



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.

•• JUST FOR FUN

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

What You Need: Deck of cards

What You Do:

- Explain the group is going to play a game called, "I Doubt It." To play:
 - Shuffle and deal out the cards evenly. If there are extra cards, place them face down in the center of the circle.
 - The object is to be the first one to get rid of all your cards or to have the least number of cards in your hand when time is up.
 - The first kid places his Aces face down and tells the group how many Aces he has laid down. For example, he lays down one card and says, "One Ace."
 - If he doesn't have any "Aces" or wishes to get rid of more cards he can bluff and lay down something other than one Ace. For example, he can bluff by laying down an Ace and a Jack and saying, "Two Aces."
 - The next kid lays down "twos," the next kid lays down "threes" and so on.



—On each turn, kids have the option of laying down the “right” cards or bluffing and laying down something other than what they say.
—Once a kid announces what cards she has laid down, anyone in the group who thinks she is bluffing can challenge by saying, “I doubt it.”

—Anyone caught bluffing must pick up the entire discard pile. If a kid is not bluffing, the challenger must pick up the discard pile.

—Play continues until someone runs out of cards.

—If time is up before anyone gets rid of all their cards, the kid with the least number of cards in his hand wins.

●● GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

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 this person has 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.]

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.

●● TAKE A SNAPSHOT [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment.

What You Need: “Promise Scenario Cards,” pens

What You Do:

- Divide kids into 4 teams and give each team a “Promise Scenario Card.”
 - Give teams time to read their card and think of reasons they might give for not keeping the promise on their card.
 - Direct teams to write their ideas on the back of the “Promise Scenario Card.”
- Ideas could include: something more fun came up, you meant to do it but you forgot, it was too hard to do what you promised, other people didn’t keep their promise so it is okay that you don’t either, you said you would do something but you never said you “promised” you would do it, etc.
- If there is interest, encourage teams to select one of their answers to act out for the group.
 - For further discussion, consider asking:



- For each scenario, what could be the consequences of not keeping the promise?
- Why does keeping your promises matter so much?
- What if you don't actually say, "I promise"? (*Read a scenario or two replacing the word "promised" with "said"*) Is it okay not to follow through with something if you didn't actually say, "I promise"? Is there really a difference between giving your word and saying "I promise"?

●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment.

What You Need: Bible, 2 paper plates, pens

What You Do:

- Read/review today's Bible story from 2 Samuel 9:1-13.
- Give two kids (*sitting across from each other*) a paper plate and a pen.
- Instruct them to quickly write one fact about the story in the middle of their plate and then pass the plate to their right.
- Instruct the kids who now have the plates to read what is written and add another fact from the story, either before it or after it, according to when it happened in the story.
- Continue passing plates until everyone has written a sentence on both of the plates. Keep the pace quick—if kids don't get the whole fact written before time is up, direct them to pass the plate anyway. If a sentence isn't finished, the next kid in line can finish it or add a new fact.
- Compare the plates:
 - Which plate has the most complete summary of the story?
 - Is it still missing something?
 - Why do you think it mattered so much to David to keep his promise to Jonathan?

●● **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [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: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask a few of the following questions...
 - What do you do when you realize you made a promise you can't keep?
 - Is there a good reason for not keeping a promise? What if you promised you would go to a movie with a friend and your parents say no? (*This could lead to a discussion about being careful what you promise and to carefully consider if you should even make the promise.*)
 - Why is keeping your promise so important?
 - Has someone ever broken a promise to you? How did you feel when that happened?
 - How does it feel when a promise is kept?
 - When someone keeps a promise even though they had a good reason not to keep that promise, how does that show honor and value?
 - What are words you would use to describe someone who keeps their promises?
 - Encourage kids to share of an example when they kept a promise.

●● **VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU** [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

