



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, NIRV

**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:** “David and Mephibosheth” coloring page, crayons

**What You Do:**

- As kids color, talk about what a promise is—doing what you say you will do.

•• **PROMISES PROMISES**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Lead kids in a hilarious (*literally!*) game of “I Promise to Make You Smile!”
- Choose one child to start the game by going to the child beside her and saying, “I promise to make you smile.”
- She then does whatever it takes (*short of touching!*) to make that child smile: funny faces, silly dances, and weird noises, whatever!
- When the second child eventually (*or quickly!*) caves in, he goes to the child beside him and attempts to make her smile.
- **Note:** If a child is shy or reluctant, don’t force them to participate.

**What You Say:** “Good job! [Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WOW, we’ll



hear/we heard about someone who took great effort to keep a special promise he made.

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

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## 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.

•• **WHO AM I?** (application activity/review the Bible story)

**What You Need:** “Who Am I Cards” activity page

**What You Say:** “Before David (*show David card*) became king, he and Saul’s (*show Saul card*) son Jonathan (*show Jonathan card*) were best friends and David (*show David card*) promised he would always be there for Jonathan (*show Jonathan card*). When he heard about Jonathan (*show Jonathan card*) and Saul’s (*show Saul card*) deaths, David (*show David card*) wanted to keep his promise. So, now that he was king, he asked if there was anyone left in Jonathan’s (*show Jonathan card*) family he could honor. He found out that Jonathan’s (*show Jonathan card*) son Mephibosheth (*show Mephibosheth card*) was still alive, so he called for him and promised to take care of him and his son Mika (*show Mika card*).”

**What You Do:**

- Place the cards face up on your small group table.
- Tell the story again, this time inviting your group to help you with the cards by pointing to them as they come up in the story.

**What You Say:** “Wow! What a story! Thanks for helping me with the cards! Now, David kept his promise to Jonathan even after Jonathan had died. He knew how important it was to honor God and **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.** We can keep our promises to our friends and family like David did. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you kept a promise even though you didn’t want to or it was hard to.)** When we keep our promises to others, it shows that we care enough about them to put them ahead of ourselves.”

•• **I PROMISE...** (application activity)

**What You Need:** “Promise” activity cards, 1 set per group

**What You Do:**

- Mix up the cards and lay them face down on the table; there should be two of each picture.
- As a group, play a round of “Memory” using the cards, flipping one card over and trying to find it’s match.
- Once the match is found, leave both face up.
- Continue until all the matches are found.
- Mix up the cards and play again!
- Play as many times as interest holds.

**What You Say:** “There are lots of ways you can honor God when we **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.** You can promise to brush your teeth (*hold up the card*), make your bed (*hold up the card*), pick up your toys (*hold up the card*), wash your hands (*hold up the card*), say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ (*hold up the card*), make your bed (*hold up the card*), and share with others (*hold up the card*) but the important thing to remember is that when you promise to do something, then you need to do it. Whenever we make a promise to someone, that person is expecting us to keep our promise. We honor God when we **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping**



**your promises.** So, this week if you say you are going to be somewhere or help someone with something, make sure you actually do it. People count on us to do what we say we are going to do.”

•• **MUSICAL PLATES** (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** 5 paper plates, crayons

**What You Do:**

- Read this month’s memory verse to your group. You can find it on the left hand column of page one of this study.
- Write the memory verse on paper plates (*2 words per plate*). Number the plates in verse order with large numbers.
- Have kids sit around the table in a circle.
- Give each kid a paper plate. (*It’s okay if not everyone has one. If you need to, you can give some kids more than one.*)
- Say “GO!”, and have kids pass the plates around the circle.
- Say “STOP!” at a random time.
- Have the kids put their plates in the middle of the circle and work as a group to put them in the correct order. Show them that you can use the numbers to help.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

**What You Say:** “This verse reminds us to love and honor one another. A great way to honor God and one another is to **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises**. God always keeps God’s promises to us, which is one of the ways God shows us love. Because God always has kept God’s promises, we can trust that God always will. We should do for others what we say we will do, just like God does for us.”

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## PRAY AND SEND

**What You Need:** “Promise” activity cards from “I Promise” activity

**What You Do:**

- Lay out the cards and invite the kids to pick one promise from the “I Promise” activity to keep this week. Invite them to take the card home as a reminder. Note: There won’t be enough cards for each kiddo to pick “brush your teeth”...so you’ll have to help steer them toward a card that’s available.

**What You Say:** “Today we learned about why it’s important to keep the promises we make to people. Let’s ask God to help us do that this week. Let’s pray...”

“God, help us to keep our promises this week. Help us to remember how important it is to honor you when we **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping our promises**. Thank you for always keeping your promises to us. 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**.