



## WEEK THREE – NOVEMBER 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

**Bible Story:** *Count on Me • 2 Samuel 9:1–13 (suppt: 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*

**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.*

**Summary:** 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.

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## PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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### 1. Early Arriver Idea

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- 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?

### 2. I Promise!

*Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** “I Promise!” Cards (Activity Page) in a Bag

**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to stand in a circle.
  - *Note: If you have kids who are still learning to maintain their personal space, provide carpet squares, vinyl disks, or other place markers for kids to stand on.*
- Draw a card from the bag 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 continuing to do their original action while adding a new promised action for each additional turn. (I promise to pat my shoulder and nod my head; I promise to pat my shoulder, nod my head, and touch my nose.)

- You can either let kids draw their own cards from the bag or draw cards for them and name the action on the card.

### 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] In our Bible story today we’ll hear about someone who kept an important promise. Let’s go learn more.”*

**Lead your group to the Large Group area.**

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## LARGE GROUP

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### OVERVIEW:

**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 kids start to see that the promise they keep can be a powerful way to show others honor.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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### 1. The King’s Table

#### [Bible Story Review]

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

**What You Need:** Paper plates; cups; napkins; markers

#### What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each child a paper plate, a napkin, and a paper cup.
- Direct kids to draw smiley faces on their napkins and sad faces on their cups.
- Lead kids to put their “place settings” on the floor in front of them.
- Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 9 and read the Bible story points below.
- Tell kids to hold up their happy face napkins if what happened is something happy or good and to hold up their cups if it’s something unhappy or bad.
  - 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.
  - One day David found out that Saul and Jonathan had died in battle.
  - After David became king, he remembered the promise he had made to Jonathan.

- David asked if there was anyone left from Saul and Jonathan’s family. Saul’s servant, Ziba, said that a son of Jonathan was still alive.
- His name was Mephibosheth [meh–FIHB–o–shehth], and his feet were hurt so that he couldn’t walk.
- David brought Mephibosheth to the palace and told him that he would be kind to him because of Jonathan.
- Mephibosheth and his family came to live in Jerusalem, and Mephibosheth always ate with David, just like one of the king’s own sons.
- Close by guiding kids to draw their favorite parts of the story on their plates.

### 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.) 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.**”*

## 2. Love and Honor

### [Application Activity]

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** “Ladders and Arrows and Slides, Oh My!” Activity Pages; red, yellow, blue, and green construction paper; tape; spinner (or paper bag with colored paper scraps)

### What You Do:

- Lead the group in a life-sized “Chutes and Ladders”-style game. (You may want to play a couple rounds if you have more than 6 kids, so the game board doesn’t get too crowded.)
- Set out the Activity Pages and construction paper in “Chutes and Ladders” fashion. You can refer to the Activity Pages for a guide. (For safety, tape the papers to the floor.)
- Guide kids to line up behind START.
- Lead kids to take turns spinning the spinner and moving to the nearest space that matches the color they spun.

- If a child lands on a space with a ladder, read a “Ladder Scenario” from the Activity Page, and guide the child to move to the corresponding higher space.
- If a child lands on a space with a slide, read a “Slide Scenario” from Activity Page, and guide the child to move to the corresponding lower space.
- Continue play until each child reaches FINISH.
  - When you run out of scenarios on the sheet, repeat them or, if you feel your kids are able, invite them to come up with some of their own.
- Unpack the concept that you don’t literally have to say the words “I promise” in order to make a promise. Simply saying you’re going to do something is “giving your word,” which is like a promise.

### **What You Say:**

*“You made it! Great job! In our game, you heard different ways that you can **[Bottom Line]** honor others by keeping your promises. What were some of those ways? (Pause.) Can you think of any other ways that you can **[Bottom Line]** honor others by keeping your promises? (Pause.)*

***[Make It Personal]** (Share a child appropriate time when you kept a promise, even if it was hard. Tell how you felt as well as how keeping your promise honored the other person/people.)*

*“So remember: **[Bottom Line]** honor others by keeping your promises. When you do, you’ll show others that they’re valuable to you AND to God.”*

## **3. Pray and Dismiss**

### **[Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** N/A

### **What You Do:**

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

### **What You Say:**

*“Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? How did you feel? It doesn’t feel good, does it? Has anyone ever kept a promise to you? How did you feel? When someone keeps a promise, you feel happy and loved and valuable, don’t you?”*

*“Doing what you say you’re going to do is a smart thing to do. Not only does it help people trust you more, but it also makes people feel like you care about them. So this week, remember to **[Bottom Line]** honor others by keeping your promises. Let’s pray.*

*(Guide kids to place their hands over their hearts as you lead them in the responsive prayer below Pause after each line so kids can repeat it.)*

*“Dear God,*

*You are amazing and good.*

*“Help me honor others by keeping my promises.*

*“Help me honor my family by keeping my promises.*

*“Help me honor my friends by keeping my promises.*

*“Help me honor YOU by keeping my promises.*

*“I love You, Lord.*

*“Amen.”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell parents today’s Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] honor others by keeping your promises.***