

Family Study Guide

Come to the Table

Main Passage: 2 Samuel 9:1–13

Main Idea

God lovingly invites us into His family—not because we deserve it, but because of His grace through Jesus Christ. Like Mephibosheth, we are welcomed to the King’s table where we receive forgiveness, acceptance, and a place to belong.

Main Point 1: God Seeks Those Who Feel Forgotten

“Is there still anyone... to whom I can show God’s kindness?” (2 Samuel 9:3)

Mephibosheth had been living in Lo-debar, a place of hiding and hopelessness. He assumed he had been forgotten. But King David never forgot the promise he had made to Jonathan. He sent servants to search for Mephibosheth and bring him home.

This points us to Jesus. We do not find God on our own. God came looking for us. Jesus came into the world to seek and save those who were lost. No matter how forgotten, broken, or far away someone feels, God knows where they are and lovingly invites them to Himself.

Family Illustration

Imagine playing hide-and-seek with your family. After everyone else has been found, one child is still hiding. Dad doesn’t stop looking because it is difficult. He keeps searching until he finds his child and joyfully brings him back to the family. That is what God does for us.

Main Point 2: God Welcomes Us by Grace, Not Because We Deserve It

“I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan’s sake.” (2 Samuel 9:7)

David did not invite Mephibosheth because Mephibosheth had earned it. He welcomed him because of his covenant with Jonathan. In the same way, God accepts us because of Jesus. Salvation is a gift of grace, not something we earn through good works.

Family Illustration

Imagine receiving an invitation to a birthday party at a beautiful mansion. When you arrive, the host says, “You’re welcome here because you’re my son’s friend.” You didn’t earn your place—you were welcomed because of your relationship with someone the host loves. That is how God welcomes us through Jesus.

Main Point 3: God Gives Us a Place in His Family

“You shall eat bread at my table continually.” (2 Samuel 9:7)

David didn’t simply spare Mephibosheth’s life. He gave him a permanent seat at the king’s table. He became part of the royal family.

That is what happens when we trust Christ. God adopts us into His family. Our identity is no longer defined by our failures or our past, but by our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Family Illustration

Think about an adopted child receiving a bedroom in a new home. They no longer feel like a visitor. They have a place at the dinner table, their own bed, and a family that loves them. That is a picture of what God has done for everyone who trusts in Jesus.

Discussion Questions

Ages 2–4

- Why did King David invite Mephibosheth?
- Who makes it possible for us to come to God?

Ages 5–8

- Can we earn God’s love by being good?
- Why is Jesus the reason we can come to God?

Ages 9–13

- Why do people often think they have to earn God’s acceptance?
- How does God’s grace change the way we live?

Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for seeking us when we were lost. Thank You for welcoming us into Your family through Jesus, not because we deserve it, but because of Your amazing grace. Help us to live as grateful children of the King and to invite others to come to Your table. In Jesus’ name, amen.