

City 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.
Memory Verse: Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves. Romans 12:10 (NIRV)

1. Ice-Breaker

What You Need: Slips of Paper (1 per child), Pens

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?
- As you discuss the questions above, pass out a strip of paper to each child and have them write down an object on the paper. It can be anything like a ball, shoe, chair etc.
- When they've finished, ask them to fold the slip of paper in half and collect them.

2. Don't Say the Word!

What You Need: Folded strips from Activity 1, a Sand Bucket/Bin (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Place all the folded paper strips written earlier in the bucket and mix them up.
- Let the kids take turns drawing out a paper slip and reading the object on the card without showing anyone in the group.
- The child will give clues to the group to guess the object written on the card WITHOUT saying the name of the object on the card.
- For instance, if the object is a ball, they might say, "This is something you bounce or kick or throw."
- The first child to guess the object gets to give the next clue.
- 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. When someone breaks a promise, they say one thing but DO something else."

3. Story Review

What You Need: Bibles, David and Mephibosheth Storyline Strips (1 set per group)
Optional: Paper Plates (1 per child) and markers

What You Do:

- Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13 aloud to the kids.

OPTION 1

- Mix up the storyline strips and have the group put them in order for review.

OPTION 2 – With Plates and Markers

- Pass out a paper plate and one David and Mephibosheth Storyline Strip to each child.
- Set the markers in the center of the group.
- Let them illustrate their slip in any way they choose, in the center of their plate.
- Encourage them to think about what they want to draw before they start drawing.

- Collect all the plates, mix them up, and then let the kids work together to arrange the plates 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.*) How do you think it made Mephibosheth feel when David told him that he would always take care of him? (*Pause.*) 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 the kids about 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?*)

4. Promises, Promises

What You Need: Paper plates (1 per child), Markers, 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! KEEPING 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.**"

5. Passing on the Memory Verse

What You Need: No supplies needed

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 slap (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 slap 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.**”

6. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Yarn (1 ball per group), Scissors

What You Do:

- Cut the string/yarn into four-inch pieces.
- Let kids help each other tie the string around a finger on their non-writing hand.
- If they tie the string around the part of the finger where a ring would normally go, they should be able to wear it for a few days.
- Explain that this string will serve as a reminder to keep their promises.
- Close in prayer, asking God to help kids line up their words and actions so they can honor others.

What You Say:

“This string is our reminder to what? To keep your promises! Let’s make sure to honor others by doing what we say we will do! Let’s pray and ask God to help us with that this week.

“Heavenly Father, You are an awesome God! You keep Your promises always. Help us this week to show others just how valuable they are to us by doing what we will say we will do. Help us to honor the people around us by keeping our promises this week. We love You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

PARENT CONNECTION: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them the string around their finger as a reminder to [Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!