Introduction: Break the ice by talking about “odd couple” pairings.

Start the meeting by instructing group members to consider an unexpected friendship in their respective lives. (For example, perhaps you’re extremely tidy and your best friend is messsy. Or perhaps you’re outgoing and she is shy.)

Invite a few other volunteers to share similar experiences. Share some of the unlikely friendships recounted in the article “7 Historical Odd Couples”:
https://www.history.com/news/7-historical-odd-couples

Provide the background for David and Jonathan’s unlikely friendship: Jonathan was Saul’s son and heir to the throne; David was Saul’s nemesis. Say, “Regardless of their family situation, these men were best of friends. Today we’ll look at how David proved that friendship years after Jonathan’s death.”

Point 1: Promote good works of general kindness.

After discussing the Scripture passage from Point 1, direct group members to David’s words in 2 Samuel 9:1: “Is there anyone remaining from the family of Saul I can show kindness to for Jonathan’s sake?”

Then ask the following questions:

- When was the last time we set out to simply show kindness to someone?
- When was the last time we tried to show kindness to several people?

Jumpstart a conversation about different ways you can show kindness with the extremely simple ideas from the article “5 Simple Ways to Show Kindness”: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/5-simple-ways-to-show-kindness_b_9400850
As a group, continue the list of different ways to show kindness both to strangers and to people near you. Ask, “What might happen if we chose to show kindness to at least one person a day?”

**Point 2: Highlight the power of human interaction.**

After discussing the Scripture from Point 2, engage group members in observing that David chose to personally interact with Mephibosheth rather than sending a servant or messenger.


Say something like, “We can take a lesson from not only this video but also from David. Let’s don’t just make a donation or write a check; let’s interact with people around us. Let’s show them the love of Jesus personally.”

**Conclusion: Help group members see ourselves rightly.**

Point group members to the third sentence in “My Mission” on page 86: “With respect to God, we are never David and always Mephibosheth, receiving His kindness rom a position of desperation and weakness.”

Then say something like the following: “We can treat others with overflowing love and compassion because God did it for us first.”

Read the article “Mephibosheth and Me” before class. Share some of your favorite quotes aloud or provide groupers with a link to the article: [https://www.growingchristians.org/devotions/mephibosheth-and-me/](https://www.growingchristians.org/devotions/mephibosheth-and-me/)

**Teaching Tip of the Week**

This is one of the most applicable passages in the Old Testament. Not only is it a blatant reminder to show kindness but also it points us to the benevolence and unending love of God. Challenge group members to let this
passage inspire them to both give (kindness to others) and receive (God’s love and grace).