

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for bringing us together today. As we gather to study Your Word, open our hearts and minds to understand the lessons You want us to learn. Help us to focus on what matters and apply it in our lives. May Your presence guide our discussion and help us grow closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

2 Samuel 8:1-18

8 And after this it came to pass that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took Methegammah out of the hand of the Philistines.

² And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And so the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts.

³ David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.

⁴ And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David had all the chariot horses, but reserved of them for an hundred chariots.

⁵ And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succour Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.

⁶ Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

⁷ And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸ And from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceeding much brass.

⁹ When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had smitten all the host of Hadadezer,

¹⁰ Then Toi sent Joram his son unto king David, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer, and smitten him: for Hadadezer had wars with Toi. And Joram brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass:

¹¹ Which also king David did dedicate unto the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated of all nations which he subdued;

¹² Of Syria, and of Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

¹³ And David gat him a name when he returned from smiting of the Syrians in the valley of salt, being eighteen thousand men.

¹⁴ And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

¹⁵ And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people.

¹⁶ And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

¹⁷ And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Seraiah was the scribe;

¹⁸ And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers.

2 Samuel Chapter 9

9 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

² And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.

³ And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

⁴ And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

⁵ Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

⁶ Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

⁷ And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

⁸ And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?

⁹ Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.

¹⁰ Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

¹¹ Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

¹² And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth.

¹³ **So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.**

KING DAVID KEEPS A PROMISE

David had a lot of success in his battles, but it wasn't because of his own smarts or having more soldiers. It was because the Lord was with him and kept him safe wherever he went. God did this because David kept his promises to God. It's important that we keep our promises too. God is the one who gives success and victory. Our salvation comes from God's love and grace, not anything we can do on our own. We can all experience God's protection and blessings like David did, as long as we stay faithful to Him.

2 Samuel 8:1-14 After God gave David the great news about the coming Messiah, David turned his attention to the battles with the nations surrounding Israel. These were not just small skirmishes either; David faced some pretty powerful enemies. He fought the Philistines, who had been Israel's enemies for years, he fought the Moabites from across the Jordan River, he fought against the Syrians from various regions, and he fought the Edomites in the south. All these nations felt the power of David's sword, but it wasn't just his strength that won the battles. The Bible tells us, "And the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went," meaning that God was with David, helping him win every time he faced his enemies.

One notable victory was when David defeated the king of Zobah, a Syrian kingdom. After hearing of this, King Toi of Hamath, another Syrian king, sent gifts of silver, gold, and bronze to David, thanking him for defeating Zobah, a rival power. David didn't keep these treasures for himself. Instead, he dedicated them to the Lord to be used later in the building of the temple—a reminder that David always put God first, even in the midst of his successes.

As David continued to win battles, Israel's territory expanded, becoming a stronger and more united nation. The people were coming together, recognizing God's blessing on their king. David didn't stop with just a few victories; he went on to defeat the Ammonites and their Syrian allies as well. And again, the Bible reminds us, "And the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went." God's presence was with David wherever he went, giving him victory after victory, showing that David's success was a direct result of God's hand in his life.

2 Samuel 8:15-18 After years of hard work and careful planning, David established his kingdom. He wasn't just any leader—he was the "anointed of the Lord," specifically chosen by God to be king. This wasn't just a title; it meant that David had been given all the qualities God wanted in a king—wisdom, strength, and, most importantly, a heart that sought after God's will.

To help him manage the growing kingdom, David appointed many officials, both in Jerusalem and throughout the land. Some were responsible for managing the treasury, making sure the kingdom's wealth was handled wisely. Others kept records, acted as secretaries, and handled the important documents of the kingdom. David's own sons served as his counselors, offering advice and guidance.

Among his trusted advisors was the prophet Nathan, who played a significant role in guiding David, not just in political matters, but in spiritual ones too. There were also priests in charge of the religious system, ensuring the people continued to worship God, and military leaders who took care of all the matters of war. On top of that, there were overseers responsible for managing David's royal estate and taking care of the storehouses, which held the kingdom's supplies and treasures.

Despite having all this organization and authority, David never lost sight of the fact that he was God's representative on earth. He knew that being king was not just about power—it was about serving God and His people. David understood that he was accountable to God and worked hard to be the kind of king who followed God's heart. He was committed to making sure justice and fairness were given to all his people, from the greatest to the least.

2 Samuel 9:1-4 At the height of his power, when David had a break from his political duties, his thoughts turned to someone very close to his heart—Jonathan, his dear friend and the son of King Saul. He thought back to the time when he had to run for his life from Saul, and how Jonathan had risked his own safety to help him. David also remembered the promise he had made to Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:14-15, 42), a sacred vow to always show kindness to Jonathan's family. David knew he had to keep that promise, so he began searching for any remaining members of Saul's family.

He soon found a servant of Saul, who led him to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, who was crippled. This was significant—not just because of Mephibosheth's

condition, but because he was the only member of Saul's family still alive. Mephibosheth was living in hiding, in the home of Machir, a wealthy man in Lo-debar, a remote and out-of-the-way place.

Mephibosheth had been fortunate to escape when his family was destroyed, but he had also suffered greatly. The Bible tells us that when he was just five years old, news came of Israel's defeat at Mount Gilboa and the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. In the panic, his nurse picked him up and fled. However, in her haste to escape, she dropped him, and the fall left him crippled in both feet (2 Samuel 4:4). From that moment on, Mephibosheth couldn't care for himself and had to rely on others. He eventually found shelter in a place where his uncle, Ishbosheth, had once tried—but failed—to establish a kingdom against David. For years, Mephibosheth lived there, forgotten by most and unknown to the rest of the world, until this moment when David, remembering his promise to Jonathan, sought him out.

2 Samuel 9:5-10 David sent for Mephibosheth to come to him, and when Mephibosheth arrived, he was filled with fear. Being the last living descendant of Saul, he expected judgment, perhaps even death. In his eyes, he was a threat to David's kingdom, just because of who he was related to. Mephibosheth fell on his face before the king, bracing for what he thought was coming. But instead of hearing words of judgment, he heard mercy and grace. For the sake of Jonathan, his beloved friend, David restored all of Saul's land to Mephibosheth, welcomed him into his own household, and gave him a place at the king's table, where he would eat as one of David's own sons.

In his shock, Mephibosheth cried out, "What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?" **These words show how low he felt—like nothing, like a dead dog—yet David lifted him up and gave him honor instead.** Instead of facing disgrace or death as the descendant of Saul—David's former enemy—Mephibosheth was brought into the royal family. David didn't stop at giving him land; he also gave him the servant Ziba, who would farm the land and take care of it for Mephibosheth. All of this was done because of David's deep love for Jonathan, Mephibosheth's father.

This scene is incredibly touching. David was at the peak of his power; he was the most powerful man in the land. **He could have easily done away with Mephibosheth as a way of ending Saul's line, but David's heart remained unchanged by his power and success.** The words "for Jonathan's sake" and

“the kindness of God” show that David’s heart was full of love—love for his friend Jonathan and love for God. Even with all his responsibilities as king, David remembered the promise he had made to Jonathan and kept it because it mattered to him. He knew that a promise wasn’t something to be taken lightly.

David’s commitment to his promise is a lesson for all of us. We must keep our promises, just as God keeps His promises to us. **It’s important to teach our children that a promise is something sacred and should be kept unless keeping it would lead to sin.** Someone once said, "Make few promises, but keep those you make." This is a lesson we can all learn from David’s example.

In today’s story, we’ve seen two sides of David. Earlier, we saw him as a strong, serious, and commanding man of war, leading Israel to victory after victory. David shed a lot of blood in battle, and because of this, God refused his plan to build a temple. But David wasn’t just a warrior; he had a tender side too, as we see in his treatment of Mephibosheth and his commitment to keeping his vow to Jonathan. **This balance between strength and tenderness is a powerful example of how God wants us to be—strong in our fight against evil, yet full of love and kindness.**

Mephibosheth’s story can also be seen as a picture of salvation. In many ways, the sinner is even more helpless and deserving of judgment than Mephibosheth was. **Yet, just like David showed mercy to Mephibosheth, God shows us mercy.** While we were still sinners, Christ died for us, cleansing us from sin and restoring us to our rightful place as children of God. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, we are invited to sit at His table, though we are unworthy, and partake of His body and blood.

The battles we see in the Old Testament, including David’s battles, show us a physical picture of the spiritual fight that Christians face. Just as David and other warriors fought against the enemies of Israel, we fight against spiritual forces that seek to harm us and lead us away from God. Joshua, David, and others weren’t just fighting political or military battles; they were also standing against the forces of darkness that wanted to destroy God’s people and the true worship of Him.

CLOSING

As we end our Sunday School class today, let’s hold onto the truth that even though we may feel unworthy, just like Mephibosheth, God still invites us to His

table. He offers us a place in His family because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Hopefully no one thinks we earned this, because we didn't. God saw fit to give it to us freely, because of His love and grace.

So this week, let's be intentional about keeping our promises, knowing that God values our word. Let's face our battles with the strength God provides, trusting that He's fighting alongside us. And above all, let's remember that we are His children—restored, protected, and invited to sit at His table, sharing in the love and grace He gives so freely.

Let's focus on keeping our promises, trusting God's strength in our battles, and resting in the fact that we are His children. We are restored, protected, and invited to share in His grace.

JUST A THOUGHT

Keeping your promises is like planting seeds; you never know which one will grow into something remarkable.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for this time we've shared together in Your Word. We appreciate the insights and lessons we've gained today. Help us to carry these truths with us and apply them in our daily lives. Keep our hearts open to Your guidance as we continue to learn and grow in faith. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.