

# David Is Merciful to Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 9:1-13



### Worship Theme:

 God is kind.

### Weaving Faith Into Life:

 Children will praise God for his kindness.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p><b>1</b> Let's Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p><b>Sing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Sing Unto the Lord" (track 9)</li> <li>• "My God Is" (track 4)</li> <li>• "Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16) (track 6)</li> <li>• "Give of Your Best to the Master" (track 3)</li> <li>• "Brotherly Love" (Romans 12:10) (track 24)</li> </ul>	<p><b>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</b> <i>Songs From FaithWeaver</i></p> <p><b>Classroom Supplies:</b> CD player, butcher paper, tape, poster board, markers, small cups, juice</p> 

## Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p><b>2</b> Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p><b>* Grab Bag Kindness</b> Pick an object from a grab bag, and talk about kindness.</p>	<p><b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Paper bag, toy food, sweater, toy, bandages, miniature toy chair</p>
	<p><b>Move Here, Mephibosheth!</b> Participate in the story of King David.</p>	<p><b>Classroom Supplies:</b> 1 faux gemstone, 1 treat, and 1 small stuffed animal per child; crown; "royal" table decorations; clear plastic cups; large doll; surgical gauze; basket; royal badge</p>
	<p><b>God Is Kind to All</b> Play a circle game.</p>	

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>2</b> Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	<b>* Bowled Over With Kindness</b> Attempt to knock over "pins" with a foam ball, and be shown kindness in different ways.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> 24 two-liter soda bottles, water, 3 foam balls, playground ball
	<b>* Meet Mephibosheth</b> Participate in a "press conference" with Mephibosheth.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Crutch, Bible-times costume, toy microphone, index cards, pen, script (p. 27)
	<b>Everyday Kindness</b> Act out ways God could show kindness to children with specific problems.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> "Skit Starters" (p. 31), scissors

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>3</b> Let's Pray! <i>(up to 10 minutes)</i>	<b>The Offering</b> Offer their gifts to God.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Offering bowls, paper cups
	<b>Cups for Kindness</b> Record ways God has been kind, and give them to the pastor.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Paper cups, half sheets of paper, markers
	<b>Prayer in a Cup</b> Pass a cup around as they thank God for ways he shows kindness.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Paper cups, stickers

\* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.

Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Let's Learn the Point!

Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

# David Is Merciful to Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 9:1-13

After David became king of Israel, he solidified his kingdom. He took Jerusalem from the Jebusites, who had never been driven from the Promised Land. Because of its strategic position on a high ridge near the center of his kingdom, David made Jerusalem his capital city. He set up residence there and named it the City of David.

David also brought the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem. For 20 years, it had been kept in a private home, but David moved it to a special tent he had made for it in his kingdom's capital. There he had sacrifices made to God and blessed the people of Israel. Then David himself prayed before the Lord, acknowledging God's greatness and mercy and asking for God's blessing on the kingdom of Israel (2 Samuel 7:18-29).

David's forces continued to conquer surrounding nations so that Israel was no longer oppressed by people who had not been driven out when the Hebrews first entered the Promised Land. He became famous for his military prowess, and God gave him victory wherever he went (2 Samuel 8:13-14). And we are told that David did "what was just and right for all his people" (2 Samuel 8:15).

It is against this backdrop that the story of Mephibosheth unfolded. David was secure in his position, and he had practiced doing what was right. Now he had time to remember his old friend Jonathan, and he wanted to help Jonathan's descendants. Most kings of that time would have sought out any descendants of the former king and executed them so that they would never be a threat to the throne. But that was not David's concern. Instead he wanted to honor the friend who had saved his life.

When he was a child, Mephibosheth was crippled when he fell while fleeing with his nurse after Jonathan and Saul had been killed in battle (2 Samuel 4:4). Now he was likely in hiding, fearing that David would harm him. When summoned to the king, Mephibosheth bowed before David, possibly fearing for his life. Instead David offered kindness and honor. Not only did David give Mephibosheth all the land that had belonged to Saul and his family, but he also gave Mephibosheth a seat of honor at the king's own table, as if Mephibosheth were David's own son.

David's kindness to Mephibosheth went far beyond the cultural expectations of the time. It demonstrated David's integrity and showed how important it was to him to show love and mercy.

## Devotion for Leaders

Because of Jesus' ultimate act of love and kindness—dying on the cross for us—we are free from death. Let's share his kindness with others and spread the love!

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Kindness is more than just being nice. Read verse 7. What part do justice and righteousness play in kindness? How would our relationships change if we considered doing what's "just" and "right" for others? Thank God for showing us, through Jesus, the difference that kindness can make.

## Why We Worship for Leaders

To say that God is *kind* is an understatement; God is *beyond* kind. In fact, 1 John 4:8b says, “God is love.” Love is his essence, and his love manifests itself through the trait of kindness in different ways. In the New Testament, Jesus showed one aspect of his kindness by healing those with disabilities or diseases. The Old Testament story of Mephibosheth, however, is markedly different. Here God shows his kindness, not by removing the problem—Mephibosheth’s disability—but by meeting Mephibosheth’s needs in the midst of the problem. God uses David as a channel of his kindness, as described in 1 John 4:12: “No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.” Help your children recognize God’s kindness and worship him for it.

## Easy Prep for Leaders

**Let’s Praise God!**—Prepare small paper cups by writing “Cup of Kindness” on each one. Fill the cups with juice, one per child. Post a sheet of butcher paper on the wall, and have markers available.

**Bowled Over With Kindness**—Set up three bowling stations. To make a station, add about 4 inches of water to each of six 2-liter soda bottles, and arrange the bottles in a triangle formation: three in back, two in the middle, one in front. Be sure the lids are tight on the bottles. Have three small foam balls available. Keep six empty soda bottles and a playground ball available but out of sight.

**Meet Mephibosheth**—Recruit an adult volunteer to play the part of Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth should have a Bible-times costume, such as a robe and a towel for his head. He should also have a crutch or a wheelchair. Photocopy Mephibosheth’s script (p. 27) for your volunteer, and ask your volunteer to rehearse the script enough to know the answers to the questions the children will ask. Refer to the answers in parentheses below.

Write each of the following questions on a separate index card, but don’t include the answers written in parentheses:

- **How did you feel when Ziba told you that King David wanted to see you?** (Nervous. David could have killed me because I was a member of the previous king’s family.)
- **Why do you think King David searched so hard for someone in Jonathan’s family?** (David promised to always show kindness to Jonathan’s family.)
- **How did you become crippled?** (When I was 5 years old, we learned that my father and grandfather had died. We had to flee from the palace. My nurse was carrying me, but she dropped me, and I was injured.)
- **How did you feel when King David told you that you were to have your land back and always dine at his table?** (I felt grateful for his kindness, and I knew that David was a good king who kept his promises.)

**Everyday Kindness**—Photocopy “Skit Starters” (p. 31), and cut apart the situations.

**Preschool Activities**—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

**Web Help**—Get bonus leader tips and ideas at [kidsownworship.com](http://kidsownworship.com).



## 1 Let's Praise God!

Play *Songs From FaithWeaver, Fall 2010* as children arrive. Greet children by name, and assign them to either the "Welcoming Committee" or the "Grouchy Greeters." Encourage children to think about welcoming ways or grouchy ways to greet people arriving at church but to not actually use those ways yet. Show kids the butcher paper on the wall and the markers. Have kids write welcoming words or grouchy words on it.

When everyone has arrived, begin worship.

**Say** Hello, everybody! Let's begin our session today by singing to the Lord.

Sing "Sing Unto the Lord."



Track 9

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** It feels good to sing a joyful song. Let's see how it feels to be greeted in different ways.

Have children get together in the committees to which they were assigned when they arrived. Allow the Welcoming Committee to serve the cups of juice politely to the Grouchy Greeters while offering a pleasant word of welcome. Then have the Grouchy Greeters serve cups of juice to the Welcoming Committee while greeting them with grouchy words. Make sure their comments are not personally insulting to anyone. Be sure all children receive a cup of juice. When everyone has been served, have the children drink the juice.

**Say** You have now experienced two kinds of greetings.

- Ask**
- **What did you think when you were greeted in a grouchy way?** (I felt angry; I thought it was funny.)
  - **What did you think when you were greeted politely?** (Good; I like it when people are nice.)

**Say** Today we'll be learning about God's kindness. Even if you didn't get a very kind greeting earlier, turn to your neighbors, and welcome them with a kind handshake and a smile.

**There are lots of ways to describe kindness. Let's think of other words that mean "kindness."**

Have kids form small groups, and give each a sheet of poster board and markers. Ask kids to write as many synonyms for *kindness* as they can in two minutes. Then have groups take turns holding up their signs and reading their words aloud. Collect the markers, and display the posters at the front of the room.

**Say** You found lots of ways to describe kindness. Listen for some more as we sing "My God Is."

### ALLERGY ALERT



Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

Sing "My God Is."

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



Track 4

**Ask** • **What are some of God's acts of kindness mentioned in the song we just sang?**

Help kids remember lyrics if necessary. Be sure kids identify setting the prisoner free and being a loving companion.

**Ask** • **Why is it a good thing that God is kind?** (God helps people; God wants people to be happy.)

• **How does knowing about God's kindness make you want to respond to him?** (I want to thank him; I want to ask God to help me.)

**Say** **The Bible tells us that God shows his kindness through his people. Today we'll hear how God worked through King David to show kindness to someone with special needs. God also wants to use us to show kindness. He sent his Son, Jesus, to show us how to treat others with love and kindness. When we follow Jesus' example, we are kind and loving to others.**

Show kids the words they wrote on the butcher paper earlier.

**Say** **Using polite words is one way to show kindness to others. What are some other ways you showed kindness to someone this week?**

Have several children share their acts of kindness with the group.

**Say** **God's love brings light into our world. And those acts of kindness really "light up" the world. Think about God's kindness shining through you as we sing "Let Your Light Shine."**

Sing "Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



Track 6

**Say** **God made each one of us unique, yet he's made us all in his image. Because God is kind, he wants us to be kind and love one another. Let's sing about doing our best to show God's love.**

Sing "Give of Your Best to the Master."

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



Track 3

**Say** **God is kind because he loves us. Let's sing about sharing God's love with one another.**

Sing "Brotherly Love" (Romans 12:10).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



Track 24

**Pray** **Dear God, thank you for the many amazing ways you show kindness to us. You made each of us unique; you sent your Son, Jesus, to die for us; and you promise to be with us always. We pray that your kindness will overflow in our kindness to others. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## 2 Let's Learn the Point!

### *Preschool Activities, pages 25-26*

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (\*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

### *Elementary Activities*

#### *\* Bowled Over With Kindness*

Have the kids form three teams and go to one of the three stations.

**Say** ➤ **Each team should roll the ball and knock over all the pins.**

Give each team a small foam ball, and let team members take turns trying to knock over the pins. Encourage the teams to try, even though they may think it's impossible to do with the foam balls.

**Ask** ➤ • **It seems there's a problem with what I've asked you to do. What is it?** (The balls are too light; the pins are too heavy.)

**Say** ➤ **The problem isn't just the balls: It's doing the given task with the equipment you have. I'm going to show kindness to each team. I'd like the other two teams to watch what I do.**

Replace the first team's water-filled bottles with empty ones.

**Say** ➤ **I'm showing kindness to this team by replacing the pins. Do you think you can knock all of them over now?**

Have kids try to bowl again. Let each child on the team have a turn until all the pins are down. Then have that team sit while you go to the second team.

**Say** ➤ **I'm going to show kindness to this team by replacing the ball. Let's see what happens.**

Take the foam ball, and give the team a playground ball. When all the pins are down, have kids sit to watch the last team.

**Ask** ➤ • **What are some different ways I could show kindness to this team?** (Make the pins easier to knock over; give them a real bowling ball.)

**Say** ➤ **Here's what I'll do. I'll be kind to this team by removing five of the pins, letting team members stand a little closer to the pin, and allowing them to use the ball in whatever way they want to knock over the one pin. Do you think they can do it?**

*(continued on page 27)*

# David Is Merciful to Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 9:1-13

## Worship Theme:



God is kind.

## Easy Prep for Leaders

**Grab Bag Kindness**—Fill a paper bag with toy food (or canned goods), a sweater, a toy, bandages, and any other similar items. Be sure to have enough items so each child can hold one. Set a dollhouse-size chair out of sight.

**Move Here, Mephibosheth!**—Prepare a table with “royal decorations,” such as a fancy tablecloth, gold paper plates, or “crystal” (plastic) cups. One chair may also be decorated as a “throne.” Wrap the legs of a large doll with surgical gauze or white cloth, and set it off to the side. Have a basket of enough small stuffed animals for each child to have one. Have a snack and a faux gemstone available for each child. Have a crown, a royal badge or sash, and other “royal” accessories ready to wear.

## Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo wear the royal badge or sash and invite each child to sit at the king’s table.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.



## \* Grab Bag Kindness

**Say** We’ve been talking about kindness.

**Ask** • What is kindness? Tell me some things someone would do to be kind.

**Say** There are many ways we can be kind, aren’t there? God is very creative in the ways he is kind to us. God gives us families and other people to take care of us. God gives us all kinds of food and clothing and medicine to help us grow. God wants to use us to show kindness to others in many ways, too.

Show children the paper bag.

**Say** Let’s think of some ways to show kindness. I have lots of different things inside this bag. I want you to pick one thing—without looking—

from this bag. Then tell us how you could use that thing to show kindness to someone else. Or you can tell us about a time someone used that thing to show kindness to you.

If you think the children would be helped by an example, choose an item from the bag yourself, and give an example of how it could be used to show kindness. For example, if you pick the sweater, you might say that when you outgrow your clothes you share them with someone else whom they might fit. Pass the bag around so each child has a turn. Then hold up the toy chair for the children to see.

**Say** Here is one other object. It seems funny to think of a chair being used to show kindness. But today we’ll hear the story of how King David used a chair, an empty seat at his table, to show kindness to someone else.

## Move Here, Mephibosheth!

**Say** I’m going to begin today’s Bible story by giving you each something very precious.

Distribute one faux gemstone to each child. Tell children to hold onto the stones carefully.

**Say** This jewel is precious, not just because it’s something fancy, but because it’s a reminder of God’s kindness to us. When you look at it, think of all the good things God has given to

you. Think of how much he loves you. Hold onto this jewel until we come to a special point in our story.

Since our story today is about King David, I’m going to wear this crown and pretend to be King David as I tell the Bible story.

Put on the crown and any other accessories you have.

**Say** Hello, boys and girls! I’d like to begin my story by telling you about my best friend, Jonathan.

## Move Here, Mephibosheth! (continued)

**Ask** • Have you ever loved some one specially—a best friend or maybe a grandma or neighbor?

**Say** That's the kind of friend Jonathan was to me! But after many years, Jonathan died, and I was very sad.

I called a servant and asked him, "Is there anyone from Jonathan's family I can show kindness to?"

Jonathan was my special friend and he helped me while he was alive. I wanted to repay a little of his kindness if I could.

The servant said, "Well, your majesty, there is one person left from Jonathan's family—his son, Mephibosheth."

"Mephibo-who?" I asked.

"Mephibosheth" he answered, "He has a special problem. His feet don't work the way they're supposed to."

"Call him right away!" I told my servant. "Tell him that he is to come and eat at my royal table every day!" That is exactly what happened. You see, God had shown so much kindness to me that I wanted to show kindness to someone else.

Look at the jewel you have. The jewel is like the kindness God has shown you. You can show someone else kindness, because God has been kind to you. Give your jewel to someone near you.

Wait a few minutes for children to switch jewels. Be sure that each child ends up with a jewel. Introduce the Mephibosheth

doll. Seat him next to the throne. Bring forward the basket of stuffed animals.

**Say** Not only did I invite Mephibosheth to eat at my table every day, but I also made sure that some people farmed some land for him and gave him the money. That way, he would always have the money he needed to live on.

I was able to show kindness to Mephibosheth because God had shown so much more kindness to me. Being kind means including everyone. I would like to invite each of you to sit at the royal table. On your way, I'd like you to choose a special friend from this basket. Bring your friend to the table with you.

Once everyone is seated, have children introduce themselves and their special friends to the group. Serve the "royal" treat. During your time at the table, review and discuss the story.

**Say** Isn't it good to know that God will show kindness to you as he did to Mephibosheth? He'll take good care of you, just as he had David take care of Mephibosheth.

### ALLERGY ALERT



Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

## God Is Kind to All

**Say** Let's play a game to remind us that God is kind to everyone.

Help the children form a circle and join hands. Have one child stand in the middle of the circle while everyone marches around and sings this song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell":

God is kind to [child's name].

God is kind to [child's name].

Hi-ho, the derry-o!

God is kind to [child's name].

For the next verse, have the first child choose another to stand in the middle also. This time, use the new child's name in the song. Keep adding a new child until everyone is inside the circle and you are walking around the children. Finish with "God is kind to all."

(continued from page 24)

Wait for someone on the team to knock over the one pin, possibly by tossing the ball at the top of the bottle. Then have all the children sit down to listen.

**Say** In this game, all the teams started with the same problem, but each was helped in a different way. That's how God shows kindness to us. He treats us all differently; no two lives are the same. But he is kind to all of us in meeting all of our needs. In today's Bible story, you'll meet a man to whom God showed kindness in an unlikely way.

### \* *Meet Mephibosheth*

Keep your volunteer "Mephibosheth" out of view until he is announced.

**Say** For today's Bible story, we're going to have a press conference. That means that all of you can pretend to be reporters. In a moment, I'll introduce our main speaker. After he tells a little about his experiences, you're going to have an opportunity to ask him questions.

Change roles to the press correspondent.

**Say** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the press. In a moment, you'll be meeting our main speaker for this session, Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan. You may remember that Jonathan was a devoted friend to King David. But Jonathan's father, Saul, who was king before David, spent years trying to kill David.

Now that both Saul and Jonathan have been dead for many years, the king and his best friend's son are reunited. In light of the astounding developments over the last few days, we knew that you would want to ask Jonathan's son a few questions yourself. Without further delay...Mephibosheth!

**Mephibosheth:** Hello, ladies and gentlemen. My story is really quite simple. I was living at Makir's house in Lo Debar. One day a messenger came to take me to King David. I wasn't sure why King David wanted to see me. I knew my father was his best friend, but my grandfather was his enemy. I was a little nervous. However, King David welcomed me with open arms! He told me that all my inherited land would be given back to me. Obviously, I can't do the hard work of farming, but he assigned Ziba, Saul's servant, to farm the land. That way I can have the profit of my own farm. But not only that, the king said I'm to eat with him every night, just as if I were his own son! So, in the last few days, I've moved my things to Jerusalem, and I've been enjoying the king's company ever since!

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**OK to copy**

**Say** ➤ **What an amazing story! I'm sure many of you are eager to talk to Mephibosheth, so let's begin the questions.**

Distribute the four question cards to the children. Hand the microphone to the first child to ask the question written on the card. Then circulate among the other children who have question cards. If time allows, some children may ask their own original questions. After your volunteer leaves, discuss the press conference with your kids.

**Ask** ➤ • **How did God use David to show kindness to Mephibosheth?**  
(David invited Mephibosheth to eat at his table; David made sure Mephibosheth would have money.)

**Say** ➤ **Mephibosheth had a problem: His disability meant that he couldn't make a living by himself. God didn't show kindness by taking away the problem—healing his crippled legs. Instead, God showed kindness by providing for his needs through King David. Kindness doesn't always look the way we think it should.**

## *Everyday Kindness*

**Say** ➤ **God is creative at showing kindness. In the New Testament, Jesus healed many people who were lame or sick. Sometimes he didn't heal the sick people physically; instead, he healed them spiritually and helped them to deal with their problems. Sometimes we don't recognize God's kindness because it doesn't come in the way we're expecting.**

**Right now we're going to act out some stories about kids who have specific problems. I'd like you to think about how God could show kindness to them and help them with their problems.**

Have the kids form groups of four, and give one of the skit starters to each group. If you have a larger group, you may give the same skit starter to more than one group; the results will be different.

**Say** ➤ **I'm going to give you a few minutes to organize your parts and practice. Your skit should answer two questions: What is the character's problem? and How has God shown kindness to that character?**

Give the groups a few minutes to work on their skits. Circulate to answer questions and give helpful feedback as the groups practice. When you see that they're ready, let groups act out their skits one at a time. After each group,

**Ask** ➤ • **What is the main character's problem?**  
• **How has God shown kindness to this person?**  
• **Can you think of other ways God might have shown kindness?**

**Say** ➤ **The next time you face a problem, watch for God to show kindness to you, and remember that his kindness may not look like you expect it to.**

# 3

## Let's Pray!

### *The Offering*

**Say**

God's kindness is all around us! Think of all the ways he's shown kindness to you, just today! He's created this day and made the sun rise again. He's made sure that you're fed and dressed and cared for. He's brought you here safely. There's so much of his kindness that we forget to thank him for. One way we *can* show God that we see his kindness is by giving an offering.

I'm going to give each of you a paper cup. I want you to imagine the cup being filled more and more with God's kindness by remembering all the things he's done for you this past week. When the offering comes around, put in your money, if you brought it, but also pretend to pour a little "kindness" from your cup into the offering. Though you really can't give back God's kindness, you can understand that an offering is a little way to thank God for all he's done for you.

Distribute paper cups. After the offering, have the kids keep the cups for the next activity.

### *Cups for Kindness*

**Say**

Now we're going to share with one another some of the ways God has been kind to us.

Have children form groups of six or seven, and distribute half sheets of paper and markers. Ask children to write or draw one way God has been kind to them during the past week on their papers. After each child has finished, have the group place their written examples of God's kindness in one cup. Then, as a group, take the Cups for Kindness to the pastor, and present them as an affirmation to him or her. If the pastor is busy with a worship service or class, place them in a spot where he or she will see them easily.

### *Prayer in a Cup*

Have the children remain in the same groups, but have each group sit in a circle. Have them put all but one of their cups in the middle of the circle.

**Say**

We're going to close our session in prayer right now to thank God for his kindness to us. Before we begin, I'll give each person a sticker to represent God's kindness. When you get your sticker, think of a kindness it reminds you of.

Each small group will have one cup. When you hear me say, "Let's pass our cups of kindness," pass the cup to each person in your group. When the cup comes to you, thank God aloud for the way he shows kindness that you thought of. Place the sticker inside the cup.

Distribute the stickers.

**Pray** Dear God, we thank you so much for the story of Mephibosheth and how you showed him kindness by working through David. Please work through us to show kindness to others. At the same time, Lord, help us to see all the ways you show kindness to us.

**Say** Let's pass our cups of kindness.

Wait for the small groups to give their individual thanks.

**Pray** Dear God, we praise you for your kindness! In Jesus' name, amen.

# Skit Starters



1. Josh's neighbor T.J. keeps coming over to hang out with Josh. Josh's mom can't understand why Josh doesn't seem to want to spend time with T.J. What Mom doesn't know is that T.J. can be kind of bossy.



2. At the beginning of the year, Mariah signed up for the school district's spelling bee. She only signed up because the other choice, the speech meet, sounded harder. She has a 12-page list of *hard* words to learn, and she doesn't like studying *at all*.



3. Trina thought it would be so exciting to have a baby sister. Boy, was she wrong! Her mom is always asking Trina to run and get a diaper, warm up a bottle, or swing the baby. When will she ever get back to doing the things she wants to do?



4. Ben hates going home. His mom works evenings so she can afford to send him to a Christian school. His dad always seems to be yelling at Ben, his brother, and even his mom when she's around. Ben's older brother just slams the door to his bedroom and turns up his music to escape.



5. Connor just learned that he has to go to speech therapy twice a week. His dad will drive him to a different school early in the morning for speech and drive him to his own school about 15 minutes after the morning bell rings. Connor dreads the speech sessions—and he worries about what his friends will think when they find out.



6. Marissa's family is in for a big change—one that Marissa is not too excited about. They're selling their house and a lot of their household goods. Then they're heading to the Philippines for mission work. The whole family will have to learn a new language, get used to eating new food, and adjust to home schooling.

