



## WEEK THREE – NOVEMBER 2019 – PRETEEN

**Bible Story:** *Count on Me • 2 Samuel 9:1-3 (suppt: 2 Samuel 4:4)*

**Key Question:** *Why do promises matter so much?*

**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. Get Your Head in the Game

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

**What You Need:** Tissues

**What You Do:**

- Welcome preteens and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite preteens to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the Snack Shack
- Line kids up on one side of the room.
- Give each kid a tissue and instruct him to balance it on his head.
  - When you say “Go,” kids will race to the other side of the room and back while keeping the tissue on their head the entire way.
  - Kids cannot touch the tissue while it is on their heads.
  - If the tissue falls off their head, kids must start over.
- Declare the first kid to return to the starting line with the tissue still on their head the winner.

**What You Say:**

*“It wasn’t super easy to keep the tissue on your head. [Transition] Let’s head to Large Group to hear about something that is very important to keep, especially if you want to honor others.”*

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

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## LARGE GROUP

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**OVERVIEW:**

**Key Question:** *Why do promises matter so much? Preteens live in a world where promises are a dime a dozen. It seems like everyone is making a promise about something, but often these promises aren’t kept. We hope that our preteens start to understand that their promises matter when it comes to building trust and showing honor to others.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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### 1. Snapshot

#### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** “Promise Scenario Cards” Activity Page, pencils/markers

#### What You Do:

- Pair kids into teams.
- Tell each team to pick a “Promise Scenario Card.”
- Give teams time to read their card and think of reasons they might give for not keeping the promise on their card.
- Direct teams to write their ideas on the back of the “Promise Scenario Card.”
  - Ideas could include: something more fun came up, you meant to do it but you forgot, it was too hard to do what you promised, other people didn’t keep their promise so it is okay that you don’t either, you said you would do something but you never said you “promised” you would do it, etc.
- If there is interest, encourage teams to select one of their answers to act out for the group.
- For further discussion, consider asking:
  - For each scenario, what could be the consequences of not keeping the promise?
  - Why does keeping your promises matter so much?
  - What if you don’t actually say, “I promise”? (Read a scenario or two replacing the word “promised” with “said”) Is it okay not to follow through with something if you didn’t actually say, “I promise”?

### 2. Discussion Questions

#### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** N/A

#### What You Do:

- Ask:
  - What do you do when you realize you made a promise you can’t keep?
    - Is there a good reason for not keeping a promise? What if you promised you would go to a movie with a friend and your parents say no? (This

could lead to a discussion about being careful what you promise and to carefully consider if you should even make the promise.)

- Why is keeping your promise so important?
- Has someone ever broken a promise to you? How did you feel when that happened?
- How does it feel when a promise is kept?
- When someone keeps a promise even though they had a good reason not to keep that promise, how does that show honor and value?
- What are words you would use to describe someone who keeps their promises?
- Encourage kids to share of an example when they kept a promise.

### **3. Make It Personal with Prayer**

#### **[Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Yarn; scissors

#### **What You Do:**

- Ask: What are things you can do to remember to keep your promises?
- Explain that sometimes people tie a string around their index finger when they wanted to remember something.
- Encourage the group to work together to tie a string on everyone's index finger. (Not too tight that circulation gets cut off!)
- God kept a huge promise to us when He sent Jesus to earth to rescue us so we could be with Him now and forever.
  - Challenge kids to keep the string on their index finger for the day as a reminder of the promise God kept and a reminder to honor others by keeping their promises.
- Close in prayer.

#### **What You Say:**

*“God, You are amazing! You always keep Your promises! And the most important promise You kept was sending Jesus to rescue us! Keeping Your promise is one way You show us how important we are and we matter to You so much; You gave us a way to be with You now and forever! God, help us keep our promises; help us to do what we say we will do. We want to love others like You love us, and we want to honor others by keeping our promises. We love You! Amen!*

