What had become of Saul and Jonathan? What did David want to do?

Whom did he find was still living; For whose sake did he show this kindness? What had Jonathan said to David?

Where did David have Jonathan's son brought? What did he say to him?

What great honor did he show him? Who invites us to eat at the king's table? The great King. Did the lame man accept the invitation? Have we accepted the invitation of our King? What great change took place in the life of Mehibosheth?

Will it change our lives to accept our King's invitation?

How to be Happy.

Get love from God to give to other people.

Try to help somebody every day.

Think more about others than about yourself.

## LESSON OUTLINE.

BY J. L. HURLBUT.

## "The Kindness of God."

I. A COVENANT KINDNESS.

Kindness for Jonathan's sake. v. 1.

We have a worm both of me.

We have sworn both of us. 1 Sam. 20, 42.
God....not....forget the covenant. Det
4. 31.

II. A FORGIVING KINDNESS.

Any of the house of Saul. v. 3.

Rewarded me good...thee evil. 1 Sam. 24. 17.

The Lord...forgiving iniquity. Exod. 34. 6. 7.

III. A GRACIOUS KINDNESS.

And David said, Mephibosheth, v. 6.

By grace are ye saved. Eph. 2. 8.

Not according to our works. 2 Tim. 1. 9.

IV. An Enriching Kindness.

Restore thee all the land. v. 7.

That ye...might be rich. 2 Cor. 8. 9.

The unsearchable riches of Christ. Eph. 3. 8.

V. An Adopting Kindness.

As one of the king's sons. v. 11.

Power to become....sons of God. John 1.
12.
Children of God by fifth Gol a go

Children of God by faith. Gal. 3. 26.
VI. A COMMUNING KINDNESS.

Did eat . . . . king's table. v. 13. Our fellowship . . . . Father. 1 John 1. 3. Will sup with him. Rev. 3. 20.

## EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

BY ROBERT R. DOHERTY.

General Statement.

God's wonderful promise filled David's heart with delight and gratitude. Making his way to the tabernacle, he gave thanks in a psalmfull of sublime utterance. In the next scene he appears as Israel's warrior king. As the first part of his reign draws to a close he remembers the divine command to overthrow the Canaanites, and proceeds vigorously to obey it. Hence his conflicts with the Philistines, Moabites, the King of Zobah, and the Syrians, narrated in chapter 8. 1-15. And now that he was victorious over his enemies, his army strengthened, his government secure, his commerce extended, his capital enlarged, his palace erected, and general prosperity attained, David paused to look after individuals. Remembering how true had been Jonathan's friendship-leading him to sacrifice Saul's regard and his own interest for love's sake-David tried to find some of his house to whom he might show kindness in return. From Saul's land steward he learned that Mephibosheth, a son of Jonathan, survived. Now, Mephibosheth was but five years old at his father's death, and had spent the intervening years in retirement with one of the great families beyond Jordan who had been deeply attached to the house of Saul; so David had never seen him. A royal invitation brought him to court, and a place at the king's table was assigned him. Saul's family estate, which had fallen to David, was provided to enable him to maintain an establishment suitable to his rank. Ziba was appointed steward of the property on condition of receiving one half the produce in remuneration of his oversight, while the balance was to be paid as rent to Mephibosheth, the new-found owner of the land. The true friendship of David for Jonathan was revealed by his exalting this unfortunate cripple to a place of honor; and more especially, when we bear in mind that the universal Eastern custom was, and is, to destroy all the members of a former royal house, do the king's nobility and generosity appear.

Verse 1. And David said. This must have been after he had reigned over all Israel for seven years at least. Any that is left. It might not have seemed safe to make the inquiry sooner. But now the kingdom was united and had become firmly established, and there was little possibility

that any member of the house of Saul could again divide it. For Jonathan's sake. A league of friendship lad been made between David and Jonathan which was to extend to their children (1 Sam. 18. 3; 20. 16, 42). (1) We should constantly seek opportunities to do good. come a now poslaves. and the influence them be

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