



NOVEMBER THEME

**HALL OF FAME**

Everyone's a VIP

**BIBLE STORY**

2 Samuel 9:1-13 (2 Samuel 4:4)

Count on Me | David + 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.

**Key Question: Why do promises matter so much?** We live in a world where promises are a dime a dozen. It seems like everyone is making a promise about something, but often these promises aren't kept. We hope that families start to understand that their promises matter when it comes to building trust and showing honor to others.

We pick up David's story in **2 Samuel 9:1-13**. Time has passed, and David is now officially the new king of Israel. The only person left in Jonathan's family was a man named Mephibosheth. David didn't owe Mephibosheth anything. But he made a promise and he honored Jonathan and Mephibosheth by not only making good on that promise, but also going above and beyond to welcome Mephibosheth into his own family.

**Bottom Line: Honor others by keeping your promises.** When we keep the promises we make to others, we show others that we can be trusted. On top of that, keeping our promises to others can make them feel like they have value, that they were worth our time and energy to keep the commitment we made. We pray families start to see that the promise they keep can be a powerful way to show others honor.

**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 group member by name. Pray that kids would start to understand the importance of keeping promises—of doing what you say you will do. Ask God to help kids see that when you keep a promise to someone, especially if it's difficult to do, you show that person how valuable they are.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

**Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Greet the kids by name as they join the group.
- Ask:
  - What is a promise?
  - Why are promises important?
  - Has there ever been a time when you kept a promise? What was it?
  - Has someone ever broken a promise to you?

•• **DON'T SAY THE WORD!**

**Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group**



**What You Need:** “Object” cards

**What You Do:**

- Hand out an “Object” card to each group member. They should not let anybody else see it.
- Choose someone to go first. He will give clues to the group to guess the object shown on the card WITHOUT saying the name of the object on the card.
- For instance, if the object is a ball, he might say, “This is something you bounce or kick or throw.”
- The first child to guess the object gets to give the next clue. NOTE: if they have already had a turn, he/she should choose someone who hasn’t yet had a turn to go next.
- Continue play as time and interest allow.

**What You Say:** “You guys are super guessers! In this game, you could say any word except the word on the card. You said one thing to get someone to guess something else. Today we are talking about promises. When someone breaks a promise, they say one thing but DO something else. [Transition] **Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about someone who kept a promise and did exactly what he said he would do.**”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to Fellowship Hall for Children’s Ministry 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.

●● **STORYLINE REVIEW** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

**Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing**

**What You Need:** Bible, “Storyline” activity pages, markers

**What You Do:**

- Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13 out loud to the kids.
- Pass out “Storyline” activity pages to your group. If you have more than 7 kids, some can pair up. If you have fewer than 7 kids, give some kids 2.
- Set the markers in the center of the small group area.
- Let kids illustrate their part of the story any way they choose.
- When kids are done drawing, collect the papers and let kids work together to arrange them in story order.

**Storyline Strips in Order...**

1. David and Jonathan made a promise to always be friends.
2. David asks if anyone from Jonathan’s family is still alive.
3. The servant tells David that Jonathan’s son Mephibosheth, who is crippled, is still alive.
4. David sends for Mephibosheth.
5. Mephibosheth bows down to David.
6. David offers Mephibosheth a seat to dine at his table as if he were his own son.
7. David takes care of Mephibosheth’s family.

**What You Say:** “Great job, friends! I LOVE this story. David made a promise to Jonathan and he kept it, even after Jonathan was gone. Why do you think David kept his promise to his friend? (*pause for ideas*) How do you think it made Mephibosheth feel when David told him that he would always take care of him? (*pause for ideas*) Yes! David honored his friend Jonathan and he honored Mephibosheth.



And guess what. We can honor others in the same way. Let's make sure that the promises we make are promises we keep. Remember to **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.**"

**[Make It Personal]** *(Tell an age-appropriate example of a time when someone kept a promise to you and it made you feel honored. How did their example help inspire you to keep your promises too?)*

●● **PROMISES, PROMISES** [Live for God | Application Activity]

**Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding**

**What You Need:** Paper plates, markers, and scissors

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a paper plate.
- Instruct the kids to write the word "Promises" in the center of the plate and draw a circle around the word.
- Instruct the kids to use the scissors to cut eight slits from the edge to the center circle they've drawn.
- Inside each section (*between the slits*), ask kids to write one promise they would like to make and keep to a friend, family member, teacher, coach, etc.
- Encourage kids to take their plates home and put them in a place where they can see them every day.
- Each time they keep a promise, they can color in the corresponding section on the place.

**What You Say:** "What's easier: making a promise or keeping a promise? (*pause for responses.*) Yes! MAKING a promise. It's easy to say something and then not follow through. But the way we honor others is by doing what we say we will do! How could breaking your promises hurt your relationships with others? (*pause for responses.*) I want you to HAVE good friends and to BE a good friend. One of the best ways you can do that is by keeping the promises you make, which makes the people you love feel important! Take this plate home and put it somewhere in your room where you'll see it every day. As you keep a promise, color in that section. The goal is to color in ALL the sections after you keep the promises you make! Let's **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.**"

●● **PASSING ON THE MEMORY VERSE** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

**Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body**

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:**

- Look up Romans 12:10 and review as a group.
- Have the kids stand in a line, shoulder to shoulder.
- Ask the kids to place their left hand out to their side, palm up.
- Then have the kids place their right hand out, palm up, and place it under the left hand of the person to their right.
- Starting with the first person in line, instruct them to say the first word of the verse as they tap (*not too hard!*) the left hand of the person on their right, and so on, sending the words down the line.
- Repeat the memory verse, this time starting at the other end of the line. Kids will tap the hand of the kid to their left as they repeat the words of the verse.

**What You Say:** "Great job! You are really learning this verse. Let's remember to love each other deeply by doing what we say we will do. Make sure the promises you make are promises you'll keep so that others can trust you. That's one big way to honor others. Remember, **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.**"

