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"Let my TEACHING fall like RAIN...like SHOWERS on YOUNG PLANTS." (Deuteronomy 32:2)



Story: David and Mephibosheth

Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

7 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")
7 3 mil Laminating Film

Directions

- Print pages 2-15 two-sided on cardstock. Laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story.

Illustrations courtesy of Free Bible Images
https://www.freebibleimages.org/



Before holding up the picture:

Let's review: We remember that David had been told years ago that he would be king. Even after Saul died, David only became king of part of the kingdom promised to him. Do you remember which part? *(Judah)* There was a lot of fighting, but finally David began to rule over all Israel. Jerusalem became their capital and the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem. David wanted to build a permanent house for God's Ark, but God told him, "No." Who did God say would build the Temple? *(David's son, Solomon)*

Hold up picture:

David did things that were good and helpful to all people. He had seen Saul, the first king of Israel, do things that were not just or right. Saul didn't obey God, and he was jealous of David and tried to kill him. Do you think David remembered the mistakes and sins that Saul made? *(I think so)* I think David wanted to be the kind of king that God wanted him to be. David was not only just and righteous, but he was kind.



Hold up picture:

When David became king, he remembered the promise he had made to Jonathan, to show kindness to his family. So one day, David asked his advisors, “Is there anyone belonging to Saul’s family to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” A servant of Saul, named Ziba, was called to come before David.



Hold up picture:

Ziba came and told David about Mephibosheth, a son of Jonathan, who was still alive. Mephibosheth was grown up and had his own family. But there was something very sad about Mephibosheth...



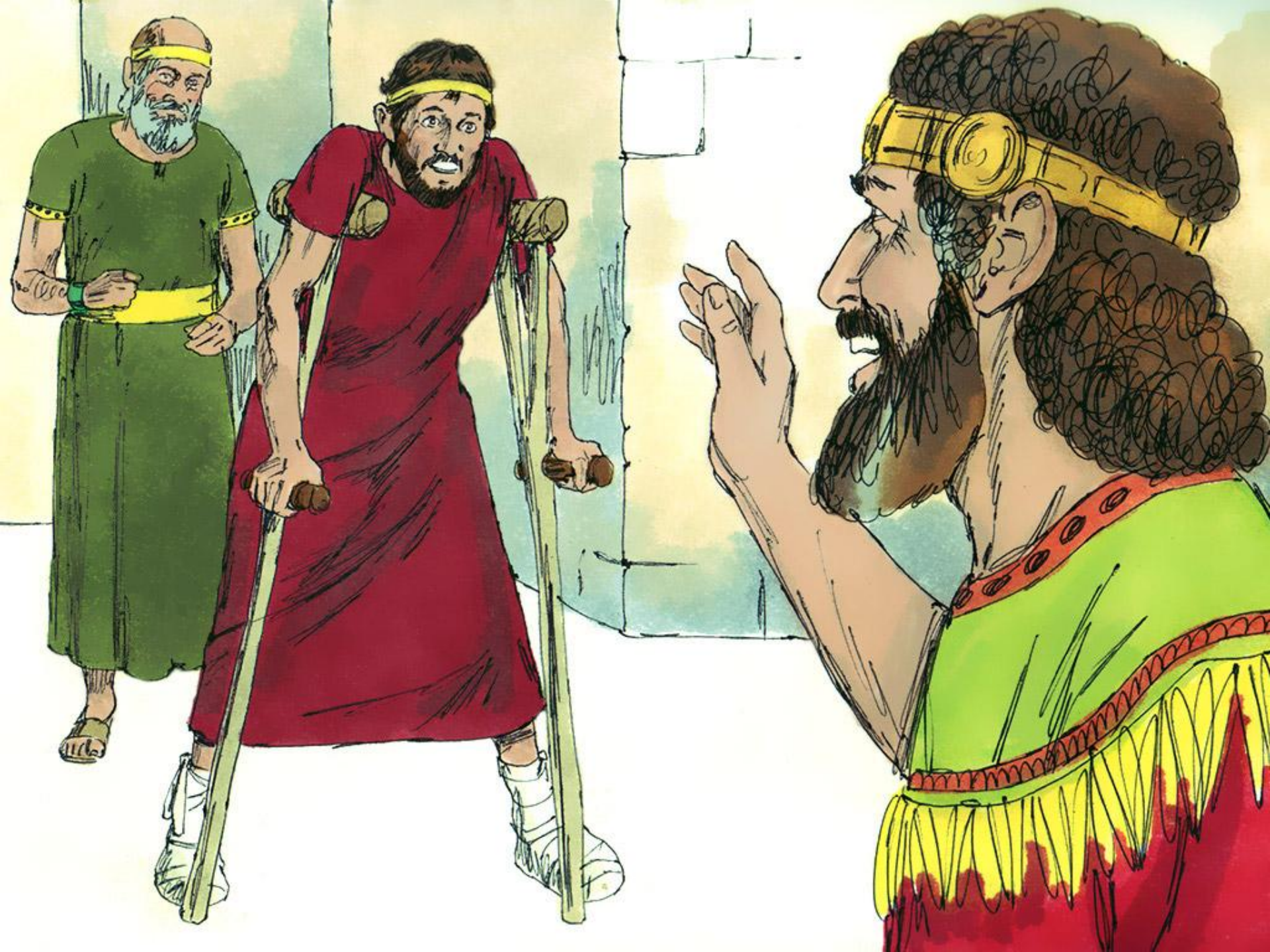
Hold up picture:

Mephibosheth had been 5 years old when a messenger came to announce the news that his father, Jonathan, and his grandfather, King Saul, were killed in battle. The boy's nurse was so afraid, that she picked up Mephibosheth and ran. Why do you think the nurse was afraid and ran with the boy? *(Answers might vary)* In those days, a new ruler would often kill all the children of a previous king because they might try to take back the throne later. Don't you think she wanted to get to a safe place and protect both herself and this little boy? *(yes)* Well, in her haste to get away, Mephibosheth fell and he became crippled in both of his feet. (2 Sam 4:4)


ISRAEL
IN THE TIME OF KING DAVID
Lo-debar
River
Jordan
Jerusalem
Dead
Sea
0
10 miles
0
10 km

Hold up picture:

King David asked Ziba, “Where is he?” Ziba explained that Mephibosheth was living at Lo-debar *[point to it on the map]*. So David sent for Jonathan’s son to come to the palace. Can you imagine how Mephibosheth felt? Do you think he was scared or nervous? After all, Mephibosheth’s grandfather had treated David terribly – and God was so displeased with Saul that He took the kingdom away from Saul. Why would the new king want to see him…

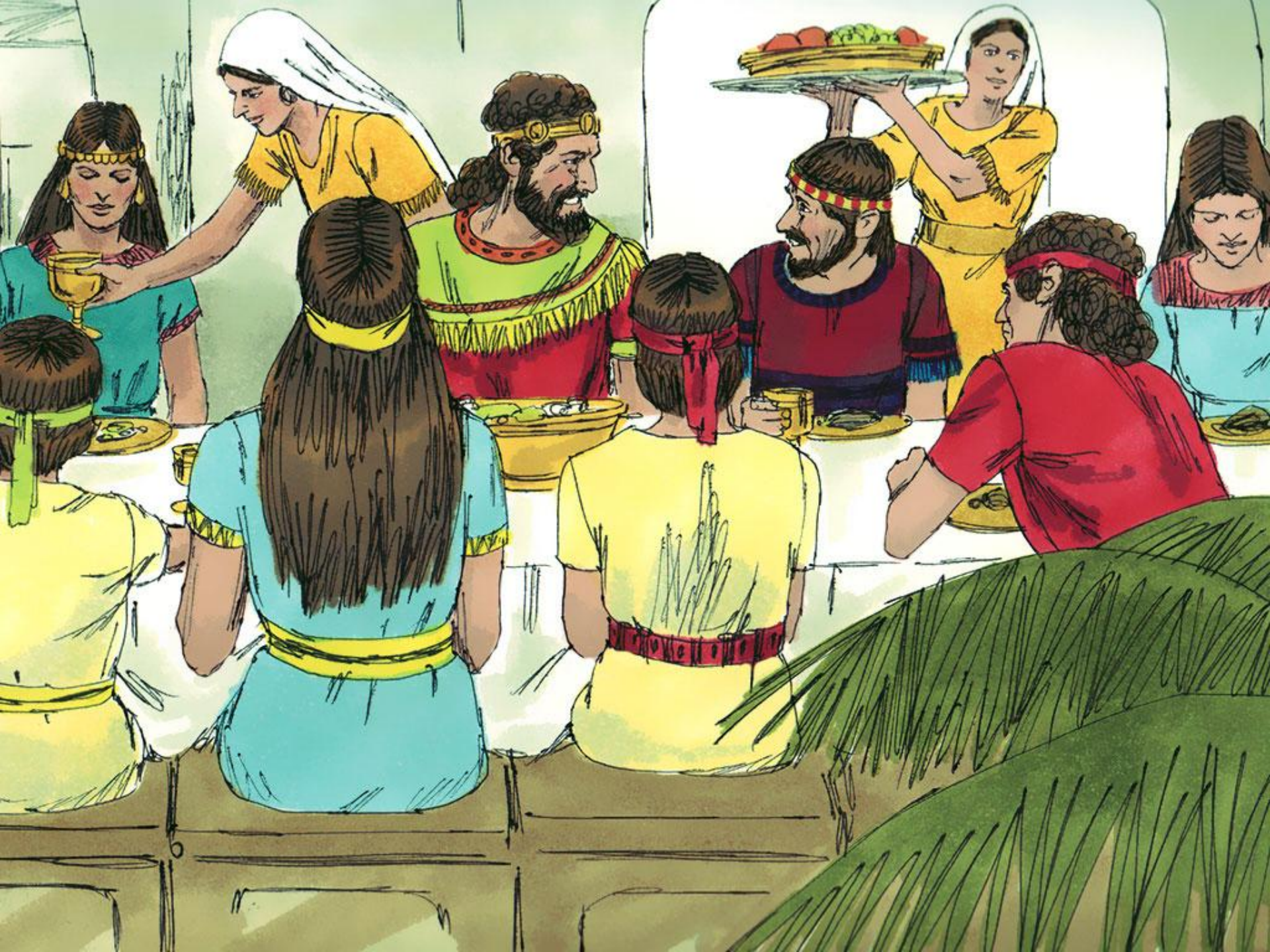


Hold up picture:

But David surprised Mephibosheth and said, “Don’t be afraid for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan.” Mephibosheth bowed before David and said, “Who am I, that you would notice a dead dog like me?”

Do you think David told him about the promises he and Jonathan had made to each other and about the great friendship they had? *(Yes, probably)* David was so happy that he was going to be able to help the son of his friend Jonathan and keep his promise.

King David then told Ziba, “I am giving Mephibosheth all the land that had belonged to Saul. You and your 15 sons and 20 servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops to provide for him.”



Hold up picture:

Then David told Mephibosheth that he would always eat at the king's table with the king's sons and be treated like one of them. From that day all the members of Ziba's household became servants of Mephibosheth.

Explain:

Just as David was kind to Mephibosheth, we are to be kind to others. Eph. 4:32 says: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ forgave you." Because Christ died for us and God has forgiven us, we need to be loving and kind to others. What are some ways you can show kindness to others today? *(Answers will vary)*