

# Devotional Guide

July 27–August 1, 2026



# The Choice to Receive

Speaker: Mike Kleven, Lead Pastor

*The message explores how God's loving-kindness (hesed) seeks out the broken and forgotten, restores the undeserving, and seats them as family at the King's table. Through the story of Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9, we see a clear Old Testament picture of grace: a lame man living in desolation is brought to the king's table not because of his worthiness but because of the king's covenant kindness. The same King Jesus seeks us in our Lo-Debar, removes our fear, restores what was lost, and gives us a permanent place at His table—limp and all. This truth invites every listener to make the choice to receive the grace already offered.*

## **How to Use This Guide:**

Set aside 10-15 minutes daily. Read the Bible, reflect on the thought, answer questions, pray, and take the action step. Commit to this for growth—journal insights and share with a friend for accountability.

# Day 1: Grace Seeks the Broken and Forgotten

**Bible Reading:** 2 Samuel 9:1-5; 2 Samuel 4:4

## **Devotional Thought:**

The sermon opened with David asking a surprising question: “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” After years of conflict, the new king seeks out a forgotten man. Ziba reports that Jonathan’s son Mephibosheth is alive—but he is lame in both feet and living in Lo-Debar, a place whose name means “no pasture” or “nothing.” Mephibosheth is not looking for the king. He is hiding, carrying the memory of a childhood fall that left him disabled and the constant fear of what the new king might do to Saul’s remaining family. Yet the king looks for him.

God has always been the Seeker—from Eden’s “Where are you?” to Jesus who came to seek and save the lost. If you feel broken or forgotten, the King is already looking for you. The big idea reminds us that The Choice to Receive means responding to the God who seeks us first.

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. What does 2 Samuel 9:1-3 reveal about the kind of person David was seeking?
2. Where have you felt like you were living in a “Lo-Debar”—isolated or forgotten?
3. How does the childhood story of Mephibosheth’s fall (2 Samuel 4:4) help us understand the lasting effects of fear and brokenness?
4. What “Ziba voice” in your life points out reasons you are not worthy of kindness?
5. How does knowing the King is actively seeking the broken encourage you today?

**Prayer Prompt:**

Lord, thank You that You seek me even when I hide. Reveal any place of isolation or shame I have been protecting. Give me courage to let You find me there. Amen.

**Action Step:**

Identify one area of isolation or self-protection and bring it into the light in honest prayer today.

## **Day 2: Grace Restores the Undeserving**

**Bible Reading:** 2 Samuel 9:6-8

**Devotional Thought:**

When Mephibosheth finally stands before David he expects judgment. Instead he hears, “Don’t be afraid, 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.” Land, provision, status, and daily fellowship are given freely. Mephibosheth’s only contribution is his need.

This is the heart of the gospel: we bring nothing but our limp; God brings everything we need. Grace restores the undeserving. The big idea—The Choice to Receive—shifts our focus from trying to earn a place to simply receiving what the King has already decided to give.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What three gifts does David give Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9:7, and what does each communicate?
2. How have you seen God restore something in your life that you could never have earned?
3. What does it mean practically that Mephibosheth’s only contribution was his need?
4. Where do you still try to “earn” what God wants to give freely?
5. How does this truth change the way you approach God in prayer?

**Prayer Prompt:**

Jesus, thank You that You restore the undeserving. I bring You only my need. Help me receive Your gifts with open hands instead of trying to prove my worth. Amen.

**Action Step:**

Write down one specific gift of grace you have received that you did not earn. Thank God for it out loud today.

## **Day 3: Grace Seats the Broken as Family**

**Bible Reading:** 2 Samuel 9:9-13

**Devotional Thought:**

The king's table is not charity; it is adoption. Mephibosheth is given a permanent place among the king's sons. The limp stays, but the identity changes. 2 Samuel 9:13 ends with the simple, powerful statement that he lived in Jerusalem because he always ate at the king's table—and he was still lame in both feet.

Grace does not require us to be acceptable first. In Jesus the greater King, the same loving-kindness declares that we are no longer foreigners and strangers but members of God's household. The big idea invites us to sit down as sons and daughters, limp and all.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What does it mean that Mephibosheth ate at David's table "like one of the king's sons"?
2. How does the fact that the limp remained change your understanding of what grace looks like in real life?
3. In what ways do you still define yourself by your "limp" rather than by your place at the table?
4. How does Ephesians 2:19 ("members of God's household") connect to this story?
5. What would it look like this week to live as a seated son or daughter rather than a guest or outsider?

**Prayer Prompt:**

Father, thank You that my place at Your table is not based on my performance. Help me sit down as Your child, limp and all, and live from that identity today. Amen.

**Action Step:**

The next time you gather for a meal (or Communion), pause and thank God that your place is secure because of the King's kindness, not your worthiness.

## **Day 4: Don't Be Afraid—The King Has Found You**

**Bible Reading:** 2 Samuel 9:7; Luke 19:10

**Devotional Thought:**

When David's soldiers arrived, Mephibosheth had days to imagine the worst. Yet the first words he heard from the king removed the fear he had carried since he was five years old: "Don't be afraid." The same King Jesus still speaks those words over people living in desolation. Grace does not wait for the desert of our lives to flourish or for our limp to heal. He simply says, "Receive what I offer—you will always eat at my table." The big idea calls us to stop running and let the King find us right where we are.

The big idea—restoration through the cross—promises renewal for all creation. In daily life, environmental issues or personal pain reflect this groan; respond with stewardship and hope. Jesus' creative power sustains us now.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What fear have you carried that the words "Don't be afraid" from Jesus would speak to?
2. How does Luke 19:10 ("the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost") connect to David seeking Mephibosheth?
3. Where are you still hiding from the King instead of letting Him find you?

4. What would change if you truly believed the King is already looking for you with kindness?
5. How can you practice receiving rather than performing this week?

**Prayer Prompt:**

Jesus, I hear Your words “Don’t be afraid.” I choose to stop hiding. Find me in my Lo-Debar and speak Your kindness over me today. Amen.

**Action Step**

Spend five quiet minutes today simply receiving God’s kindness instead of asking for anything. Sit in the truth that He has already sought you.

**Day 5: Living at the King’s Table**

**Bible Reading:** Ephesians 2:19; Revelation 3:20

**Devotional Thought:**

Many people assume grace is only for “good church people” or that they must first clean up their act. The King does not wait. He simply says, “Don’t be afraid... Receive what I offer... you will always eat at my table.” Every time we gather at the Communion table or around a church family meal we remember: our place is not earned. The limp is not yet erased, but it is no longer what defines us. We are family. The big idea becomes daily reality when we keep choosing to sit down.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. How does Ephesians 2:19 describe our new identity in Christ?
2. What does it mean to you that your place at the table is not earned?
3. How can the Communion table or a church meal become a regular reminder of this truth?

4. Where do you still feel like a guest rather than a family member?
5. How will living as a seated son or daughter change the way you treat other “Mephibosheths” around you?

**Prayer Prompt:**

Jesus, thank You that I belong at Your table. Help me live today as a true son/daughter of the King, secure in Your kindness. Amen.

**Action Step:**

Invite one person who feels like an outsider to a meal or conversation this week, and treat them as family.

## **Day 6: Making the Choice to Receive**

**Bible Reading:** 2 Samuel 9:13; John 1:12

**Devotional Thought:**

Review the week: from the danger of living in Lo-Debar to the joy of sitting at the King’s table. Grace seeks the broken and forgotten. Grace restores the undeserving. Grace seats the broken as family. The Choice to Receive is not a one-time decision but a daily posture of open hands. When Mephibosheth shuffled to the table the sound of his limp was a daily reminder of the King’s kindness. Under the table the limp disappeared, and he joined in as one of the king’s sons.

There are many broken people around us living in desolate places. Let’s be a church where every Mephibosheth can hear, “Do not be afraid—God has a seat for you with us where you can find your true home in Jesus.”

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What is one key insight you are taking away from this guide?
2. How has your view of grace or of your own worthiness changed over these six days?

3. Where will you apply “The Choice to Receive” in the coming week?
4. Who is one person living in a kind of Lo-Debar that you could extend kindness to?
5. How will you celebrate and keep the momentum of sitting at the King’s table going?

**Prayer Prompt:**

Loving Father, thank You for seeking me, restoring me, and seating me at Your table. Keep me receiving Your kindness every day, and use me to extend it to others. Amen.

**Action Step:**

Memorize 2 Samuel 9:7 this week. Share one takeaway from this guide with a friend or family member today, and invite them to sit with you at the King’s table.



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