



## WEEK TWO – APRIL 2019 – PRETEEN

**Bible Story:** *This I Promise You* • John 12:9–16

**Key Question:** *What promises does God have for you?*

**Memory Verse:** *“In this world, you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” – John 16:33b NIV*

**Life App:** *Hope – Believing that something good can come out of something bad*

**Basic Truth:** *I can trust God no matter what.*

**Summary:** Next, we head to an incredible moment John records in John 12:9–16. God’s people had waited for generations for God to send the Messiah. They were overwhelmed when Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. God kept His promise. The mission to save the world was happening. This didn’t go exactly how they expected, but God was up to something bigger than they could imagine!

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**8:50–9:00 | 10:20–10:30 | 11:50–12:00 – SOCIAL ACTIVITY**

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## 1. Just For Fun

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Use this time talk about upcoming plans for Easter and catch up on the goods/bads from the week

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

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**9:10–9:45 | 10:40–11:15 | 12:10–12:45 – LARGE GROUP**

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## OVERVIEW:

**Key Question:** *What promises does God have for you? Jesus fulfilled a promise that God had since the beginning. God had been promising His people a Savior, and Jesus was the fulfillment of that promise. But God still has promises for us today. We will help kids discover those promises and how these promises can help them find hope.*

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**9:45–10:05 | 11:15–11:35 | 12:45–1:05 SMALL GROUP**

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## 1. Take a Snapshot

### [Bible Story Review]

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** Paper, white crayons, washable markers

### What You Do:

- Give each person a white crayon, a colored marker, and white paper.
- Ask students to use the white crayon to draw a symbol representing a promise God has made to us.
- Remind them to press down hard with the white crayon and possibly use the thick end of the crayon instead of the pointy end.
  - Suggest that they also use the marker to draw a box or a circle around their symbol to show the next student where to shade.

- Instruct everyone to exchange cards.
- Direct them to use their marker to shade over the white paper to reveal the promise.
- Take turns sharing about what’s drawn on their papers.

### **What You Say:**

*“God has made a lot of promises. We read about them in the Bible. Every promise God makes He will keep. He always does what He says He will do. When we need hope, we can count on God’s promises.”*

## **2. Bible Story Extension**

### **[Bible Story Review]**

*Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play*

**What You Need:** Bibles, cardstock, markers

### **What You Do:**

- Review the Large Group lesson by asking students to share two things they remember from the story.
- Explain that Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem was a fulfillment of a promise God made in the Old Testament.
- Invite someone to look up Zechariah 9:9 then read it aloud.
- Ask if anyone remembers what the people shouted when they saw Jesus coming.
- Let one of the students read John 12:13 in the New Testament then have someone else read Psalm 118:26a in the Old Testament.
- Explain that “Hosanna” is a Hebrew expression meaning “Save!” The crowd was shouting out their praises of the one who came to save. They quoted part of Psalm 118—the same Psalm we have in our Bible today. Jesus was coming to save them—but not the way they thought. The people thought Jesus was coming to save them from the rulers of Rome and to be King of the Jewish people. More importantly, He was coming to save them from the punishment they deserved for sin. He was coming to die on the cross in our place.
- Set out poster board or cardstock and markers.
- Ask students if they’ve ever been at a parade, race, concert, or other event where people hold up signs they’ve made.
- Invite the students to imagine being in the crowd of people on the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The scene may have looked like a one-person parade with people lining the sides of the road as Jesus rode by.
- Ask everyone to create a poster they would have held up if they were part of the crowd when Jesus made His big entry into Jerusalem.
- As students work on their posters, ask
  - When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowd shouted, “Hosanna,” which means, “Save.” What does Jesus promise to save us from if we believe in Him?

- How do we show we believe God’s promises?
- Why are you glad God keeps His promises?
- Allow time for students to share their signs then encourage them to find a place at home where they can display them as part of an Easter decoration. Challenge them to share with someone what the poster means.

### 3. Discussion Questions

#### [Application Activity]

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Bible concordance or Bible App with concordance, Internet access

#### What You Do:

- Ask:
  - Why is it important that God keeps His promises?
  - How can trusting God’s promises make a difference in your life?
  - How does trusting God’s promises help us when we’re going through a problem and need hope?
  - What are some promises you could share with a friend who is going through a tough time?
- Teach students how to use a concordance such as Strong’s Concordance, a Bible App, or an internet search for verses that would give hope to someone facing a hard time.

### 4. Make It Personal With Prayer

#### [Prayer Activity]

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** Bible, posters from “Bible Story Extension”

#### What You Do:

- Invite preteens to set out posters where everyone can see then use them as prompts for short praise prayers.
- Close by leading preteens in a responsive prayer as you read Psalm 145:13.
- Explain that when you pause, everyone will say “Hosanna” in response to the words of the Psalm.

#### What You Say:

*“Your kingdom is a kingdom that will last forever. (Pause for response.) You rule will continue for all time to come. (Pause for response.) The Lord will keep all his promises. (Pause for response.) He is faithful in everything he does. (Pause for response.) In Jesus, name, amen.”*

***Remind students to take their signs home and find a way to use them as part of an Easter decoration somewhere in their homes.***