



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Three Small Group Leaders (all male, if you want to use the same Leaders for the Opener and the Bible story)
- Game questions written on five index cards:
  1. What's the best ice cream flavor?
  2. Who is the best athlete in the world?
  3. What's the most fun way to spend an afternoon?
  4. What's the best kind of music?
  5. What's the best kids' movie ever?
- Tape or rope to section off a VIP seating section for the winning group

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

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Theme Slide
- Honor Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- "What's the Best?" Slide

### 2. Bible Story

#### What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Three male Small Group Leaders (could be the same ones that were the contestants in the Opener)

- Bible
- Crown (for David)
- Inflatable zebra (for Ziba)
- Baseball cap with an “M” on it (for Mephibosheth)—for example, Miami Marlins, Milwaukee Brewers, vintage Seattle Mariners, or any cap with an “M” taped to it
- Chair

***Large Group Visuals:***

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

### **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.

**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*

*Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.*

Opener

**HOST:** “What’s up, everybody? I’m [your name], and this is [your environment’s name]. I’m so glad you’ve joined us here in the Hall of Fame, where we’re learning what it means to show honor.

**CG:** *Honor Slide*

“Honor is letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

**CG:** *Theme Slide*

“YOU belong in the Hall of Fame, because you’re a VIP. You’re a very important person. We all are! We are all important to God. So it’s really important that we honor each other and show the people around us how valuable they are.

“Let’s start things off with a fun game to find out which small group will be our VIP Group of the Week! Let me get three Small Group Leaders up here to play ‘What’s the Best?’

**CG:** *“What’s the Best?” Slide*

*Bring up three Leaders to play the game.*

“This game is a trivia challenge, but it has a twist! I’ll ask our Leaders here some questions, but the twist is that there’s no real right answer. They’ll each give their opinion, and their answers can’t be the same. We’ll all vote with our applause, and the Leader who gets the most applause for their answer wins a point.

“At the end of the challenge, the Leader with the most points wins VIP status for his or her group. Their group will get to sit in our awesome VIP seating area for the rest of Large Group!

*Point to the VIP seating area.*

“Let’s get started!

*Read the questions from index cards.*

“Question one: What’s the best ice cream flavor?

“Oooooooh, that’s a tough one! *(To the Leaders on stage)* What do you say, Leaders?

*Get each Leader to answer something different.*

“Good choices! Let’s ask the audience and see which answer will win the point.

*Let the audience vote for each answer by applause and declare one as the winner.*

*Go through the other four questions: 2) Who is the best athlete in the world? 3) What’s the most fun way to spend an afternoon? 4) What’s the best kind of music? 5) What’s the best kids’ movie ever?*

*Declare the winning group. Dismiss the Leaders to their seats.*

“That was hilarious! Great job, Leaders. *(To the winning group)* [Leader’s name]’s group, I hope you enjoy your VIP seats. But don’t sit in them just yet, because right now it’s time for us to stand up and sing together to our great God!”

Host : (Mission Announcements Here)

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

Worship  
WORSHIP LEADER:

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

**VIDEO: One Big Story Intro**  
**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

## SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, everyone! This month we’ve been talking about a man named David. *(Hold up Bible.)* David was a great king over God’s people. In fact, David was called ‘a man after God’s own heart.’

“But I’m jumping ahead a little bit. In the part of the story we’ve talked about so far, David was still waiting to be king, because King Saul was still in charge. And David was best friends with King Saul’s son, Jonathan. David had made an important promise to Jonathan: he promised that he would always be kind to Jonathan’s family.

“Though King Saul was jealous of David and many times tried to kill him, David and Jonathan remained close friends . . . until one day when David found out that Saul and Jonathan had died in battle.

“I need a little help to tell the rest of our story today. I’d love to see our Small Group Leaders do some acting. How about you? *(Pause for response.)* Great. First, I’ll need a Leader to play David.”

*Bring up a Leader to play David. (Note: You may want to choose the same three Leaders that were contestants in the Opener.)*

## DAVID REMEMBERS

**STORYTELLER:** “Okay. Back to the story. King Saul had died, which meant that David *(point to David)* could become king. Even so, it was many years and difficult battles before David was finally king over Israel.

*Put the crown on David’s head.*

“One day, David remembered the promise he had made to be kind to Jonathan’s family. He called for his officials and asked if there was anyone left from Saul and Jonathan’s family. The officials sent for a man named Ziba who had served Saul’s family. Let’s see . . . any Leaders want to play Ziba?

*Bring up a Leader to play Ziba. Give him the inflatable zebra to hold.*

“Okay, Ziba wasn’t actually a zebra. He was a person. But this will help us remember his name.

“Ziba told David that a son of Jonathan was still alive. His name was Mephibosheth.”

*Host steps out on stage.*

**HOST:** *(From backstage)* “Bless you!”

*Host exits.*

**STORYTELLER:** *(To audience)* “I know. It’s quite a name. Can you try to say it with me?”

**KIDS and STORYTELLER:** “Mephibosheth.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Good job!”

## GO GET HIM

**STORYTELLER:** “David (*point to David*) told Ziba (*point to Ziba*) to send a message to Mephibosheth.”

**HOST:** (*From backstage*) “Gesundheit!”

**STORYTELLER:** “David asked Mephibosheth to come see him.

“Let’s see . . . I’ll need a Leader to play Mephibosheth.

*Bring up a Leader to play Mephibosheth. Give him the “M” hat to wear. Have him sit in the chair on stage.*

“Mephibosheth’s feet were hurt so he couldn’t walk. When he came to meet David, he was probably afraid. After all, he knew that his grandfather, King Saul, had tried to KILL David. What if David wanted to get revenge? Then again, he also probably knew that his father Jonathan had been friends with David.”

### **MEETING THE KING**

**STORYTELLER:** “Mephibosheth was brought before David. He bowed low. Listen to what David said to him.

*Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 9:7 (NirV) and read.*

*“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.”*

“Wow! David told Mephibosheth he would be kind to him because of the promise he had made to Jonathan. He gave back all the land that belonged to King Saul, and he told Mephibosheth that he would always provide what he needed. David told Ziba (*point to Ziba*) to give Mephibosheth (*point to Mephibosheth*) what had belonged to Saul and to take care of him.

“I think our actors did an awesome job. Didn’t they? Let’s give them a hand as they head back to their seats.”

*Lead applause and send the three Leaders back to their seats.*

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Mephibosheth and his son, Mika, came to live in Jerusalem. David provided everything they needed—just as he had promised Jonathan years before.

#### **CG: Bottom Line Slide**

“David knew it’s important to [*Bottom Line*] honor others by keeping your promises.

“Remember—David didn’t HAVE to help Mephibosheth. No one would have said anything if he had just forgotten his promise or if he had chosen not to go through with it. But David remembered what he had said to his friend. He chose to honor Jonathan by showing kindness to Mephibosheth and his family.

“We need God’s help to keep our promises like David did. Let’s pray and talk to God about that now.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

**Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You for always keeping your promises to us. Thank You for this great reminder about how it’s important for us to keep our promises to others. We know that it’s a great way to honor them and show them how valuable they are. Please help us to *[Bottom Line]* honor others by keeping our promises. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**Closer**

**HOST:** “It doesn’t feel good when you break a promise . . . or when someone breaks a promise they made to you. But think about how good it feels when someone **KEEPS** a promise they’ve made to you. You feel like you really matter!

**CG: Today’s Story Image**

*Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.*

“David’s kindness to Mephibosheth is a great example of that. David had made a promise to his best friend Jonathan: that he would always be kind to Jonathan and his family. And David never forgot that promise. Even after Jonathan died, David was kind to Mephibosheth, Jonathan’s son. He honored Jonathan by keeping his promise.

**CG: Timeline**

“All through God’s Big Story, we can see how God has kept His promises. He promised to make Abraham’s family into a great nation—and He did! He promised to bring His people out of slavery in Egypt—and He did! And, of course, God kept a huge promise when He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. That proves how much we matter to Him.

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

“It’s really important for us to keep our promises. When we do, we show others how valuable they are. Remember this.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

*[Bottom Line]* “Honor others by keeping your promises.

“Don’t just **SAY** you’re going to do something. Make sure that you **DO** what you say you’re going to do. If you promise your mom that you’ll stop your TV show when your screen time is over, do it! If you promise to be nicer to your brother or sister, do it! When you keep your promises, you’ll find that it helps people to trust you more. It shows them how much you care.

“Keeping your promises is a great way to *[Basic Truth]* treat others the way you want to be treated. I mean, think about it. I know I want others to keep the promises they make to ME—so I should keep the promises I make to others.

“I know you’ll have fun talking in Small Group about how you can keep your promises. And guess what? You can head to your groups right now! I’ll see you later!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.**

**CG: Theme Slide**

**Optional Video (Media Package): Th**