



## GETTING READY

### 1. Welcome/Opener

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Pool noodle
- Several whiffle balls
- Hockey goal (any size)
- Obstacles to place in front of the hockey goal
- VIP Area (same as previous weeks)

#### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Theme Slide

#### *Optional Videos (available for purchase through the 252 Media Package):*

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video

#### What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.

- Determine ahead of time a realistic distance that a pool noodle can be used as a hockey stick to hit a whiffle ball across your room and score a goal around 25% of the time. Tape off a line. (*Optional: Put a few obstacles in front of the open goal to make it more challenging. Have someone down by the goal to retrieve the whiffle balls.*)
- Create a VIP area for the small group that wins the Opener game. Stock it with water bottles, snacks, and whatever else you think would be fun for your kids. The area can be roped off, have a leader standing outside of it as a bouncer, etc. You'll use this VIP every week as a special prize for the small group that wins the game.

## 2. Communicator Script

### What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Table with chairs and place settings

### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Key Question Slide
- One Big Story Intro (Video)

## 3. Worship

### What You Need:

- I Choose You
- Who You Say I Am

# Count on Me

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

**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.

## **Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)**

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX:** *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

**CG:** *Theme Slide*

### **Opener**

**HOST:** “Hey everyone! So good to see you here today! We’re continuing our Hall of Fame sports Small Group challenge with one of my all-time favorite contests—the long-distance hockey shootout!”

“Here’s how it works. Across the room we have a goal set up with a few obstacles in the way. And waaaaay over here we have a tape line. Each Small Group will send one participant up to shoot this whiffle ball from this tape line, across the room, to get the ball into the net. We will go through the line until only one person is left. Make it and you stay in. Miss and you’re out. It is that simple. Or is it? I guess we’ll see.”

“Oh, and one important change. We won’t be using a hockey stick today. Nope. That’s too easy. Instead, we’ll use this!”

*Host reveals a pool noodle.*

“And now we have a challenge. Let’s do it!”

*Play until you have one winner left. If you have a round where no one makes it, the entire line is back in from the previous round. Usher their whole small group into the VIP experience area.*

**HOST:** “Amazing job, everyone. Now, let’s stand and worship together!”

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

### **Worship**

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

*Communicator enters Worship Leaders exit.*

## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

### INTRODUCTION

**VIDEO:** *One Big Story Intro*

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Well, good morning, everyone! Question for you: When was the last time you made a promise to someone? What was it? Turn to your Small Group and share your story. Go!”

*Small Group Leaders should engage the kids while they turn and talk.*

“Okay follow up question to the original question. Did you keep that promise? Are you still keeping it? Will you keep it? Talk about that with your group. Go!”

*Turn and talk. When coming back together, share a few if time allows.*

“Think about it. Have you ever noticed that a lot of use a lot of ‘promise language’ pretty regularly? We say things like ‘I mean it’ or ‘I will’ or ‘I swear’ . . . ‘I’ll pray for you,’ ‘I’ll be there,’ ‘You can count on me.’ Or maybe we just say ‘I promise.’ I promise I’ll take out the trash, clean my room, or clean up after the dog.”

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “But here’s the real question: do we mean it? When we use these words are we really intending to keep those promises? Do those promises really mean that much to us? And even if we do break a promise, is it even that big of a deal? Like, if I said to my friend, ‘Hey, I promise I’ll be over at five o’clock tomorrow to help you move but then I ended up watching a really good game on TV and didn’t make it until seven o’clock, is that a big deal? Good questions to think about, especially because we make promises to each other all of the time. The writers of the Bible have a lot to say about promises. So when we have questions about them, the Bible is a great place to start.”

### TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Earlier this month, we saw David when he was young teenager fighting Goliath while Saul was king of Israel. And last week, we saw that same King Saul trying to kill David because of jealousy. But we also saw a deep friendship form between David and King Saul’s son, Jonathan. Both of those names come back into play today as we look at another story from David’s life.”

“Now at this point, both Saul and Jonathan have died, and after some struggle, David has officially been crowned king of Israel.”

*Communicator walks around the table with place settings.*

“David was officially the head of the table now. He was the king. And as the head, he made all of the important decisions like who he kept near to him, who filled the important positions around him, and even who to get rid of.”

“Now, I know it seems pretty over the top, but in the ancient world, it was a common thing for a new king to order the *entire* family of the old king to be executed. Any thoughts on why they might do this?” *(Pause for response.)*

“Good thoughts. Just in case the old king’s family had any thought of rebelling or trying to regain power and take back the throne, this would certainly put a stop to that. It’s hard to take back the throne when you’re, well, ‘not around.’ Anyway, it looks like David might be headed down this road, too. Check out the start of the story.”

“(Read directly from 2 Samuel 9:1a, NIV) ‘David asked, “Is anyone left from the royal house of Saul? If there is, I want to . . .””

“What’s he going to say next? Eliminate? Wipe out? Execute? Not quite. It is actually a lot more shocking than that.”

“(Read directly from 2 Samuel 9:1, NIV) ‘David asked, “If there is, I want to BE KIND to him because of Jonathan. (Emphasis ours.)””

“What?! Did you hear that? David is asking if anyone is left from Saul’s house so he can show kindness to them? Why? For Jonathan’s sake. This is pretty incredible. And it turns out, there is someone. A servant named Ziba was still alive.”

“David had Ziba brought before him and asked him this question. (Read directly from 2 Samuel 9:3, NIV) ‘The king asked, “Isn’t there anyone still alive from the royal house of Saul? God has been very kind to me. I would like to be kind to that person in the same way.””

“(Read directly from 2 Samuel 9:3b, NIV) ‘Ziba answered the king, “A son of Jonathan is still living.””

“Now this is where things get even more crazy. Remember how good of friends David and Jonathan were? We’re talking the B of FFs. I mean, Jonathan is the whole reason David is asking this question in the first place. Well, it turns out that Jonathan still has a son who is living. His name is possibly one of the best names in the Bible. Ready for it? Mephibosheth. Come on, I know you want to try and say it. Mephibosheth.”

*Kids try saying it.*

“Close enough. But there is something else Ziba tells him about Jonathan’s son . . .”

“(Read directly from 2 Samuel 9:3b, NIV) “A son of Jonathan is still living. Both his feet were hurt so that he can’t walk.””

“David calls for Mephibosheth to come to his palace. Now imagine you are Mephibosheth and you get word that you are being summoned to go see David. What might be going through your mind?” (Pause for response.)

“I bet Mephibosheth was terrified. Who knows what is going to happen to him there. Maybe David is cleaning house and finally found out about him. Maybe this is the end for him.”

“So Mephibosheth arrives. (Read directly from 2 Samuel 9:6, NIV) ‘Mephibosheth came to David. He was the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul. Mephibosheth bowed down to David to show him respect.”

“Here is the moment of truth. What is David going to say? What’s he going to do?”

“(Read directly from 2 Samuel 9:7, NIV) “Don’t be afraid,” David told him, “You can be sure that I will be kind to you because of your father Jonathan. I’ll give back to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul. And I’ll always provide what you need.””

“This is a powerful moment. David not only assures him that he will give him back his grandfather’s land, but *(walking over to the table and standing behind one of the seats)* he tells Mephibosheth, ‘I have a place for you at my table.’”

“Mephibosheth can hardly believe it. He says *(Read from 2 Samuel 9:8b, NIV)* “*Who am I? Why should you pay attention to me? I’m nothing but a dead dog.*””

“But David told Ziba about everything he intended to do and that Mephibosheth will always eat at his table. And the story goes on to say, *(read directly from 2 Samuel 9:11b, NIV)* ‘*So David provided what Mephibosheth needed. He treated him like one of the king’s sons.*”

“From that day on, Mephibosheth was like a prince in the palace of the king with his own place at the table. *(Communicator stands behind one of the seats).*”

“One of the most amazing things about this story is something that can be easy to miss. Why did David do what he did? Why did he show kindness rather than eliminating a possible rival like so many other kings would have done? He did all of this because of a promise.”

“David and Jonathan had made a covenant with one another. But where’s Jonathan? He’s dead. So here is the real amazing thing. Nobody is around to remind David of the promise he made. No one would know whether he kept it or not. But David knew about the promise. Not only that, God knew. And that was enough for David to still keep his word and honor his promise to Jonathan. I think THAT is truly amazing.”

## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “If you think about it, our lives are filled with a lot of tables. And like David, there are times where we get to decide who gets to sit at those tables with us. Know what I mean? There are the tables in our classrooms. Sometimes those tables are for the group project we are working on, and so we pick kids to sit at the table and be in our group who are the best of the best because they can help our grade out the most. What motivates us is who can sit at this table that will cost me the least? But think about David? Was he motivated by what would cost him the least? No, he wanted to show kindness, and it actually cost him something.”

“Or think about the lunch table. We often want to surround ourselves with kids that are popular or cool or funny rather than making a seat for those who don’t have anywhere to sit. We might be motivated by our reputation in front of others. But think about David. If others learned he did this for Mephibosheth, they might think he was a soft king and would no longer respect his power and authority. Again, this was a costly move for David.”

Or think about the table at your home. Maybe as a family you can have decisions about the people you invest in, care for, and give your time to. Maybe those conversations mean that you have to give up a little bit of your personal space in your house, some of your free time, or even your comfort. But just like David, there is always going to be a cost to do what is right, when you want to honor others.”

“Many years later, from David’s family line would come Jesus. Jesus entered into this world at a great cost to Himself and laid His life down for us. Why? Because many, many years earlier, God had made a promise to send a rescuer. And God always keeps His promises. And it is because God kept His promise that every single one of us *(walk up to the table)* has a place at the King’s table. We can now be the sons and daughters of the King *(sit down)*.”

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Today as you go to groups, I want you to think about this question

**CG: Key Question Slide**

**“Why do promises matter so much?** In a world when promise are so easily broken, how can we stand out and be people who will keep the promises we make? How can we show others how much God loves them by the way we keep our promises? You’ll talk all about this in Small Group. Before we head to groups, let’s pray and thank God for keeping the best promise ever—sending Jesus to be our Savior. Let’s pray.

*Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.*

*After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.*

**SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exits**