

**Unlikely  
Unlikely Grace- Session #8  
Small Group Notes**

**Introduction:**

**Have you ever received a gift that you expected to receive? Have you ever received one that was totally unexpected? How was your response different in these situations?**

**Grace is defined as a gift given that isn't deserved or earned. Based upon this definition, what are ways that you have shown grace to someone this past week?**

**What is a story you have in your life of a time that you were on the receiving end of grace in a situation that you thought you never would receive it?**

Even given David's close relationship with Jonathan and the covenant between them (1 Samuel 20), his question in 2 Samuel 9:1 is scandalous. During that time, it was customary and even expected that David would execute every remaining member of Saul's family because they were potential rivals. This was a matter of self-protection. But instead of protecting his throne, David looked far and wide for someone to show kindness to.

**Discuss:**

1. Grace is based on a covenant, not my character or commitment.

- God invites me in when I have nothing to give! (Titus 3:5)
- How does grace being covenantal affect your understanding of salvation?
- Read Ephesians 2:8-9

Explain: Established on the throne in Jerusalem after having effectively put down both internal and external opposition, David was now in a position to fulfill his commitment to "the house of Saul" (v. 1). The repetition of David's question in v. 3 (cf. v. 1) is in fact significant in establishing the theme of this chapter, that he was an agent of "God's kindness" working to benefit Israel's former dynastic family. For David, the one that he was notified of was named Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth, known outside of 2 Samuel as Merib-Baal (cf. 1 Chr 8:34; 9:40), was "crippled in both feet" (v. 3) as a result of an accident in early childhood (cf. 4:4). David summoned him for appearance at the royal court.

Ask:

**Look back at 1 Samuel 18:3 and 20:42. What do we learn about David's relationship with Jonathan?**

**How does it change your understanding of salvation by seeing how it is based on God's promises holding true and not on your works? How would that principle apply in this story?**

2. Grace calls us out of hiding

- False beliefs about the nature of God will keep you in hiding!
- Read Psalm 145:8

Explain: Through his inquiry David learned that there was “still a son of Jonathan” (v. 4) apparently living with a wife and son (cf. v. 12) in a self-imposed internal exile “at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.” Appropriately—and perhaps somewhat awkwardly—the lame young man “bowed down” before the king “to pay him honor” (v. 6). Using a dialogue reflective of an interchange between a social superior and an inferior (cf. 1 Sam 3:9), David called out Mephibosheth’s name; in turn, Mephibosheth referred to himself as “your servant.”

Ask:

**What are things that keep us in fear and hiding? What are verses that you have used before to help you overcome fear?**

**How does seeing the love of God (1 John 4:19) as taking the initiative in showing us His grace give us encouragement?**

3. Grace is extravagant

- Read 2 Samuel 9:7; Romans 8:1, 15-17; 1 Peter 1:3-4
- Everything that belongs to the Father will one day belong to us!

Explain: David issued a magnanimous decree that changed Mephibosheth’s fortunes forever. First, David restored to him all the land. This would have meant that the family estate located about three miles north of Jerusalem in Gibeah would be returned to Mephibosheth. Second, David gave Mephibosheth a privilege that seemed to have perished the day his father Jonathan had died, the right to board at the king’s table “always.” Third, David provided Mephibosheth with a large contingent of servants and material wealth (v. 9-10).

Ask:

**What’s the most striking image in this passage to you? What things do you see in David’s restoration of Mephibosheth that are above and beyond what may have been expected? How have you experienced the same?**

**When you hear that you are a co-heir of Christ, how does that change your perspective of your life?**

4. Lameness is often a gift of grace!

- Read 2 Samuel 9:13
- Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Explain: When the opportunity presented itself, Ziba apparently tried to manipulate David to issue a different, more favorable edict (cf. 16:2–4). Mephibosheth—and presumably his entire family, including “a young son named Mica” (v. 12)—was permanently relocated back in Benjamite territory “in Jerusalem” (v. 13). There Mephibosheth “always ate at the king’s table” even though “he was crippled in both feet.” David’s acceptance of a lame man in his house showed even more the unlikely grace being extended.

Ask:

**How do you see people getting taking advantage of today? What are ways that the church can stand in the gap for people that are underserved in our community?**

**How do you think Mephibosheth struggled with acceptance? What can be moments that you struggle with acceptance?**

5. Grace demands I share it!

- Read Romans 1:16
- Are we holding a place or making a place?

Ask:

**What are some specific ways you have seen God’s grace and love to you this week? How can dwelling on those things empower you to show love and grace to others?**

**How specifically can you mirror grace to those closest to you, like your children or spouse?**

**What’s one way our group can pray for you in regard to someone specifically you are trying to show God’s love and grace to?**

### Group Prayer

- **Local**
  - **Liberty Station** Pray for workers to be confident in who God has made them to be.
- **National**
  - **Maranatha Community Church Ohio** Please pray for strength, wisdom, and discernment as we continue to follow Jesus while He builds His church.
- **International**
  - **JAPAN** Many church members are content to follow tradition and don’t want to reach out to their communities. Ask God to sustain weary pastors and draw church members to want God to be glorified in their communities.