



**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: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Has someone ever kept a promise to you? What was the promise?
 - How did you feel when the person kept their promise?
 - Have you ever kept a promise to someone? How did it feel to keep your promise?

●● **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!”
- Guide the kids to sit in a circle.
- 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.]

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, tape

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:

- Tape a card to five kids' backs without letting them see which card they have.
- Ask one kid at a time to stand up and show the group which card is on their back.
- Have the group give clues so the person can guess who they are. Give lots of help as needed.
- When kids have guessed who they are, they can take their card off their back and tape it to the center of your small group table.

What You Say: "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."

•• THE KING'S TABLE *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: Paper plates, napkins, paper cups, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a plate, cup, and napkin.
- Direct kids to draw a smiley face on their plate, a sad face on their napkin, and an excited face on their cup.
- Lead kids to put their "place setting" on the table in front of them.
- Explain that you are going to review the story by reading a statement about something that happened. Tell them to hold up the plate if the statement is something happy or good, the napkin if it's unhappy or bad, and the cup if it's exciting or surprising. Let them know that it's okay for their choices to be different from others.
 - David and Jonathan were best friends.
 - David promised Jonathan that he would always be kind to his family.
 - King Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle.
 - When David became king, he remembered the promise he had made to always be kind to Jonathan's family.



—David asked Ziba, one of King Saul’s servants, “Is there anyone from Saul’s family who is still alive? I want to be kind to them as God has been kind to me.”

—Ziba told David that Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth, was still alive.

—Mephibosheth had been wounded as a young boy and could no longer walk.

—So David had Mephibosheth brought to him. When Mephibosheth arrived, David said, “I want to show you kindness because of your father, Jonathan. I will give you all the land that belonged to your grandfather, Saul and you will always eat at my table.”

—Mephibosheth replied, “Why are you doing this for me? I’m about as important as a ... a dead dog!”

—From that time on, Mephibosheth and his family came to live in Jerusalem, and David provided everything they needed, just as he had promised Jonathan.

What You Say: “Why was David so kind to Mephibosheth? (*He had promised Jonathan to always be kind to his family.*) How did David follow through on his promise? (*He gave Mephibosheth land, a place to live, and promised that he would always eat at his table.*) David knew that the best way he could honor his friend was by keeping his promise to never stop being kind to either Jonathan or his family. So this week, remember to honor God when you **[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 when you **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.**”

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.**