



Key Scriptures: 2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13, 16:1-4, 19:24-30

[Leader note: Share a bit about Mary Poppins. You can use what I wrote below or morph it to fit your view of the character, emphasizing her view of responsibility.]

[Show this clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AivZSC9J3Rs>]

Confession: I'm a pretty big fan of Mary Poppins. I like the old movie. I fangirled hard at the new movie. Whether it's Julie Andrews or Emily Blunt bringing Ms. Poppins to life — I'm definitely here for it.

Mary Poppins takes care of and loves children, but she has this no-nonsense approach to life while actually doing seemingly impossible, imaginative things with barely any effort. She's amazing.

When I was little, I would carry luggage around my house and pretend to be Mary Poppins. You know, like pulling out the most random item at the exact perfect time. Mary always dreamed big and went after an adventure, but she also always had the Banks children under control and managed. Mary Poppins is the perfect example of responsibility and far-fetched ideas. I think that's why I pretended to be her as a child. She could have an imagination without giving up on what was right. She was the portrait of trustworthiness.

In the Bible, we spend a fair amount of time looking at the life of King David. Much like Mary Poppins, David often found himself in bizarre situations. He was always forced to find paths out of a catastrophes. The only difference was that David was a real person who actually walked the Earth. Mary may have been creative and had a magical bag of tricks, but David had God to call on to help him navigate challenging experiences.

David was a shepherd boy who became a king. As we look at his life in the Bible, we see him kill a giant, chase after God, wrestle with sins, learn lessons, and even write songs. He was a character the Bible spent so much time with, I almost feel like I know him, like he's an old friend or something.

David had a best friend named Jonathan. Jonathan's dad was King Saul. If you read in the Old Testament, you will see the crazy, tumultuous relationship between David and Saul. This is visible right along with the friendship between David and King Saul's son, Jonathan. They were as close as brothers.

Both King Saul and Jonathan died in battle at Mount Gilboa. David was already chosen to be the next king. Back in those days, if the royal line changed households, it was typical that the new king would slaughter anyone remaining in the previous royal line. Basically, the new King, David, could decide to kill any and all of Saul's descendants who might claim to challenge the throne. This was common practice. So, upon hearing the news of Jonathan — David's BFF's — death, Jonathan's son's nurse tried to whisk the small child off to safety.

(Saul's son Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth, who was crippled as a child. He was five years old when the report came from Jezreel that Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle. When the child's nurse heard the news, she picked him up and fled. But as she hurried away, she dropped him, and he became crippled.)

— 2 Samuel 4:4 (NLT)

David had promised Jonathan that he would be kind to his family — even after Jonathan's death [[See 1 Samuel 20 if you would like to elaborate here.](#)]. So now, let's fast-forward the story to many years after Saul's and Jonathan's deaths. David learned of Mephibosheth's existence. Looking at how David interacted with Mephibosheth can teach us all about responsibility.

1. David Sought to Serve

One day David asked, "Is anyone in Saul's family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" He summoned a man named Ziba, who had been one of Saul's servants. "Are you Ziba?" the king asked.

"Yes sir, I am," Ziba replied.