

"Disability Awareness" April 14, 2015
*****Please register your ATTENDANCE**
and Sign up for REFRESHMENTS. Thank you!
Prayer Requests & Opening Prayer

Focus Question—In our church and in our life, how can we be more sensitive and helpful to people with challenges of all kinds?

2 Samuel 4:4. ⁴ (Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became disabled. His name was Mephibosheth.)

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?"

² 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.

³ 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."

⁴ "Where is he?" the king asked.

Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar."

⁵ So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

⁶ When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.

David said, "Mephibosheth!"

"At your service," he replied.

⁷ "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."

⁸ Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.)

¹¹ 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.

¹² Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth. ¹³ And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table; he was lame in both feet.

- i. **Genesis 27:1; 32:24-32**
- ii. **Exodus 4:10-13; 6:9-12, 28-30**
- iii. **Numbers 12:10-15**
- iv. **1 Samuel 10:19-23; 16:14-16; 19:9-10**
- v. **2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and Galatians 4:12-15; 6:11**

1. What challenges do you deal with in your life—physically, emotionally? How can our church be more sensitive and helpful in meeting your needs?

2. How can our church be more sensitive and helpful in meeting the needs of others?

Closing Prayer—Dear God, we celebrate that you made all creation and declared it good. As your diverse people who bring special gifts and evidences of your grace to the unity of the Church and society, call us to be faithful to the example of Jesus' ministry to all people. Teach us welcome, openness, acceptance, and support that enables all people to participate in the life of the Church, the community, and the world. Strengthen us to deny any semblance of discrimination. Lead us to make the ministries of our church open and accessible to all people. Help us offer the freedom for total involvement of all people. In Jesus' Name. Amen.