

# Alley SG - November 16-17, 2019

**Bible Story:** Count on Me (David and Mephibosheth) • 2 Samuel 9:1-13 (Supporting: 2 Samuel 4:4)

**Bottom Line:** Honor others by keeping your promises.

**Key Question:** Why do promises matter so much?

**Memory Verse:** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10 NIV)

## 1. Just for Fun

**What You Need:** Deck of Cards (1 per group)

### What You Do:

- **Gather** the group in a circle.
- **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 actual number of cards they say they're laying down 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.

## 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Promise Scenario Cards (1 set of 4 cards per group), paper, pens/markers

### What You Do:

- **Pair** kids into teams.
- **Tell** each team to pick 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 a piece of paper.
  - 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"?

### 3. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Paper plates (1 per student, per service), Markers

**What You Do:**

- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Give** each kid a paper plate and a marker.
- **Instruct** everyone to write one fact about the story on the bottom of his or her plate.
- **Tell** kids to pass their plates to the right.
- **Instruct** kids to read the plate 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 all 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 new fact.
- **Compare** the plates:
  - Which plate has the most complete summary of the story today?
  - Is it still missing something?
  - Why do you think it mattered so much to David to keep his promise to Jonathan?

### 4. Discussion Questions

**Ask:**

- 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.

### 5. Verse to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, Straws (1per student), "Word Squares" (2 sets per group, per service), Cups (2 per group)

**What You Do:**

- As a group, **look up** the memory verse, Romans 12:10.
- **Divide** the group into two teams.
- **Direct** teams to form a line.
- **Give** kids a straw.
- **Place** a cup containing the "Word Squares" at the front of the line.
- **Explain** teams will race to get the memory verse in the correct order. To **race**:
  - Teams pass the "Word Squares" from the cup to the end of the line.
  - Kids cannot touch the "Word Squares" with their hands. To pass the "Word Squares" the must pick up the "Word Square" and pass it to the next kid in line using only their straws.

- Once the “Word Square” is at the end of the line, the words must be placed in the correct order. Again, kids cannot touch the “Word Squares” with their hands; kids can put the words in order only using their straws.
- The first team to get all the “Word Squares” in the correct order wins.  
(*You can discard the word squares after each service*)
- **Ask:**
  - Why do promises matter so much?
  - How is keeping your promise a way to honor others more than yourself?
  - How does doing what you say you will do show love to one another?

## 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** Yarn, scissors

### What You Do:

- **Ask:** What are things you can do to remember to keep your promises?
- **Explain** that sometimes people tie a string around their index finger when they wanted to remember something.
- **Encourage** the group to work together to cut the yarn (about a 4 inch piece) and tie the piece on everyone’s index finger. (Not too tight that circulation gets cut off!)
- God kept a huge promise to us when He sent Jesus to earth to rescue us so we could be with Him now and forever.
  - **Challenge** kids to keep the string on their index finger for the day as a reminder of the promise God kept and a reminder to honor others by keeping their promises.
- **Close** in prayer.

### What You Say:

“God, You are amazing! You always keep Your promises! And the most important promise You kept was sending Jesus to rescue us! Keeping Your promise is one way You show us how important we are and we matter to You so much; You gave us a way to be with You now and forever! God, help us keep our promises; help us to do what we say we will do. We want to love others like You love us, and we want to honor others by keeping our promises. We love You! Amen!

**BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”**

**HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY**

**IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!**