



NOVEMBER THEME SPOTLIGHT

BIBLE STORY

2 Samuel 9:1-13

Keeping Up with Mephibosheth |
David and Mephibosheth

BOTTOM LINE

Honor others by keeping your
promises

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: In **2 Samuel 9:1-13**, we see what happens when David decides to make good on the promise he made to Jonathan. David goes above and beyond to care for Jonathan's son Mephibosheth. David not only gives him back all the land that belonged to Saul, but he also invites Mephibosheth to eat at the king's table as one of his own sons.

Bottom Line: **Honor others by keeping your promises.** Part of honoring others is keeping your word when you say you'll do something. This not only builds trust, but also shows people you think they're valuable. No one feels good when people let them down. Take time to go above and beyond to keep the promises you make to others.

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. Pray that kids would understand what it means to make a promise and to give your word about something. Ask God to help kids follow through on the things they say they'll do.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Talk to your group about promises.
- Ask kids questions such as:
 - What's the best promise anyone ever made to you and then kept?
 - What's the best promise YOU ever made to someone else and then kept?
 - How does it feel when someone breaks a promise?

•• MIXED-UP PROMISES

What You Need: "Mixed-Up Promises" activity pages, scissors, pens

What You Do:

- Hand out the activity pages and pens.
- Tell kids to read through the pages and finish filling out the columns with some promises of their own.
- Instruct kids to cut out the strips and then put them together to make silly promises.
- Encourage them to read the funniest ones out loud to the rest of the group.

What You Say: "Some of those promises were totally hilarious! (Say one or two of your

favorites.) Even though this was a silly game, promises are actually something we should take very seriously. **[Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WOW we'll see/we saw what promises have to do with honor."**

[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.

●● PROMISE REVIEW *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: "Promise Review Cards", Bible

What You Do:

- Hand a review card to the kid on your left.
- Explain that he will choose someone else in the group to answer the question. He should say, "Do you promise to answer this question correctly?" and the person will answer.
—If she says yes, she stands up and answers it.
—But she does have the choice to say no, and the question asker can choose someone else.
- Continue around the circle until all questions have been asked. Tell kids that they must make sure everyone has had a chance to answer a question before anyone gets a chance to answer a second.
- Kids can use their Bibles to check the answers if needed. (*2 Samuel 9:1-13*)
- Then explain that they will each stand up one at a time and make a promise to the group of something they will do this week.
- It should be something serious, not silly. It might be, "I promise I'll obey my mom the first time she asks me to do things this week," or, "I promise to let my little brother choose which video game we play first this week."
- **[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids something YOU will promise to do this week. Make sure it's age-appropriate.)**

What You Say: "When we make a promise we are telling others that we will be true to our word. We don't just say things to make somebody happy without intending to do what we say we will do. From now on, before you make a promise, really think about what you're promising to do and whether you will be able to be true to your word. If you don't think you can, that's perfectly fine. Just don't make the promise. But if you do make the promise, you need to make sure that you will keep it. Honor God and **[Bottom Line] Honor others by keeping your promises."**

●● PROMISE SCENARIOS *(application activity)*

What You Need: "Scenarios" activity page

What You Do:

- Divide kids into two groups and give each group a scenario.
- Explain that they'll be acting out the scenario with two different endings: one where they keep the promise, and one where they don't.
- Encourage kids to each use their skills where they can best be used in this activity: coming up with ideas, writing the skit, acting, making sound effects, etc.
- Let both groups present their skits to each other.

What You Say: "This shows how important it is to keep your promises. When you don't, you can really let people down. And we saw that it's not always easy to keep our promises, like when you end up doing schoolwork instead of going to a party. But it's the right

thing to do in order to honor others. We also saw, in the scenario with the practice, that we can really get into some sticky situations when we make promises that we know will be hard—or even impossible—to keep. So we need to be responsible with both making promises that we know we can keep and with keeping those promises once we make them. Honor God and **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.**

•• **DEEP, DEEP LOVE** *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: Bible, “Love One Another” activity page, construction paper, markers, scissors

What You Do:

- Invite a child to say this month’s verse from memory.
- Link the command to “love one another deeply” with today’s Bottom Line.
- Let each child choose a strip of construction paper, and then use the “Love One Another” activity page to walk kids through the steps of making paper people chains. *(Distribute the markers and scissors when needed.)*
- Lead kids to write the Bible verse on their chains and then label each “person” on the chain as a person to whom they can keep their promises.

What You Say: “Romans 12:10 tells us to ‘Love one another deeply.’ When we truly love others, we’ll look hard for ways to honor them by keeping our promises. So remember: Honor God and **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.**”

Discussion Questions

- Is there ever a time when it’s okay to break a promise? Give examples.
- If you do need to break a promise to someone, what should you say and do? How would you want someone to respond to you if you have to break a promise?
- How should you respond when someone breaks a promise to you? How can you show honor to the other person in that situation?
- Is breaking a promise to your friends different than breaking a promise to your parents? Why or why not? What is an example of a promise you might make this week to a friend or parent?

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: Paper people chains from “Deep, Deep Love” activity *(optional)*

What You Do:

- If you did the “Deep, Deep Love” activity, guide the kids to hold the paper chain people they made.
- Lead to kids to pray silently, asking God to help them love others deeply by keeping their promises.
- Close the prayer using the conversation below as a guide.

What You Say: “Dear God, thank you for recording the story of David and Mephibosheth in the Bible—your book of promises to us. Lord, help us be like David and honor others by doing what we say we’re going to do. Help us keep our promises no matter what. Thank you. We love you, Lord. Amen.”

[Apply] Give each parent a Faith Five Family Tools as they come to pick up their child and remind them to use it as a family devotional tool this week. Let parents know that we are growing around the theme of honor this month and that, this week, we explored how we can honor God when we **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping our promises.** Encourage kids to tell their parents one way they will honor God and **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping their promises.**