

The Table Matters

Connect Group Guide - 3.1.26

Opening Prayer

Icebreaker

Share about a time when you felt "left out" or overlooked—perhaps not getting invited to something you hoped to attend. How did that feel?

Key Scripture

- 2 Samuel 9:1-13

Message Overview

This message explores the story of Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9 as a powerful picture of God's grace. Though broken, ashamed, and expecting judgment, Mephibosheth is instead welcomed to King David's table because of a covenant promise. His story shows that grace doesn't erase our brokenness—it covers it. Just as David honored his covenant with Jonathan, Jesus honors His covenant with us. We are blessed not because we deserve it, but because He is faithful. The message calls us to leave our spiritual "Lodabar" and live continually at the King's table—in intimacy, provision, and sonship.

Key Takeaways

- **Grace knows your address** - Even when we feel forgotten or hidden, God knows exactly where we are
- **We're blessed because Jesus is faithful**, not because of our performance
- **The table covers what the fall exposed** - Grace doesn't deny our brokenness; it covers it
- **We need to eat continually at the King's table**, not just visit occasionally
- **Grace that stops with us was never real grace** - It's meant to flow through us to others

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Story

1. What does Mephibosheth's name ("from the mouth of shame") and his location (Lodabar - "barren place") tell us about his condition before David called him?
2. Why did Mephibosheth call himself a "dead dog"? What does this reveal about how shame talks to us?
3. What was the significance of David's covenant with Jonathan, and how does this parallel God's covenant with us through Jesus?

Personal Reflection

4. The message mentioned that "the enemy sees your limp, but the king sees your covenant." What "limps" (failures, weaknesses, past mistakes) do you sometimes feel define you?
5. Have you ever felt like you were living in a spiritual "Lodabar"—a forgotten or barren place? What was that season like?
6. When Mephibosheth sat at the table, his crippled feet were hidden underneath. What areas of brokenness in your life need to be covered by God's grace?

Application to Our Lives

7. Pastor Mike said some people "visit grace but don't live in it." What's the difference between visiting the table and eating continually at the King's table? Which describes your current relationship with God?
8. The message warned about "eating at too many tables" and listening to too many voices. What are some "wrong tables" or voices competing for our attention today? (podcasts, social media, cultural opinions, etc.)
9. David asked, "Is there anyone left that I can show kindness to?" Who in your life might be living in their own "Lodabar" that you could extend grace to?

Going Deeper

10. The message emphasized that we don't clean ourselves up before sitting at the table—we sit at the table and Jesus changes us. How does this challenge religious thinking or performance-based Christianity?
11. What does it mean practically to be "planted at the table" rather than just attending church occasionally?
12. How can our connect group better reflect the grace of David's invitation to Mephibosheth? Are there people we've overlooked who need to be invited in?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of these action steps to practice this week:

13. **Daily Table Time:** Commit to "eating at the King's table" daily through prayer and Scripture reading. Don't just visit—dwell there.
14. **Identify Your Lodabar:** Journal about any areas where you're living in a "barren place" spiritually and ask God to bring you to His table in that area.
15. **Silence the Voices:** Take a break from one source of competing voices (a podcast, social media, news channel) and replace it with Scripture or worship.
16. **Be Like David:** Ask God to show you one person who's been "dropped" or overlooked that you can show kindness to this week.
17. **Share Your Testimony:** Tell someone about the grace you've received at God's table—let grace flow through you, not stop with you.
18. **Invite Someone:** Literally invite someone to church, to your small group, or to a conversation about faith. Extend the invitation to the King's table.
19. **Plant Yourself:** If you've been "visiting" church, make a commitment to become planted—join a ministry, attend consistently, or take a next step in membership.
20. **Pray for Others:** Pray specifically for people in your life who are living in shame or hiding in their own "Lodabar."

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to people who may be carrying deep shame or feeling unworthy
- Emphasize that this is a safe space where everyone has a seat at the table
- Consider having communion together as a group if appropriate
- Follow up during the week with anyone who shared something particularly vulnerable

Prayer Requests & Closing