



onechurch

bigIdea



What is a man's word truly worth? A real man chooses to be responsible and look after the needs of his family and those around him.

BIG IDEA: A Godly Man is tender-hearted and takes responsibility for those who are in need.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when someone gave you a lavish gift that it left you speechless. How did that make you feel? Were there any strings attached? How did you express thanks?
2. *Read 1 Samuel 20:14-17, 42.* What does David's kindness to Saul's son underscore about covenants?
3. How would you define responsibility?
4. How would you define grace?
5. According to 1 Samuel 17:27 & 29, what kind of region was Lo Debar? What might Mephibosheth have felt as he is escorted back to Jerusalem? To the throne room of David? To the dining table?
6. How did Mephibosheth view himself? (9:8)
7. Because of his family tie to Saul, Mephibosheth would have been considered an enemy to the throne. David had the right to kill him, but he was kind to him instead. List some of the ways David showed grace to Mephibosheth.
8. Mephibosheth received grace based upon the merit of another person—Jonathan. In what ways does Mephibosheth's story picture our salvation through Jesus? Read Galatians 4:4-7, Ephesians 2:1-9, and Titus 3:5-7.
9. Mephibosheth's disability was a constant reminder of the tragic death of his father and his fall from fortune... until David showered him with grace. What did his handicap remind him of now? How might we view our 'disabilities' in light of God's grace to us?
10. We sometimes forget that God has made us princes and princesses and set us at His bountiful table. How can remembering God's grace influence the choices we make and our outlook on life?

What a fantastic account of responsibility! David—who years before made a promise to Jonathan—doesn't forget his promises once he comes to power. David is a man of his word. He keeps his promises to his best friend Jonathan, and supports Jonathan's son like he was his own. It is a wonderful example of how a man takes responsibility.

But it is also a beautiful picture of grace! We see a demonstration of what grace is all about. Picture what life would be like in the years to come at the supper table with David. The meal is fixed and the dinner bell rings and along come the members of the family and their guests. David's son Amnon, clever and witty, comes to the table first. Then there's Joab, the captain of David's armies—muscular, and masculine, marching in like an experienced soldier. Then Ne David's son Absalom comes to the table. Talk about handsome! From the crown of his head to the soles of his feet there is not a blemish on him. Then there's David's daughter Tamar—beautiful, tender daughter of David. And then David's young son Solomon, who's been in the study all day, makes his way to the table, books in hand.

But then they hear this *clump, clump, clump, clump*, and here comes Mephibosheth, hobbling along. He smiles and humbly joins the others as takes his place at the table as one of the king's sons. And the tablecloth of grace covers his feet.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9