

Small Group Discussion + Leader Guide

Sunday, May 24, 2026

Preached By: Caleb Alexander

God's Lovingkindness **2 Samuel 9:1-13**

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when someone showed you unexpected kindness or grace. How did it make you feel?

Sermon Overview

This week we explored how David's lovingkindness toward Mephibosheth beautifully illustrates God's grace toward us in Christ. Despite being from the family of David's enemy and being crippled in both feet, Mephibosheth was sought out, given a home, and invited to eat at the king's table—not because of his merit, but because of covenant faithfulness.

Central Truth: Just as David showed undeserved lovingkindness to Mephibosheth, God has shown us lovingkindness through Jesus Christ.

Key Takeaways

1. God Seeks Us Out - We don't find God; He pursues us when we're lost in our "Lo-debar" (place of no pasture).
2. God Gives Us a Home - Through adoption, we become children of God with a permanent place in His household.

3. God Gives Us a Seat at His Table - We're invited into intimate fellowship with God, not as servants, but as sons and daughters.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Context Question: Why was it significant that David sought out members of Saul's family instead of eliminating them? What does this tell us about David's character?
2. Covenant Question: Read 1 Samuel 20:14-17. How does the covenant between David and Jonathan help us understand the story in 2 Samuel 9? How does this point us to Christ?
3. Symbolism Question: What is the significance of Mephibosheth being "lame in both feet"? Why do you think the text mentions this detail multiple times?

Personal Reflection

4. Identification Question: In what ways can you relate to Mephibosheth's situation—being lost, broken, or feeling unworthy?
5. Lo-debar Question: The sermon mentioned that Mephibosheth was in "Lo-debar" (meaning "no pasture" or "place of nothing"). Where was your "Lo-debar" before Christ found you? What was your life like?
6. Fear Question: David's first words to Mephibosheth were "Do not fear." What fears do you struggle with in your relationship with God? How does this story address those fears?

Application & Growth

7. Grace Question: The sermon emphasized that "there is nothing special about Mephibosheth" and that we too are not special apart from God's grace. How does this truth humble you? How does it encourage you?

8. Table Fellowship Question: What does it mean to you personally that God invites you to His table "like one of the king's sons"? How should this change the way you approach prayer and worship?
9. Covenant Faithfulness Question: David kept his promise to Jonathan even years after Jonathan's death. How does God's covenant faithfulness give you confidence in difficult seasons?
10. Sharing Question: Mephibosheth couldn't seek David out—David had to come to him. Who in your life needs you to "seek them out" and show them the lovingkindness of Christ?

Key Quotes for Reflection

"Mephibosheth is a beautiful illustration of saving grace. He was from the family of the king's enemy, helpless in himself, unable to earn favor, yet received fully on the basis of another covenant." — John MacArthur

"Grace does not merely lift us out of Lo-debar; it brings us to the King's table." — John Piper

"Mephibosheth had no merits to plead. His only plea was the king's kindness." — Charles Spurgeon

Group Discussion:

Which of these quotes resonates most with you? Why?

Scripture Connections

The sermon connected 2 Samuel 9 with several New Testament passages. Take time to read and discuss these:

- Luke 19:10 - Jesus came to seek and save the lost
- Romans 5:8 - God demonstrated His love while we were yet sinners
- John 6:44 - The Father draws us to Christ
- Ephesians 2:12-13 - We were far off but brought near by Christ's blood

- John 14:2-3 - Jesus prepares a place for us
- Galatians 4:7 - No longer slaves, but sons
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Discussion:

How do these passages deepen your understanding of God's lovingkindness toward you?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice:

1. Gratitude Exercise: Write out your testimony using the three-point structure from the sermon:
 - Where God found you (your Lo-debar)
 - How He gave you a home (salvation story)
 - What it means to sit at His table (your relationship with Him now)
2. Seek Someone Out: Identify one person who might feel forgotten, overlooked, or "lame" in some way. Intentionally reach out to them this week with a call, text, or visit.
3. Memorize Scripture: Commit Romans 5:8 or Luke 19:10 to memory as a reminder of God's seeking love.
4. Table Fellowship: Invite someone to share a meal with you this week. Use it as an opportunity to practice hospitality and share about God's lovingkindness.
5. Journal Reflection: Spend time journaling about areas where you've felt like God was "providing" for you, even when you felt alone (like the pastor's story about 2025).

Prayer Focus

Spend time praying together about:

- Thanksgiving: Thank God for seeking you out when you were lost
- Confession: Confess areas where you've doubted God's lovingkindness or felt unworthy
- Intercession: Pray for those in your life who don't yet know the King's invitation
- Surrender: Ask God to help you rest in your identity as His child at His table
- Mission: Pray for opportunities to show lovingkindness to others this week

Closing Thought

"We are not special. In fact we are like Mephibosheth, lost, needing a home, needing a savior, and it is through God's lovingkindness that he sent His son to come here, walk this earth, die a sinner's death, and be raised to life 3 days later so that we can live with him forever."

Final Question:

How will you respond to the King's invitation this week?

For Next Week

- Read 2 Samuel 11-12 (David and Bathsheba)
- Reflect on how even those who show lovingkindness are still in need of God's grace
- Come prepared to discuss how we handle our own sin and failures

Group Leader Note: Be sensitive to those who may not yet have a personal relationship with Christ. This study provides a beautiful opportunity to share the gospel. Be prepared to talk with anyone who wants to know more about accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior.