

# City SG - November 30-December 1, 2019

**Bible Story:** A Thrill of Hope (Jesus Is Promised) • *Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 53:8, Micah 5:2 (plus Old Testament review)*

**Bottom Line:** You can have joy because God keeps His promises.

**Memory Verse:** *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!*  
Philippians 4:4 (NIRV)

## 1. I Promise It's True

**What You Need:** A ball (1 per group)

### What You Do:

- Encourage your group to sit in a circle.
- Give one kid the ball and instruct her to pass it to whomever she wants.
- Explain that whoever receives the ball will begin the game by saying, "I promise" followed by something that may be true OR may be false about them!
- Prompt them with examples such as: "I promise I made my bed this morning." "I promise I fed my eight cats before coming to church today." "I promise I have five sisters and brothers."
- Explain that the rest of the group will try to guess whether their promise is true or false.
- Continue passing the ball until everyone has had a turn.
- Play this quickly and keep the tempo high to maintain the kids' attention.

### What You Say:

"You guys came up with some pretty hilarious promises! We have a very creative group here today. Although it was challenging to figure out if our friends were telling true promises or being funny, **[Transition] today in Large Group, we learned that GOD always keeps His promises! And His promises are REALLY great.**"

## 2. Chain of Promising Events

**What You Need:** "Chain of Promising Events" Activity Pages (1 set of the 2 pages per child), markers, glue sticks, scissors

### What You Do:

- Provide each kid with a set of Activity Pages and scissors.
- Instruct them to color them and then cut them out.
- When everyone is finished, use the "main points" (below) to walk through each picture while reviewing the story.
- Demonstrate to kids how they can glue one end of the strip to the opposite end to form a circle.
- Then demonstrate how they can loop the next strip through the first circle and glue the ends together, forming a chain.
- Encourage them to put the chain on their tree at home or to hang it on the bathroom mirror, a banister, or a doorframe.

### Main Points to Review:

1. God created the most beautiful world for people to live in, but from the very beginning, God's people turned away from Him.
2. God told Abram, "I will make you into a great nation!"
3. David became king and was a man who really loved God.
4. Not all people listened to David and therefore, enemies were able to capture God's people.
5. God spoke through prophets like Isaiah about His promise of a Savior, and He sent Isaiah to share His Word.
6. God seemed to be silent for many years.
7. Simeon said that God's Spirit told him that he would see the Messiah before he died!

### What You Say:

“I can only imagine how this Christmas chain will take your Christmas tree or home decorations to the next level! Have you all been thinking about where you can hang your Christmas chain? (*Allow time for responses.*) I PROMISE whatever you decide, it will look amazing! Okay, I guess I can’t make that promise because you could hang it somewhere really funny. But you know what I CAN promise? No matter what we face in this Christmas season ahead, **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because God keeps His promises.** Whether one of your favorite traditions gets forgotten this year, or Christmas just doesn’t turn out the way you were hoping, you can still find joy because of the good news we learned about today!”

### 3. A Mark of Joy

**What You Need:** Construction paper strips, confetti, markers, glue sticks, Bibles

#### What You Do:

- Guide kids to look up Philippians 4:4 in their Bibles.

*Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:* Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Philippians in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 4 in chapter 4.

- Read Philippians 4:4 several times aloud.
- Provide each kid with a strip of paper and a marker.
- Tell kids that they’ll be making bookmarks so they can remember their memory verse all month long!
- Encourage them to write out the verse on the strip of paper, using the Bible to help them if needed.
- When they’ve finished, give each kid a glue stick and around 15 pieces of confetti.
- Instruct kids to glue their confetti pieces all over their paper, around the verse, to make the bookmark look like a party!
- Allow them to use markers to continue decorating as time allows.

### What You Say:

“I don’t know what I love more—your seriously amazing confetti bookmarks or the fact that you’ll be able to find this month’s memory verse really easily. When I look at your bookmarks, they just scream joy! Today we learned that **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because God keeps His promises.** But here’s the thing. In order to know God’s promises so that we can have joy, we have to read about His promises in His Word. This week, I pray that your bookmark reminds you to read God’s Word daily so you can always have joy no matter what!”

### 4. Interactive Story

**What You Need:** “Interactive Story” Activity Page (1 per group)

#### What You Do:

- Tell kids you’re going to retell today’s Bible story, and in the middle of it you’ll give them instructions of things to do, so they’ll need to pay attention very carefully.
- Read the “Interactive Story” Activity Page.
- Pause after each bolded instruction so kids can do what you say.

### What You Say:

“Today’s Bible story was more like the entire Old Testament story! We learned about a lot of the most important things that happened in the first part of the Bible—during the years before Jesus came to earth. It’s such an AMAZING story, but the most amazing part was still to come in the part of the Bible we call the New Testament. Throughout the rest of the month, we’ll learn more about what happened once God was ready to

send Jesus to earth. I can't wait for you to hear the rest of the story! It will bring us all so much joy! **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because God keeps His promises.**"

## 5. Pray and Dismiss

**What You Need:** Kids' paper chains from Activity 2

### What You Do:

- Let kids hold the paper chains they made.
- Invite them to name some of the promises represented on the chain (God's promise to send a Savior, God's promise to Abraham to multiply his family, God's plan to rescue His people).
- Pray the prayer below out loud over your group.

### What You Say:

"God, we come to You today so thankful that You give us Your promises to encourage us. We also thank You for the best promise You've ever given us: the promise of a Savior! We know that joy is always an option for us because **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because God keeps His promises.** Help us to remember this truth and have a very joy-filled week ahead! In Jesus' name, Amen!"

**Parent Connection:** As adults arrive to pick up, have each kid display their Christmas chain! Ask them, "What part of the story was your favorite today?" Remind them that just like we learned in our story today, **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because God keeps His 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!**