

Questions for Study and Group Discussion

**Before you begin responding to these questions, read 2 Samuel 9:1-13 as a group.

1. Talk about some ways you have been shown unexpected kindness before. How does being shown kindness make you want to extend kindness to others?

2. By the time we get to 2 Samuel 9, David has already been shown kindness and grace in a number of ways.

- Review how David has been shown grace and kindness by God - review 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and 2 Samuel 7:8-16.
- Review how David has been shown grace and kindness by Jonathan, Saul's son - review 1 Samuel 20:1-42. (Scan the passage looking especially for ways Jonathan showed grace and kindness.)

Do you think David receiving grace and kindness in these ways helped motivate him to show grace and kindness to Mephibosheth, like we read about in 2 Samuel 9? Explain.

3. Reflect more deeply on the kindness and grace you have been shown. How does God offer us grace? How have others shown you grace?

4. Read Matthew 18:21-35. How is this parable a contrast to the story of David and Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9? What lessons should we be walking away with from this parable in Matthew 18?

5. Let's get practical for a few minutes.

- What are some very tangible ways we can keep God's grace "in front of us" - so God's grace is not just some abstract idea but really does fuel our own actions?
- What are some very tangible ways you can show grace and kindness to someone else this week?

6. Why is thinking about our motivation behind acts of kindness and grace important?

- Are there any wrong motivations for kind behavior? What might they be, and how can they be dangerous?
- How can we keep the grace we've been shown as a primary motivation for showing grace to others?

7. Mephibosheth was a lame man who had little to offer David, and yet David invited him to a seat at the king's table. How is this a picture of the gospel - what God offers us, because of Jesus' work? Explain.

8. We're officially 100+ days into the 365 plan! Take some time and review what you've learned thus far - big takeaways from the sermons and/or Bible reading, how you're benefiting from consistent time in Scripture, etc.