

Crippled But Cared For

Word

Scripture Reference

2 Samuel 9:1-13

Discussion Questions

1. What is one promise you made to someone that you have kept to this day? Share with the group.
2. King David had a strong empire and a secured throne. During this period in the Old Testament, kings would kill their rivals and their rivals' families to eliminate all threats to their kingdom. Who was Jonathan, and what was his relationship to David? What did David inquire from Ziba about the family of the late King Saul, the father of Jonathan? What was Ziba's response (1-4)?
3. Mephibosheth had a direct lineage from King Saul and could threaten David's throne, but how did Ziba describe him (v. 14; 2 Samuel 4:4)? Knowing his situation, could he still be considered a threat to the throne? Who else could be a future threat to the throne of King David (v. 12)? How do you react to people who could be a threat to your relationship with a loved one, to a position in your work, or to your ranking at school? Discuss how you can best handle "threats" in your life.
4. Mephibosheth had been hiding for two decades when David summoned him. Describe how Mephibosheth reacted when he saw King David (v. 6-8)? What does his reaction tell you about the kind of person he is? If you were Mephibosheth, how would you feel that the most powerful person in the land would call for you to see him?
5. Mephibosheth was crippled but cared for. King David called it as the kindness of God (v. 3). The Hebrew word for "kindness" is *hesed*, which means "God has freely bound himself to his people." and the righteous may thus depend on His *hesed* as they themselves show mercy. Describe how David had extended kindness to Mephiboseth and his family (v. 7, 9-13). Have you ever shown this kind of kindness to someone else? Share

with the group.

6. In the same way that Mephibosheth was crippled due to an accident, you were crippled by sin. Read Ephesians 2:4-5. The Word of God tells us that it is only by God's mercy and grace that we are saved. When the Hebrew Old Testament was translated into Greek, the Hebrew word *hesed* was translated into the Greek word *eleos*. Paul used that term for the word "mercy" in verse 4. God showed His kindness through His mercy. That is His *hesed*! Share how you feel about being reminded of God's faithful and merciful love. Discuss how you can possibly extend this kind of merciful love to others who need to experience it.

Walk

Just as King David extended kindness to Mephibosheth, so also has God extended mercy to you. Mephibosheth was a cripple, but David took care of him. Sin has crippled you, but the grace of God cared for you! David extended kindness to Mephibosheth because of Jonathan. God extended mercy to you because of His Son. How would you thank God for His kindness? Make a list of how God's grace has been manifested in your life and thank Him for each one.

Worship & Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, I just want to praise You and thank You for Your lovingkindness. I don't deserve it. Forgive me, Father. I've done far too many things that do not please you, but still, through Your Son Jesus Christ You forgave me. May His sacrifice on the cross remind me always of Your hesed. As You have shown grace and mercy to me, so may I show the same to others, that through my actions they may see Your love. I pray these in Jesus' name. Amen.