



LESSON 4

REFERENCES: 1 SAMUEL 20:14, 15, 42; 2 SAMUEL 4:4; 9:1-13; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, P. 713.

Promises Are for Keeping

K

ing David looked up at the blue, blue sky. The king was remembering his youth. He thought about all the days he had spent taking care of his father's sheep. He remembered the special day when the prophet Samuel had come and had poured olive oil on his head and told him that God had chosen him to be the next king.

David remembered the days he had lived in the palace with King Saul. Then David thought about King Saul's son Jonathan. Jonathan had been his best friend.

David sighed. Jonathan had died as a

soldier in a battle.

David

missed him. He remembered how they used to gallop their horses. How they used to shoot their arrows. How they had promised to be friends forever. Then he remembered that he had promised to be kind to Jonathan's family.

Suddenly David had a new thought: *Is anybody from Jonathan's family still alive?* King David sent for Ziba, who had been a servant



Memory Verse

"We have promised
by the Lord that we
will be friends."

1 SAMUEL 20:42, ICB

The Message

People who love God
keep their promises.

in Saul's house. Ziba ran to the palace and bowed before the king. "Is anyone from Saul's family still alive?" King David asked Ziba. "If there is, I want to show them God's kindness."

"Yes," Ziba answered. "One of Jonathan's sons is alive. Mephibosheth, a crippled lad. He was hurt as a child and is crippled in both feet."

King David smiled. "I want to see him," he said. So the king sent servants to bring Mephibosheth to the palace.

Mephibosheth's stomach began to hurt when he heard King David's message. He knew that his grandfather, King Saul, had treated David badly. Why did King David want *him* to go to the palace? Was the king going to hurt him? He knew he couldn't say no, but he really didn't want to see King David.

When Mephibosheth arrived at the palace, he bowed very low before King David. "I am your servant," he said.

"Don't be afraid!" David said kindly. "Your father, Jonathan, was my best friend. That's the reason I wanted you to come here. I am giving you all the land that once belonged to your grandfather Saul. And I want you to live here with me at the palace."

Mephibosheth's mouth dropped open with surprise. "Why do you want to do such nice things for me?"

"Because I loved your father very much," the king answered, "and I promised him I would take care of his family."

So it was that Mephibosheth moved into the palace. David always treated Mephibosheth as if he were his own son. And David and Mephibosheth soon became good friends too.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

We Point to self, then to others.
have promised . . Put hand over heart.
by the Lord Point upward.
that we Point to self, then to others.
will be friends. . . Hook index fingers.
1 Samuel 20:42 . Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Together, read 1 Samuel 20:14, 15, 42; 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13. Ask: Did David keep the promise he made to Jonathan?

Encourage your child to share the rainbow they made in Sabbath School with someone this week and tell them the Bible story. (Or use colored yarn to make a rainbow on a piece of paper, or draw a picture of a rainbow.)

MONDAY

Discuss the promise your child made in Sabbath School. Has the promise been kept? Why?

If appropriate, show your child pictures of your wedding. Talk about the promises people make when they get married.

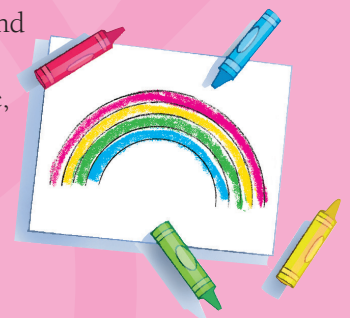
TUESDAY

Use differently weighted

objects to show your child how gravity works. Ask: Why do these things always fall? Does God keep His promise about gravity? What if gravity didn't always work?

WEDNESDAY

Go for a nature walk and look for God's promises (sun and rain for everyone, growing plants, rainbow, etc.). Make a collection or draw pictures of some things that remind us of God's promises.



THURSDAY

Promise something to your child and keep your promise.

Read together Matthew 5:45. Did God keep this promise today? Remind your child that even if it was cloudy, the sun was shining behind the clouds.

FRIDAY

Have your child tell the lesson story for family worship. Read *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 713, together. How is your family like David's?

Talk about Jesus' promises to come back and take us to heaven. Sing songs about His promises.

Thank Jesus for keeping His promises. Ask Him to help you keep your promises.

