
Engage

Dear Lord, we pray that our hearts will always seek to follow You. Open our eyes to see the flock in which You've entrusted to us. Thank You for the high calling of being a shepherd in our respective influences. Help us to lead those You have put under our care with loving-kindness, compassion, humility, patience and mercy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.





SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

King David: Experiencing Blessings and Brokenness

#4: Kindness & Trust

Pastor Mike Ngui

(2 Samuel 8-10)

Reading 2 Samuel 9:1-13

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

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. 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.” “Where is he?” the king asked. Ziba answered, “He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.” So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

When Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honour. David said, “Mephibosheth!” “At your service,” he replied. “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.” Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”

Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s steward, and said to him, “I have given your

master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table."

(Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons. Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth. And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet.

Introduction

Rising from shepherd boy to king, David's triumphs are often marked by his military prowess and strategic governance but there is more to it. In his leadership, David reflected through the traits of kindness and trust, the divine nature of God.

BIG IDEA: Covenant faithfulness is marked by kindness and trust

Between 2 Samuel 8-10, we can learn how King David's actions point us to Jesus Christ, the ultimate embodiment of kindness and trust.

1. Commit to Covenant Kindness 2 Samuel 9

Here at the beginning of 2 Samuel 9, David seeks out Mephibosheth. As the grandson of Saul, Mephibosheth, though lame, would pose a threat as an heir to the throne. Rather than killing him off, David actively sought after Mephibosheth in order to restore Saul's land and property to him and to invite him to dine at the king's table.

a. David's kindness flowed from covenant 1 Samuel 20:14-17

David's kindness towards Mephibosheth rooted back to the time when he had promised Jonathan, the son of Saul, that he would show unfailing kindness to his family.

In the Old Testament, there is a Hebrew word called 'hesed' which means loving-kindness. It encapsulates the unyielding, steadfast love, kindness and mercy of God. It is an attribute of God that is ungoverned and unaffected by emotions and circumstances. It is God's deep commitment and faithfulness inherent in His covenantal relationships.

David's actions here in fulfilling his covenant with Jonathan can be likened to 'hesed'. David honoured his promise. Above his royal duty, and personal gain, David's compassion overflowed into a generous action.

b. Jesus is God's covenant kindness to us *John 1:14, Romans 5:8*

Jesus' incarnation is his act of 'hesed' towards humanity. By fulfilling the covenant, He bridged the separation between God and humanity. He offered grace and mercy to us.

Like Mephibosheth, we may have been crippled (by our sin) and feel unworthy before God, but King Jesus through His sacrifice on the cross, lovingly invites us to His table.

c. Jesus establishes a new covenant for us *Luke 22:20, Hebrews 9:15*

During the Last Supper, Jesus established a new covenant with all humanity. This covenant is a divine promise or agreement in which Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection provide a way for people to be reconciled with God and to receive forgiveness of sins.

Through His blood, Jesus extended 'hesed' to all who would believe.

Application:

- Clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness. Forgive as God forgives. *Colossians 3:12-14*
- Honour our commitments - such as the marriage covenant and the church covenant *Matthew 5:37*
 - Marriage Covenant: A pledge of two people before God to be faithful to each other - a covenant of God made between one man and one woman to provide the secure environment in which His purpose can be worked out and within which we discover His character and love.

"It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but the marriage (covenant) that sustains your love." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
 - Church Covenant: As a church, we are not simply a gathering of individuals who share a common interest in religious things, but as a body of Christ, we are God's covenant community. We are brought into being by the covenant love and grace of God. Our life together nurtured and nourished by God's grace, reflects the covenant with God.

"A church covenant is a promise, it's a promise to live together as a church in a way that is consistent with the Scriptures. It is not a constitution or a doctrinal statement. It's a set of promises." (Jonathan Leeman)

- Reflect Christ's covenant kindness to the people around us. As God loves us, we should love one another. *John 13:34, Ephesians 5:2, Colossians 3:13*

2. Count on God's Covenant Kindness *2 Samuel 8:6, 14*

Besides trusting God as he upheld his covenant with Jonathan, King David also relied on God's guidance for success in his leadership and battles.

a. David counted in God's success and protection *2 Samuel 5:19, 23-24, 1 Samuel 17:45-47, 2 Samuel 7:8-9*

God gave victory to David wherever he went, in whatever battles he had to fight in. Even though David himself was a strong military man, he was dependent on God, praying and inquiring of Him every step of the way. He knew in his heart and believed in a God who is faithful to His promises.

The same God that David trusted as a young shepherd boy as he confronted Goliath, is the same faithful God that he could rely on as he expanded the kingdom of Israel.

b. Jesus relied on His Father in everything *John 5:19,30; Matthew 26:39*

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus had complete trust in His Father's will, even to the point of death on the cross. In Christlikeness, we should learn to put our full trust in God who is faithful and good. Yes, the hard truth that we may sometimes feel hard to believe is that God is actually good to us.

Application:

- Face challenges with trust in God's covenant kindness *2 Thessalonians 3:3*
- Rely on God in leadership. We should not rely solely on our gifts. Learn to ask for God's help. Acts 16 records how Apostle Paul consulted the Holy Spirit about his missionary journeys while Acts 15 tells us how the apostle and elders of Council of Jerusalem would gather, discuss and pray when faced with the perplexing issue of Gentiles.

3. Choose Covenant Kindness Instead of Conflict

When the king of Ammonite, Nahash, died, his son Hanun succeeded him as king. David sent a diplomatic delegation to express his sympathy towards Hanun. However, Hanun was filled with suspicion. Hanun and his advisors assumed that David had sent spies and so they humiliated David's envoys. David's gesture of goodwill was misinterpreted, leading to war.

a. David chose covenant kindness *2 Samuel 10:1-2*

In ancient times, when a king died, there would be a period of instability. This presents opportunities for enemies to attack. Succession crisis, power vacuum, weakened defences.

Instead of capitalising on these weaknesses, David chose covenant kindness. instead of conflict, antagonism, hostility and opportunity to conquer because Nahash has shown kindness to him earlier.

b. Jesus taught kindness in conflict *Matthew 5:43-44*

It would be easy to love our neighbours and to hate our enemies, but Jesus tells us to love the people who persecute and show us hostility. Jesus taught us to show covenant kindness in conflict and antagonism.

c. God showed us ultimate kindness in conflict through the cross *Romans 5:8, John 3:16-17*

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate act of "hesed" and covenant kindness amidst conflict, offering forgiveness and reconciliation to all humanity. God's love for us is not a response to us loving Him, He had loved us even while we hated and rejected Him.

Application:

- Be a peacemaker (in between two warring parties) *Matthew 5:9*
- Forgive each other and bear with one another. Be kind. *Ephesians 4:32*
- Approach others with kindness
- Handle misunderstandings with kindness. Be willing to forgive.

"The only way to overcome hate is to love." (Martin Luther King Jr.)

Conclusion

King David's examples in kindness and trust show us that there is power in covenant kindness to transform relationships and the potential to change things.

Our journey in life can be marred with conflicts and challenges. Nonetheless, strive to embrace and embody God's heart of 'hesed'. Let us be a reflection of His love by showing kindness to our community and to each other.

Sermon summary contributed by Wendy ML Tan



APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Activity/Questions

- At the start of CG, each person is required to write a random act of kindness [that can be done anytime during the duration of the CG meeting] on a piece of paper. Then all the papers are placed inside a box / bag. Each person has to take a piece of paper from the bag and do as it is written on the paper. [eg. give someone a pat on the shoulder / take 2 photos of people smiling and post it in the CG Whatsapp group / wash all the dishes and cutleries after the wallop session, etc.]

- Prepare a small box / bag with slips of paper with the names of the people who are attending CG tonight. Then, each person would need to draw a paper out, read the name written on the paper aloud and describe how the person has been kind to him / her previously.

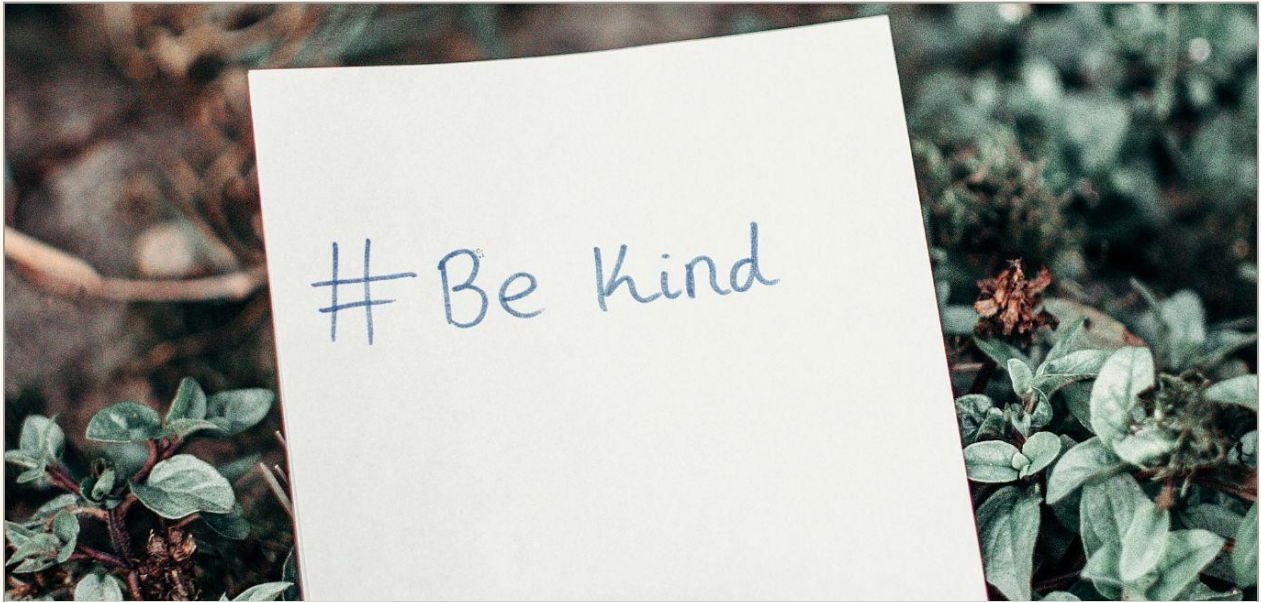


Photo by Lisa Fotios on Pexels

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- In your own words, how would you define 'kindness'?
- On the other hand, what would 'unkindness' look like to you?

Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

- What are the covenants and commitments you have made in your lives? How can we honour our commitments and show kindness to others, even when it is difficult or inconvenient?
- How can we approach others with a heart of 'hesed' (loving-kindness) even when there is conflict or misunderstanding? Why is it important that we do so?
- 'Covenant' may seem weightier and major, so let's think about commitments on a smaller scale. Think about the promises you have made this year. How are these promises coming along for you? [eg. you promised: to be diligent in your devotional life / to make video calls to your parents when you are abroad / to sign up for an Equip course or bible study / to keep to your monthly budget / not to quarrel with your parents etc]
- In the face of conflicts, how do you respond to the situations or the people involved? Do you in kindness, confront the person head-on or do you keep silent? Which ways work best for you?
- There is an Aesop quote that says, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is

ever wasted.” Share about a time when you received undeserved kindness. Why do you feel that you didn’t deserve to receive such kindness? How did that act of kindness change and impact you?

- We often hear phrases such as, ‘just let it go’, ‘God is in control’ or ‘He will take care of the situation’, but realistically, it is not as easy as it sounds. How then can we cultivate a deeper trust in God's sovereignty, especially in the midst of life's challenges? How can we learn to rely on His strength and not our own?

Question Bank *(Extra questions that you can use to bring your discussion further as you see fit):*

- It is easy to love those we like but we are called to love all. To love because God loved us. How can we learn to love the people we do not like? How can you and your CG love the people who are homeless and displaced / the people who identify themselves as LGBTQ+ / ex-convicts ?
 - A peacemaker is one who mediates between two warring parties.
 - What good characteristics should a good peacemaker have?
 - What challenges have you faced as a peacemaker? [eg. both parties refuse to give in / the issue remains unresolved or has become worse / time-consuming etc.]
 - A hard truth is to believe that God is actually good to us. How can you convince pre-believers that God is really, really good?
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SERMON REFLECTION



Photo by Angelina Litvin on Unsplash

The Engage team is taking a break from sermon reflections based on the
2 Samuel: Experiencing Blessings & Brokenness series.

We are open to having new writers / huddlers join us. You may consider starting out
as an observer.

If you are interested, please email one of us:

Pr Benny Liew (benny.liew@dumc.my) or
Wendy ML Tan (minlitt76@gmail.com) or
Darren Lim Jit Aun (darrenjalim@gmail.com)

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Note to CGL: Inspire and encourage the Cell Group members to participate in the activity suggested below together to cultivate a culture of being a missional church.



BlesStreet is a month-long, visual exhibition designed to deepen your understanding of homelessness in Malaysia. Come by Dream Centre, PJ to experience interactive stations and learn about our friends on the streets.

There will also be a donation drive happening concurrently, so do bring your usable donations with you! You can donate items such as pre-loved pants, T-shirts, belts, bags, water bottles, electronic devices, and more to be reused by the community. Donation counters will be open on Saturdays at 4.30pm and on Sundays at 8.30am.

Check dumc.my/blesstreet for more info!