



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:

- Ask, "What is a promise? (*Saying that you'll do something*) What does it mean to keep your promises? (*To do what you say you're going to do*)"
- Encourage kids to think of the craziest promises that could NEVER be kept. Could they promise to...
 - chew bubble gum for 1,000 years—without stopping?
 - ride an ostrich to church?
 - take a giraffe to school?
 - give a shark a bath?
 - ride a unicorn on a rainbow?
 - brush a tiger's teeth?



•• I PROMISE

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

What You Need: “I Promise!” cards

What You Do:

- Guide kids to stand up around your small group table.
- Set the “I promise” cards in the middle of the table.
- Draw the top card and say, “I promise to *(name the action shown on the card)*.” Then do that action.
- Guide the child to your right to draw a card, look at it, and promise to do the action shown—all while you continue to do your action!
- Keep going around the circle with each child drawing a card and doing their action. At the end of the game, everybody will be doing a unique action at the same time.
- If you have extra time, play again.
- If you need more of a challenge, try doing all previous actions before adding on your own. *(For example: person 1 nods; person 2 nods and then stomps feet; person 3 nods, stomps feet, and then holds up two fingers, etc.).*

What You Say: “Whew! That was fun! You guys did a great job keeping your promises. What is a promise? *(Saying that you’ll do something)* [Transition] **Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about someone who kept an important promise.**”

[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.

•• THE KING’S TABLE [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: “Plate” activity pages, “Cup” activity pages, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each child a “Plate” activity page and a “Cup” activity page. Set out crayons where everybody can share them.
- Direct kids to draw a smiley face on their plates and a sad face on their cups.
- Lead kids to put their “place settings” on the table in front of them.
- Read the Bible story points below.
- Tell kids to hold up their happy face plates if what happened is something happy or good and to hold up their cups if it’s something unhappy or bad.

Bible Story Points...

—Before David became king, he and King Saul’s son, Jonathan, were best friends. David promised Jonathan that he would always be kind to Jonathan and his family. *(happy)*

—One day David found out that Saul and Jonathan had died in battle. *(sad)*

—After David became king, he remembered the promise he had made to Jonathan. *(happy)*

—David asked if there was anyone left from Saul and Jonathan’s family and learned Jonathan’s son was still alive. *(happy)*

—His name was Mephibosheth [meh-FIHB-o-sheth], and he couldn’t walk. *(sad)*

—David brought Mephibosheth to the palace and told him that he would be kind to him because of Jonathan. *(happy)*

—Mephibosheth and his family came to live in Jerusalem, and he always ate with David, just like one of the king’s sons. *(happy)*

- Close by inviting kids to draw their favorite part of the story on the back of one of their activity pages.



What You Say: “David promised Jonathan that he would always be kind to him and his family. Even after Jonathan died, David was kind to Mephibosheth, Jonathan’s son. David honored Jonathan by keeping his promise!

“Did David do what he said he was going to do? (*pause for responses*) Doing what you say you’re going to do is a great choice. In fact, it’s a wise choice. Because when you do what you say you’re going to do, people trust you more. And when you do what you say you’re going to do, people feel like you care about them. So, if you tell your mom that you’ll pick up your room before you play your video game, pick up your room first. If you tell your little sister that she can play with you, let her play with you. If you tell your friend that they can choose first, let them choose first. Whatever you do, **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.**”

●● **RAINBOW OF PROMISE** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Rainbow” coloring pages, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out “Rainbow” coloring pages to each group member. Set out crayons where everybody can share them.
- As kids color, review this month’s memory verse as written on the coloring pages.
- Also, engage kids in the conversation below.
- Encourage kids to take their coloring pages home to remind them to be like God and David and **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.**

What You Say: “What does it mean to ‘love one another deeply’? (*To love others very much; to love others like we love ourselves*) Did David love Jonathan deeply? (*Yes*) Yes, David loved Jonathan very much. In fact, David loved Jonathan so much that he found a way to keep his promise. Do you remember the promise that David made? What was it? (*pause for responses*) Yes, he promised that he would always be kind to Jonathan and his family. How did David keep his promise? (*He looked for Mephibosheth and showed kindness to him.*)

“Do you know the story in the Bible about Noah’s Ark? In that story, God kept a promise to Noah and put a rainbow in the sky to remind everybody that God keeps God’s promises.

“In our story for today, David knew that God wants us to **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping our promises.** And when we truly love others, we’ll look for ways to keep our promises, too. We can say it this way: **[Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.** Because when you do, you’ll show them how much God loves them and values them—and that’s a great thing!”

●● **LOVE AND HONOR** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Start” activity page, “Ladder” activity page, “Chute” activity page, “Roll Again” activity page, “Go back” activity pages (3), “Scenarios” activity page, dice

What You Do:

- Lead the group in a life-sized “Chutes and Ladders”-style game.
- Set out the activity pages around your small group table in a random order.
- Guide kids to line up single file behind START.
- Lead kids to take turns rolling the dice and moving that number of spaces around the table.
- If a child lands on a space with a ladder, read a “Ladder Scenario” from that activity page, and guide the child to pantomime climbing a ladder. (*After you’ve read and discussed the scenario, the child should go to the back of the line and wait for his next turn.*)
- If a child lands on a space with a slide, read a “Slide Scenario” from that activity page, and guide the child crouch down as low as possible. (*After you’ve read and discussed the scenario, the child should go to the back of the line and wait for his next turn.*)
- If a child lands on any other space, they should follow the directions on the space.
- Continue play until all of the scenarios have been read and discussed.

