ Read Psalm 23:5, 6.

EAT Prepare a special meal together and make your table as much like a king's table as you can.

SING Sing a song about God's love and grace.

REPEAT Say the power text aloud by memory.

PRAY Ask God to use you to help someone in need.

NOTE *Your Bible study journal is found at the back of your Bible study guide. Writing out your thoughts helps you remember what you've learned from the Bible.