

WITNESS – Reaching out to others
(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)

Giving Thanks to God

Thank God for His kindness, His compassion and generosity, being as specific as possible.

Praying for one another

In pairs share when or where or with whom you would like to show more compassion or generosity. Pray for each other.

Praying for our community

How would Hungerford differ if everyone was filled with kindness, with compassion and generosity. Pray for our community.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

5

2 Samuel 9

5 Kindness

Purpose: To consider how we can show the fruit of kindness to others.

Kindness means treating others as God has treated us—with compassion and generosity.

WELCOME – Breaking the ice

(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)

Describe an act of kindness that someone else has done for you.

WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord

(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)

Pause:-

- * Make yourself comfortable,
- * seek to relax any parts of your body that are carrying stress,
- * breathe in and out slowly, breathing in God's love and breathing out anything that is not of God,
- * repeat a prayer phrase like, "Thank you, Jesus" or "My God, my all" or "Jesus, Son of God have mercy on me a sinner".

Rejoice:- Listen to a song or read a psalm

Ask:- Ask God to speak to you as you study his word

Yield:- Surrender to God acknowledging that He is God and you are not and pray that you will put into practice what you believe He is saying to you as you study His word.

WORD – Applying the truth

(Aim for 40 – 45 minutes)

The friendship between David and Jonathan, the son of David's mortal enemy, Saul, was powerful and loyal to the end. Just before they parted for the last time, David swore by his love to Jonathan that as long as both their houses existed, he would show kindness to Jonathan's descendants. This was a tremendous commitment because ordinarily when a king came to power, he banished all who had come before him. Many years later, David reigned over all of Israel. In 2 Samuel 9 his promise to Jonathan is about to be fulfilled.

1. What are some reasons people have for being kind to others?

2. Read 2 Samuel 9. What reasons do you think David might have had for *not* being kind to Mephibosheth?

3. If David's kindness to Mephibosheth was not due to personal affection, on what was it based?

4. Think of a Mephibosheth in your own life (bear in mind that we are all “cripples” in some ways). As a Christian, what reasons do you have for showing kindness to that person?

5. In what specific ways did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

6. In what practical ways can you show kindness to your Mephibosheth?

7. Look now at what happened from Mephibosheth's point of view. What thoughts or feelings do you think he had when summoned to appear before David?

8. What would he have felt as he heard the words recorded in verse 7?

9. What changes from his previous life would Mephibosheth now experience as someone who was “like one of the king's sons”? (Draw on your imagination as well as on what is in the passage.)

10. Think of people who have been especially kind to you. In what ways have you benefited from their kindness?

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