



# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

## Irresistible Kindness, Unimaginable Goodness— Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Sam. 9

Week of 10.27.2019

**ICEBREAKER:** Is the story of Mephibosheth familiar to you? Practice saying the name.

**Scripture:** David and Mephibosheth | 2 Samuel 9

David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

<sup>2</sup> Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" "At your service," he replied.

<sup>3</sup> The king asked, "Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?" Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet."

<sup>4</sup> "Where is he?" the king asked. Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar."

<sup>5</sup> So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

<sup>6</sup> When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "At your service," he replied.

<sup>7</sup> "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table."

Gal. 5:22-23

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

### Definition:

Randy taught us that kindness and good are twin traits of the Holy Spirit. Goodness is kindness in action. Kindness is the genuine desire for someone else's joy. It's the supernaturally endowed orientation of our hearts to others—often to strangers, and often even to our enemies. Kindness involves a choice, our choice.

- It's often easy to extend kindness and gentleness to those we love or those that we determine meet our "qualifications" for our kindness. Share an example of when it cost you big time to extend Christ-like kindness and goodness?
- Looking back, what is your attitude about that act of kindness now? Would you do anything differently?

### Illustration:

Randy shared the story of David and Mephibosheth. King David was intentional about seeking out this last son of Jonathan. Mephibosheth was hiding in Lo-debar (dry places/no pasture). As a co-heir in the covenant that David made with Jonathan, (1 Sam. 20), it wasn't necessary for him to be hiding in this barren country. In 2 Sam. 4:4 we see how Mephibosheth became crippled. It was in running away from David that he became lame. Did the nurse not know about the covenant that David made with Jonathan? This covenant offered protection and provision. The truth is we too have a covenant partner, Jesus Christ. In addition, he extends his kindness and goodness to us. We need not run away from him. We should run towards him.

In the biblical story, when Mephibosheth sits at the king's table, the evidence of his shame (his crippled feet) is no longer visible. When we sit at our King Jesus' table, our shame is also hidden.

- How does this story change the way you think about being intentional about going to great lengths to invite someone who just may be physically, emotionally or spiritually crippled, to come and sit with you at King Jesus' table?
- How do you think Mephibosheth responded to the overwhelming abundance kindness and goodness of David?
- Remember, just as David knew **Mephibosheth's** name, God knows your name and he invites you to dine at his table, regularly. Is your first reaction to run away from God or towards him?
- How irresistible are you making God to those you interact with?
- What intentional changes can you make to put kindness and goodness into action?

**PRAYER:** God we thank you for this powerful illustration of irresistible kindness and unimaginable goodness in action. May we remember to run to our Father, not away from him. Bring healing to us in the places that we are crippled and lame from the times we've ran away from you. May we be ever ready to encourage others that they too need not fear you. May Your Holy Spirit fill us with Your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.