



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, ask them what promises others have made to them or they have made to others.
- 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.]

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."

•• BALANCE IT ALL *(application activity)*

What You Need: Paper cups

What You Do:

- Pair kids up or let them choose a partner.
- One partner should balance a paper cup on his partner's head.
- Kids then walk around the small group table with their partners.
- If the cup falls off, the partner can replace the cup for the kid balancing it, but the one balancing it cannot use his hands.
- Whichever pairs are still balancing the cup when their get back to their seats are the winners.
- Switch partners and play again.

What You Say: "Just like you were counting on your partner to be there to help you when the cup fell off your head, other people count on you to be there for them. Who counts on you to be there for them? *(You may need to give a couple answers to get them talking.)*



Answers include: parents, siblings, friends, teachers, and coaches count on us to behave and follow directions, etc.) Whenever we make a promise to someone, that person is expecting us to be there to keep our promise. You can't honor God and/or **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises** if you don't show up. 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: Bibles, 5 paper plates, crayons

What You Do:

- Look up and review the verse together.
- Write the memory verse on paper plates (2 words per plate). Number the plates in verse order.
- 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.
- When you say stop, have kids read the words of the verse they are holding, in order. Kids who are better at reading or have memorized the verse can help others who struggle to read.
- 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."

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Using the conversation guide below, ask kids what they'd like to ask God to help them with this week, as it relates to what they learned today.

What You Say: "Today we learned about why it's important to keep the promises we make to people. Why do you think it's important? What promises do you want to thank God for keeping? What promises should we ask God to help us keep? What else would you like to pray for this week? (Pause for suggestions) Let's pray..."

"God, help us to keep our promises this week. Help us to remember how important it is to **[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**.