



NOVEMBER THEME

SPOTLIGHT

BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 18:1-9; 19:1-7; 20:1-42
Project Runaway | David and Jonathan

BOTTOM LINE

Honor others by putting them first

MEMORY VERSE

“Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves.”
Romans 12:10, NIV

LIFE APP

Honor—letting someone know you see how valuable they really are

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **HONOR** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story

This WEEK: We continue our look at Honor in **1 Samuel 18:1-9, 19:1-7, and 20:1-42.** Jonathan was the prince of Israel. He was set to follow in his father’s footsteps. He could have ignored God’s plan for David and done his own thing to ensure his own place on the throne. Yet, Jonathan saw God was doing something different and showed kindness to David in spite of what Saul thought.

Bottom Line: Honor others by putting them first. When we see people as God sees them, we start to realize that how we treat them matters. One of the easiest ways we can show people honor is by putting their needs before our own. This is exactly what God did for us when God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Every kid could use more practice putting others first! Ask God to remind kids constantly this week to put others ahead of themselves. Pray that kids would learn the importance of honoring others this way. Pray that, as the ministry hour unfolds today, God would bring to mind opportunities and ideas for how kids can put others first.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids to talk to each other about the qualities they like to have in a best friend.
- They can also share a couple things they like best about their own best friends.
- Encourage them to think about whether they have those qualities themselves.

•• TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Tell kids they’re going to play “Two Truths and a Lie.” Explain they will each tell three brief stories about something they did with their closest friend. However, two of the stories should be true, and the other should be a lie.
- After each kid tells her three stories, let the other kids vote on which one is the lie.

What You Say: “That game is always so much fun! You get to learn some great stories

about people, and in this case, we got to learn about your closest friends, too. **[Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WOW, we'll hear/we heard about another pair of best friends."**

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

●● FRIENDS FOR LIFE *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: Bible, "Friends for Life" activity pages, scissors, straws, tape

What You Do:

- Hand out the "Friends for Life" activity pages. Lead the kids to cut the shapes out and tape a straw to the back of each.
- As they work, ask questions to help them recall the Bible story:
 - Who was next in line to be king?
 - What did Jonathan give David?
 - Why was King Saul jealous of David?
 - What was the plan that David and Jonathan came up with?
 - What did David and Jonathan promise each other?
- Next, guide your group to retell the story using their puppets. Kids can participate by narrating, working the puppets, or doing sound effects.
- If kids need to look up the story to reference some details, go to 1 Samuel 18:1-9; 19:1-7; 20:1-42.

What You Say: "Our Bottom Line today is: **[Bottom Line] Honor others by putting them first.** How did Jonathan honor David by putting him first? *(Pause for responses.)* Jonathan was a prince! He didn't have to share ANYTHING with David. And yet Jonathan chose to trust God and put his friend first. It's super easy for us to go through life putting ourselves and what we want first. But God turns that upside down and challenges us to put others first, just like Jonathan did. Why do you think God wants us to **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first?** *(Pause for responses.)* Have you ever thought about the fact that when we **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first,** we honor God at the same time? *(Pause for responses)* So remember, **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first."**

●● WHEREVER YOU GO *(application activity)*

What You Need: 5 pieces of paper, markers

What You Do:

- Spread out the pieces of paper on your small group table.
- Tell kids to work together to think of five places or situations where they can put others first, such as at school, while texting or on social media, during sports, at home, etc. They should write a place on the top of each piece of paper.
- Instruct kids to each choose two places from the list you made. Ask them to think of a way they can put someone first in those places or situations.
- Hand out markers, and tell kids to each write—on the correct papers—those things they just thought of.
- When kids are finished, choose five kids *(or let them volunteer)* to each read one of the "ways to put others first" lists.

What You Say: "We can put others first in so many different ways and situations. And there are a lot more even than what we wrote



down here, but this is a great start! This week, I want you to do your best to do at least one thing from each of these lists this week. If you don't have the opportunity to do one of them, that's perfectly fine, but I'm sure you can come up with some other way to put someone first. Remember, **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first.**"

•• **A WING AND A PRAYER** (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles, paper, pens

What You Do:

- Hand out paper and pens. Tell kids to look up Romans 12:10 in their Bibles, write it on the paper, and then sign their name on the paper (*legibly!*).
- Instruct kids to make paper airplanes out of their papers.
- Tell kids to stand up with their papers, spread out around your area, and close their eyes.
- On the count of three, tell kids to throw their planes.
- Tell kids to open their eyes and pick up the plane closest to where they're standing (*but they can't pick up their own*).
- Instruct them to open up the plane to see whose name is on it.

What You Say: "You each have a plane with someone else's name on it. I want you to honor God and **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first** by making this person the first person you pray for every day this week. Before talking to God about yourself and what you want, talk to God about this person and ask God to bless them, to guide them, and anything else you know about them that they might need prayer for. We can honor others in so many ways, and prayer is a great way to do that."

Discussion Questions

- How does honoring others by putting them first actually honor God as well?
- How might your typical day be different if you decided to put your siblings and parents first instead of yourself?
- Do you think there's ever a time when you shouldn't put someone else first? Give some examples and why you came up with those answers.
- People who have a lot of responsibility and power also have great opportunity to put many others first. In what ways can the principal of your school put others first? In what ways can the President of the United States put others first? In what ways did Jesus put others first?
- What would the world be like if the people in leadership never put others first? How is this picture different than a place where the leadership follows in Jesus' footsteps of servant leadership?

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: Paper airplanes from "A Wing and a Prayer"

What You Do:

- Tell kids they're going to start praying for the person on their paper airplane right now.
- Give them 30 seconds or so to pray silently. (*If you did not do the "A Wing and a Prayer" activity, have kids sit in a circle, and tell them to each pray for the person on their right.*)
- After 30 seconds, close the group in prayer aloud with the prayer below...

What You Say: "God, thank you for putting us first. Help us to put others first. Help us to see all the opportunities we have to honor you when we honor others above ourselves. Help us not be selfish but instead let others go first in line, have the bigger cookie, and pick the game we play or the show we watch. Thank you for giving us the story of these two friends, to show us how awesome it is to put

