Neighbors Show Grace WHO'S MY NEIGHBOR?

Small Group Lesson 2 FACILITATOR GUIDE

MARK OF A DISCIPLE
Disciples of Christ share the truth about God through their words and actions (1 John 3:18).



Outreach Root
Help students understand their God-given mission.

SCRIPTURE
2 SAMUEL 9, EPHESIANS 2:1-10

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT
As the first king of Israel, Saul's family was once highly regarded, but poor choices led to rejection and demise. Once David was established on the throne of Israel, Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, seemed to be all that remained of the former royal family. Even though he was the son of a prince, Mephibosheth no longer lived in the city of Jerusalem, almost as if he were hiding, but David found him and fully intended to keep his promise to Mephibosheth's father, Jonathan.

*Check out the **Teacher Prep Video** for this lesson: https://vimeo.com/1179055180*

FACILITATOR NOTE: We've given you a lot of teaching material. Don't feel like you should cover everything here. You know your group better than anyone. Choose the material that will best fit your students and skip over the rest.

BELONG

PRAYER
1–2 minutes

Start your small group by asking the Lord to bless your discussion and time together.
OPTIONAL: Give students an opportunity to lead the prayer.

OPENING QUESTIONS
3–5 minutes

- How was the week? What's the best thing that's happened? Anything major going on?
- **Who do you know or know of who may have unusual names? [icebreaker]**

BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

BELIEVE

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD
3–5 minutes

David wanted to bless anyone remaining in Saul's family because of David's friendship with Saul's son, Jonathan. Mephibosheth was the only person David could find. Mephibosheth really needed help. David took the initiative in bringing Mephibosheth to the king's palace. David was very generous to Mephibosheth, even though Mephibosheth could never repay him. This passage is an excellent reminder for disciples to be proactive in helping others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

7–10 minutes



- When have you really needed someone's help? How did someone come through for you when you needed help?
  Answers will vary. Come prepared to share your own examples to help get the conversation started.
- Why does God call us to be proactive in showing grace instead of waiting for people to ask for help?
  Answers will vary but may include the following: Taking initiative builds a helping mindset for us; others who need help may never ask, etc.

- We sometimes help those who can repay us later. What lessons does David's grace to Mephibosheth teach us about helping others who can't repay us?
  Helping without expectation of repayment is one way of obediently following God. God freely gives to us when we have zero chance of repaying him.
- How does knowing and experiencing God's grace change the way we help others? What are some good ways to remember how God has shown grace to you?
  People who remember how God has blessed them tend to be more generous in blessing others.
  Answers will vary, but could include keeping a list of blessings, singing praise songs, spending time daily thanking him for the blessings he provides each day, etc.

BECOME

- How can you become more proactive in showing grace?
  Possible answers could include praying for initiative, intentionally asking about helping opportunities, choosing to help at least one person at the start of every day to keep us looking for opportunities to help, etc.
- What are recent ways you have shown grace to others?
  Answers will vary. To help start the conversation, come prepared to share some recent ways you've shown grace to others.

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

2–3 minutes

Disciples of Christ share the truth about God through their words and actions (1 John 3:18).
Use the Mark of a Disciple to reinforce the lesson and challenge students to apply it to their lives.

APPLY IT

5–10 minutes

How can you thank a person this week who has shown grace to you?

