



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 his/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.”**

●● YOU WIN *(application activity)*

What You Need: “You Win Game Board,” “You Win Cards,” beads, dice

What You Do:

- Set out the board game, cards, a die, and a bead for each kid.
- Guide the kids to set the cards face down and their beads at START.
- Kids choose who goes first by rolling a die. The player with the LOWEST number starts.
- Guide the kids to take turns rolling the die to move their pieces from START and around the board to HOME. If a player lands on a “draw a card” space, that player draws a card, reads it aloud, and does what the card says. *(Note: If a child moves another player’s pawn forward and it lands on a “draw a card” space, that player does not draw a card.)*
- The game ends when each child has his/her game piece HOME.



- If you run out of cards, let kids shuffle the deck and use them again.

What You Say: “Sometimes it’s hard to **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first**, because it’s easier for us to think about what WE want. WE want to win the game. WE want to pick the movie or TV show. WE want the biggest slice of pizza or cake. WE want the best part in the play or the best spot on the team. Basically, WE want to be first! But God wants us to think differently. God wants us to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated** and to **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first**.

[Make It Personal] *(Share about a time when it’s hard for you to put others first and how you seek God’s help to [Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first.)*

“What are some ways you can **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first?**” *(Pause for responses.)* Does remembering that when you **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first**, you are honoring God as well, make it easier to actually put others first? Why or why not? Will it from now on?

●● **YOU FIRST** *(application activity/memory verse activity)*

What You Need: Bible, 2 paper bags, blank stickers, note cards, markers

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Romans 12 and review the memory verse, guiding kids to repeat it after you.
- Lead kids in a fast-paced “switcheroo” game where they race to stay OUT of first place. To play:
 - Give each child a blank sticker. Assign each kid a number (*1 through however many kids are in your group*). Have kids write their number on their sticker and stick it to their shirt. Write the corresponding numbers on note cards. Fold each card in half and drop it in one of the bags.
 - Guide the kids to line up single file with space between each kid.
 - Lead the last child in line to quickly pull a number from the bag, call it out, drop the card in the other (*the “discard”*) bag, and then run to the front of the line.
 - The child whose number is called steps out of line, runs to the bag, draws a number, calls it out, discards the card, runs to the front of the line, and continues the game.
 - When every card is pulled from the “draw” bag, the “discard” bag becomes the “draw” bag and vice-versa.
 - At random times, yell “STOP!” If a child is in first place when you yell “STOP!,” he must sit out until his number is called again. (*Whoever is physically in first place when STOP! Is yelled is out. If a kid’s number has been called, but she is still in the process of making her way to the bag of cards, the kid standing in the front of the line is out.*)
- Add fun by directing kids to move different ways: hop, tiptoe, walk backwards, baby step, robot-walk, elephant-walk, etc.

What You Say: “How did Jonathan show deep love for his friend? *(Pause for responses.)* How did Jonathan honor David more than himself? *(Pause.)* Just like Jonathan loved and honored David by putting him first, God wants you to **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first**, too. What are some ways you can **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first?** *(Pause.)* So remember: ‘Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves.’”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids to repeat your prayer silently, as you pray, and to pray it specifically for the kid sitting to their right.

