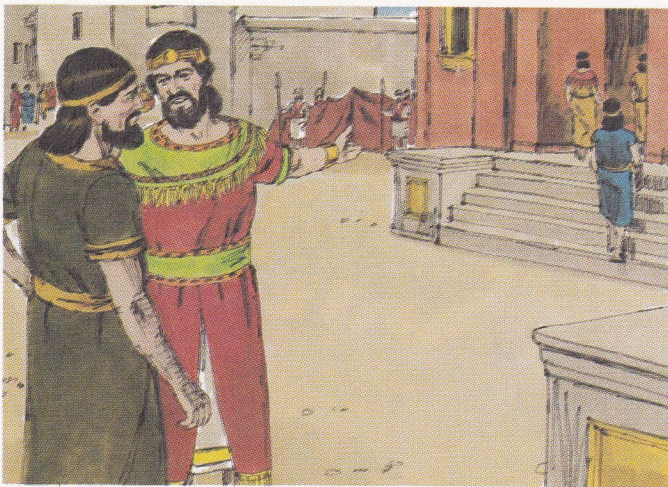


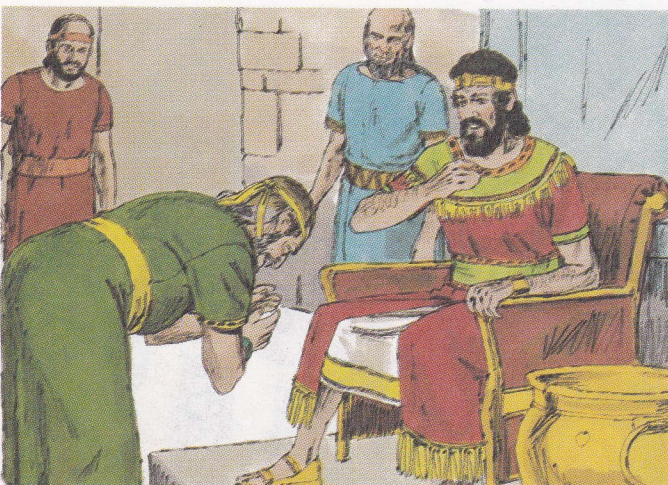
King David Shows Kindness



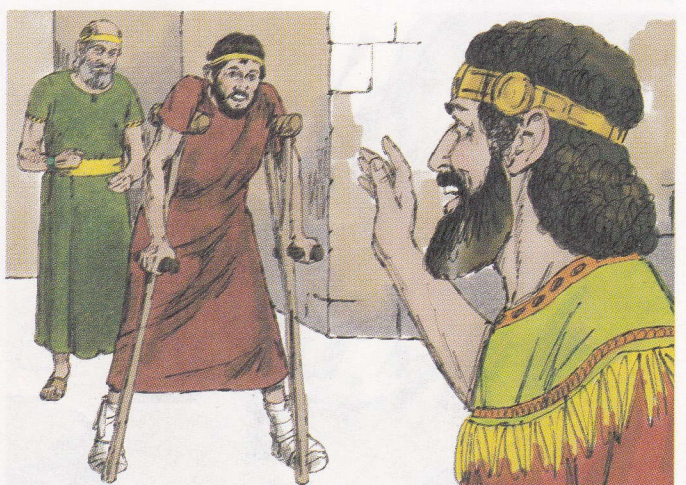
1 King David ruled over all of Israel and made sure that his people were always treated fairly and justly.



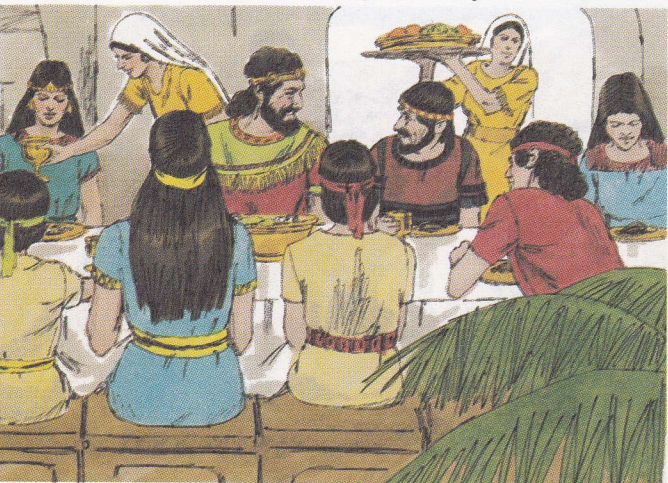
2 One day David asked, "Is there anyone from Saul's family still living? If so, I would like to show him kindness for Jonathan's sake."



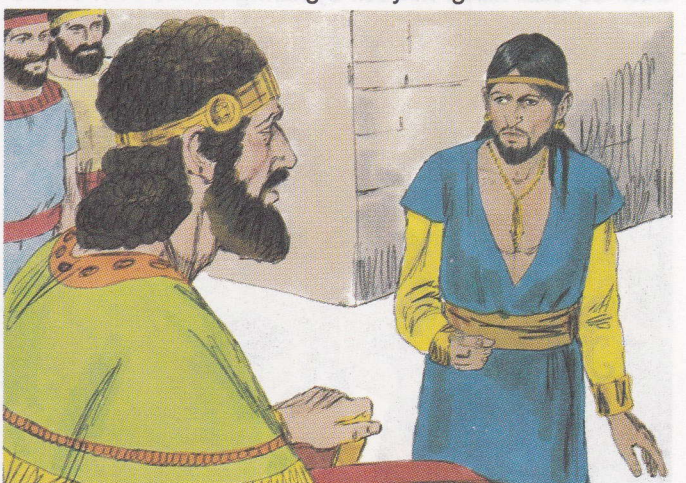
3 A man who had been one of Saul's servants said to David, "Jonathan's son Mephibosheth is still alive. But he is unable to walk, because both his feet were hurt when he was just five years old."



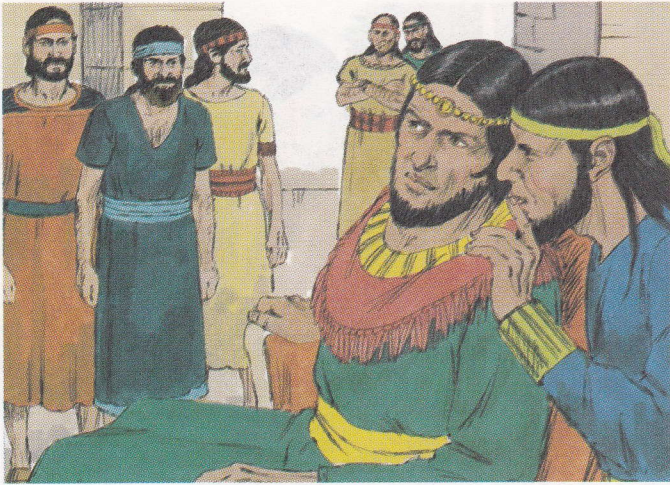
4 David then called Mephibosheth to him. "Don't be afraid," David said. "I will show you kindness because your father was my friend. I will give you all the land that once belonged to your grandfather Saul."



5 The king said to the man who had been Saul's servant, "Take care of Mephibosheth's land for him. He will always be a guest at my table." So Mephibosheth became like one of David's own sons.



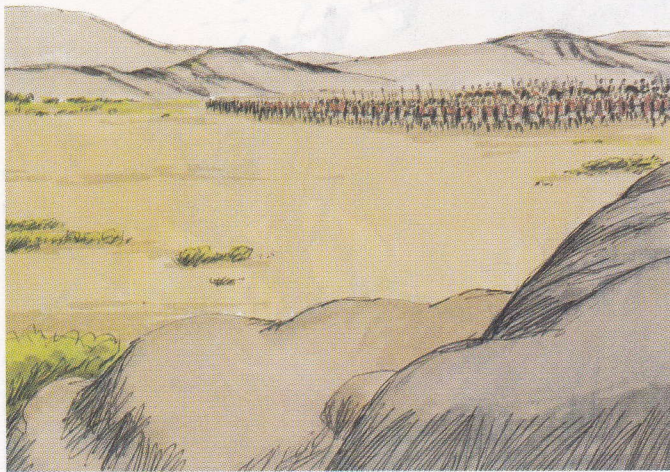
6 But not all of David's efforts to be kind turned out so well. When the king of Ammon died, David said to his servants, "I will show friendship to the king's son just as the king did to me."



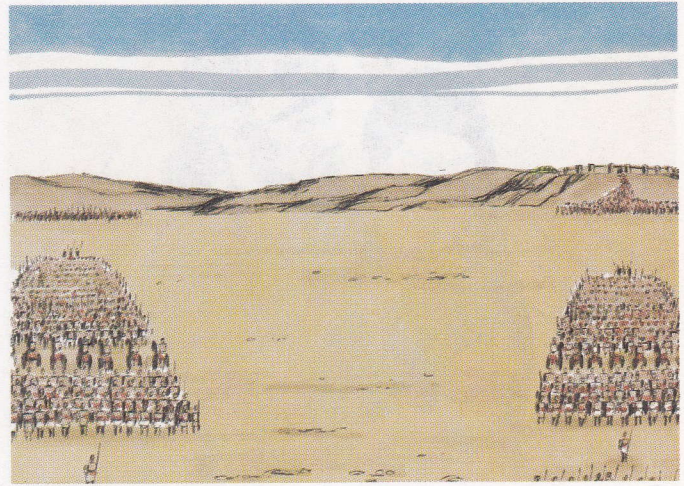
7 So he sent messengers to express his sympathy to the king's son. But the leaders said to the king's son, "David did not send these messengers to express sympathy! They have come to spy on us!"



8 So the king's son had the messengers' beards shaved off on one side and their clothes cut off at the waist. Then he sent them away. They were too embarrassed to return until their beards grew out.



9 The Ammonites knew that their actions had made David their enemy. So they hired 33,000 soldiers from Syria and other places to come help them fight against King David.



10 The Israelite soldiers fought in two groups, one against the Syrians and one against the Ammonites. When they started toward the Syrians, the Syrians ran away. Then the Ammonites also fled.



11 After this defeat, the Syrians called for all their troops in other places to come back and help. This time King David himself led the Israelites. They killed 700 chariot drivers and 40,000 horsemen.



12 Even the Syrian commander was killed. Afterwards the kings who had helped the Syrians made peace with Israel. The Syrians were afraid to help the Ammonites fight Israel after this defeat.