

# Small Group Guide: Carried by the Kindness of the King

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## Key Scripture

**2 Samuel 4:4; 2 Samuel 9:1-13**

The story of Mephibosheth—a man broken by circumstance, living in fear and shame, who was pursued by King David to receive covenant kindness.

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## Main Points

- 1. God delights to reveal His kindness to us in Christ**
    - God actively pursues us to show us His “hesed” (covenant faithfulness/grace)
    - His kindness leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4)
  - 2. Jesus the King invites the broken to His table and restores their identity**
    - We often live from a trauma-based or sin-based identity
    - God wants to give us a new identity as His sons and daughters
    - Our brokenness is an opportunity for God's amazing redemption
  - 3. We are Mephibosheth—carried by grace, seated by the King**
    - Our weaknesses are hidden under the table of the King's mercy
    - We must continually feast at His table
    - We're called to extend the same grace to others
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## Discussion Questions

- 1. What stood out to you most from the story of Mephibosheth?** What parallels do you see between his story and your own spiritual journey?
- 2. Mephibosheth's name was changed from "Maribel" (opponent of Baal) to "Mephibosheth" (shameful thing).** What "labels" or false identities have you carried because of past trauma or sin?

3. **The sermon mentioned that Mephibosheth lived in "Lodebar"—a place without a word from God.** Have you ever experienced a season where you felt distant from God or couldn't hear His voice? What was that like?
4. **Read Romans 2:4.** Pastor Clay said, "Kindness is not niceness—it's not just overlooking reality." How does God's kindness both expose our sin AND offer us grace? Why is this important?
5. **The sermon emphasized that "in the kingdom of God, what's been broken and restored carries greater worth than what was never broken at all" (the Kintsugi illustration).** How does this change your perspective on your past wounds or failures?
6. **Mephibosheth thought the king was out to kill him, when actually the king wanted to bless him.** What lies have you believed about God's character or His intentions toward you? How does the gospel correct those lies?
7. **Pastor Clay said many people won't let go of their trauma because "they're afraid and don't know what it'll look like when they're actually healthy on the other side."** Why do you think we sometimes hold onto our pain or false identities? What would it look like to truly surrender these to God?

## Personal Application

8. **"Come and eat at His table when you have struggles, when you're still lame, when you're still broken."** What does it practically look like for you to "feast at the King's table" this week? What are you hungry for from God right now?
  9. **The sermon mentioned that we often receive "dump truck loads" of God's grace but only give out "spoonfuls" to others.** Who in your life needs you to extend the same kindness and forgiveness that God has shown you? What's one practical step you can take this week?
  10. **Mephibosheth ate "continually" at the king's table (2 Samuel 9:13).** What spiritual disciplines or practices help you consistently receive from God? What obstacles keep you from coming to His table regularly?
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## Key Takeaways

- God's kindness (hesed) is His covenant faithfulness—His loyal, steadfast love that never gives up on us.
  - Our past does not define our future—God wants to restore our true identity as His children.
  - We don't have to be "fixed" before we come to God—He invites us to His table in our brokenness.
  - Our weaknesses are covered by His grace when we're seated at the King's table.
  - The kindness we've received should overflow to others in forgiveness and love.
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## Practical Applications

**This Week's Challenge:** Choose one of the following:

1. **Identify and Surrender a False Identity**
    - Write down any trauma-based or sin-based identities you've been carrying
    - Confess them to God and ask Him to reveal your true identity in Christ
    - Find one Scripture that speaks to who God says you are and memorize it
  2. **Practice "Feasting at the King's Table"**
    - Set aside 15-30 minutes daily to read Scripture, worship, or pray
    - Journal about what God is revealing to you about His kindness
    - Share with the group next week what you "tasted" of God's goodness
  3. **Extend Kindness to Someone**
    - Identify someone who has hurt you or someone you've been withholding grace from
    - Take a practical step toward forgiveness or reconciliation
    - Pray for them daily this week
  4. **Share Your Story**
    - Share with someone (in the group or outside) how God has redeemed a broken area of your life
    - Let your "Kintsugi" story point others to God's kindness
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# Prayer Focus

## Pray together for:

- Those who are struggling to believe God's kindness is truly for them
- Healing from past trauma and freedom from shame-based identities
- Grace to forgive others as we've been forgiven
- A deeper hunger to "feast at the King's table" daily
- Those who raised their hands for salvation during the service

**Group Prayer Activity:** Have each person share one area where they need to experience God's restoring kindness. Pray specifically for each person, declaring their identity as sons and daughters seated at the King's table.

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## Closing Thought

*"So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet." - 2 Samuel 9:13*

Even in our ongoing weaknesses, we are invited to continually feast at the table of the King. Our brokenness doesn't disqualify us—it's the very thing that showcases His incredible kindness and grace.

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