



A KID called Mephibosheth

David was the second king of Israel. Do you remember hearing about David when he was a shepherd boy? God's prophet Samuel anointed David as future king (after the reign of Saul). When Saul first met David, he liked him. He liked to hear him play his harp and he liked having David around the palace. Saul's son Prince Jonathan became David's best friend. But when David started gaining popularity, Saul changed his mind and his like turned to hate. David (with Jonathan's help) fled for his life. Now to our biography of Mephibosheth, a man who was a big part of David's life.

How would you like to be called Mephibosheth? Besides being long and difficult to say, Mephibosheth means "shameful one." (I wonder if his dad called him Phibby or Sheth?)

Actually, Mephibosheth was King Saul's grandson and Prince Jonathan's son, so you'd think he would have had a good life.

Not true.

When Mephibosheth was only five years old, both his grandfather and father were killed in a battle with the Philistines. Worried about the young boy, his nanny grabbed him and got

out of town. Unfortunately, he fell and hurt both of his legs. The nanny took him to stay in Lo Debar. Since they didn't have doctors and hospitals like we do today, Mephibosheth never recovered from the accident – he was lame for the rest of his life. Back then someone who was lame couldn't do much, so Mephibosheth's life was probably a sad one.

But one day at the palace, David was thinking about his friend Jonathan and how Jonathan had put his own life in danger to save David. David remembered promising Jonathan that he would always be kind to him and to his family. Jonathan had been killed in the battle with the Philistines and many years had passed, but David began to wonder if any of Jonathan's family was still alive. Of course, as king, he could find out whatever he wanted to know. He discovered that Jonathan had a son who was living in Lo Debar. Mephibosheth was now grown and had a wife and son of his own.

David quickly sent a messenger to Lo Debar and asked Mephibosheth to come to the palace. He was probably a little frightened! What would the king want with him? In fact, when he met David, he bowed down in fear.

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"Don't be afraid of me," King David told him. "I want to show kindness to you. I want to give back to you all the land that once belonged to your grandfather King Saul. I want you to live in the palace and eat with me every day." Wow! Can you imagine how exciting that would be for Mephibosheth?

But David went further than that. He found someone to take care of Mephibosheth's land for him. David was kind to Mephibosheth and his family for the rest of Mephibosheth's life.

David made some bad choices in his life, but he also made some very good choices. This was one of them. He remembered his promise to his friend Jonathan and showed great kindness to Jonathan's son. David's kindness was more than just a one-time, let's-get-this-over-with honor, but kindness that lasted throughout Mephibosheth's life.

What a great lesson for us! Do you keep promises? Do you do cool things for your friends? Or do you do the things that make YOU happy and forget about everyone else?

(If you want to read more about David and Mephibosheth, check out 2 Samuel 4:4-9:13.)

If David could see his country now ...



SOME FACTS ABOUT ISRAEL:

- Israel is the size of New Jersey.
- Israel has the most museums per capita (per number of people) of any country in the world.
- Israel has the lowest point below sea level. (The Dead Sea is 1,315 feet [400.8 meters] below sea level.)
- Israel has more scientists per capita than any other country.
- Nazareth has both a McDonalds® and a KFC.



Calling All Leaders!

We need your help!

It's that time of year when we need to know if your club is interested in answering a question or sending in some riddles for *KidsPrint*. E-mail us at kidsprint@awana.org and let us know your name, your church's name and where your church is located.

Also, we're always looking for kids with interesting stories to tell. Of course, we'll need a parent's permission before we talk about their son or daughter. We would love to feature more kids, but we need your help in finding out about them. If you know a kid you think we could feature, send us a brief e-mail describing the clubber's story and we'll get back to you.

Ha! Ha! Ha!

What kind of trains transport bubble gum?
Chew chew trains.

Who stole the soap out of the bathroom?
Robber ducky.

How do oceans make popcorn?
Microwaves.

What did the lazy dog do for fun?
Chased parked cars.

What kind of candy does a scientist eat?
Experi-mints.

HERE'S A
**FUN
 PUZZLE**
 FOR YOU TO DECIPHER.

Brain Drain



Think about this –

500 is the beginning.

500 is at the end.

5 is in the middle.

The first letter and the first number are in the middle.

PUT IT TOGETHER AND YOU GET THE NAME OF A KING OF ISRAEL.

After you figure out the answer, see if you can stump your family and friends (or math teacher) with this riddle.

Answer: D is the Roman numeral for 500.
 V is the Roman numeral for 5.
 The first letter is A and the Roman numeral for 1 is I.

Club News and Announcements