



WEEK

ONE

DECEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP

K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Start by thanking God for being a God who keeps His promises. Think of a couple of promises you're especially grateful for and praise God for those specific promises. Especially at the end of such a difficult year, thank God for the ways you've seen Him work and felt His presence.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

High Hopes

Jesus Is Promised
Isaiah 9:6

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Christmas Song Fill-In" Activity Pages,

WHAT YOU DO:

- Call on kids to give you answers to fill in the blanks on the "Christmas Song Fill-In" Activity Pages. (Make sure not to reveal the lyrics or let anyone see the page before you finish filling in the blanks.)
- After you fill in the blanks for each song, place the page in the center of the circle and sing them together with your new, silly lyrics.
- Repeat for the rest of the songs as time allows.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

We can have hope because God keeps His promises.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you.
He is the Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:11, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
- Explain to the kids that you will start a story, and they help you make it up and tell it.
- You will share one sentence to start the story about a promise.
- The kids will take turns adding sentences to the story.
- The goal is to turn the story into something that ends positively and happily.
- Share the first sentence of a story. Here are some examples:
 - Kiesha’s mom promised she would get Kiesha a doll she wanted this Christmas, but she unexpectedly lost her job.
 - Mark’s favorite uncle promised that he’d visit this Christmas season, but it’s two days before Christmas and Mark’s uncle is sick.
 - Danielle’s grandma promised that she would make gingerbread houses with Danielle, but all of the stores are out of graham crackers.
- Play as many rounds of the game as time allows.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

High Hopes

Jesus Is Promised
Isaiah 9:6

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Great job turning the story around until the promise was fulfilled! Did you know that God always fulfills—or keeps—His promises, too? **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group to hear about a very important promise God made a long time ago that came true.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



PROMISE JUMP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Small craft sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids around you. Show the kids two craft sticks. Promise the kids that you will place the sticks two feet apart and jump over both sticks with just one jump. Ask the group if they think you can keep your promise. Jump over the sticks to demonstrate that you kept your promise. Move the sticks farther apart, and make the same promise. (Make sure you can jump the distance you moved the sticks so you can keep your promise.) Again, ask the kids if they think you can keep your promise. Jump over the sticks successfully. Next, move the sticks so far apart that it's obvious you can't jump over them in one jump. This time, don't promise to jump over the sticks. Ask the kids how they'd feel if you promised to jump over the sticks with one jump. Attempt to jump over the sticks. Give each kid two sticks. Instruct them to figure out how far apart they can place their sticks to fulfill a promise to jump over them with one jump. Ask the kids to demonstrate their jumps.

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High Hopes

Jesus Is Promised Isaiah 9:6

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Good job figuring out how far you could jump to keep your promise. When my sticks were close together, was it easy for you to trust that I would keep my promise? How would you have felt if I had promised to jump over the sticks when they were very far apart? Even if I had made a promise that I could jump over the sticks that were far apart, would you have trusted me to keep my promise?"

"It really makes sense to only promise things that you know you can do. And yet, there are times when you and other people you know, might not keep their promises. The good news is that when God makes a promise, He always keeps it. God always does what He says He will do."

"God promised His people over and over that He would send a Savior to rescue them. At Christmas, God sent Jesus. He kept His promise like He always does."

"When you remember that God kept His promise to send Jesus at Christmas, it can help you have hope in any situation. Since God always keeps His promises, that means that He will always keep His promises to you. What has He promised you? He has promised that He will always be with you. He has



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(PROMISE JUMP, CONTINUED)

promised that He is always working for good, even when things are hard. Because God always keeps His promises, you can have hope that God will keep those promises, too.

“Maybe your family was impacted by COVID-19. That might mean that your Christmas will look different this year. You might not get all the gifts you want, or you might not be able to celebrate Christmas with your family and friends like you have in the past. No matter what happens, it’s important to remember that **we can have hope because God keeps His promises.**”

[Make it Personal] (Share with your kids a time when you saw God keep His promise to you when times were hard. What did He do, and were you surprised at how He did it? How did it bring you hope for the future?)





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



FILL-IN BOOKMARKS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bookmark" Activity Page, Bibles, pencils, markers, hole punch, yarn, decorating supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up this month's memory verse (Luke 2:11) using the navigation tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

High Hopes

Jesus Is Promised
Isaiah 9:6

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Luke in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Luke, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Luke. Help the kids find the page. When they find Luke, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 11 in chapter 2.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**We can have hope because
God keeps His promises.**

- Find the verse and read it out loud as a group.
- Pass out the bookmarks and pencils, one bookmark and one pencil for each kid.
- Explain to the kids that this month's memory verse is supposed to be written on their bookmarks, but there are words missing.
- Tell them that the missing words are written under each blank line, but the letters are scrambled.
- Instruct the kids to unscramble the letters to figure out the missing words.
- Punch a hole at the top of the bookmarks.
- Pass out a piece of yarn to each kid and demonstrate how to loop it through the hole and tie a knot.
- Set out the markers and decorating supplies.
- Invite kids to decorate their bookmarks.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Savior has been born to you.
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Luke 2:11, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God's greatest gift**

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This verse is a great reminder that God promised to send the Messiah which means 'Savior.' Many years before Jesus was born, God promised that the Savior He would send would be a relative of King David. This verse is what the angel said when He told the shepherds that Jesus had been born. The angel was telling the shepherds that God had sent a Savior who was a relative of King David. God kept His promise because God always keeps His promises.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

"Place your bookmark in a special place—in your Bible or a special book that you're reading—anywhere to remind you that God is a promise keeper and He is always working behind the scenes to keep His promises. Remember, no matter what happens, **we can have hope because God keeps His promises.**"





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Craft sticks from “Promise Jump” Activity and pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure kids have their craft sticks from the earlier

activity.

- Encourage the kids to take a few minutes to think about two things they’re worried about.
- Invite them to write each of their worries on a stick.
- Ask the kids to hold their sticks as you close in group prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Dear God, thank You for reminding us today that You are a promise keeper. Remind us that we can always trust You to keep Your promise to listen and help us deal with our concerns, worries, and disappointments. Please help us with these specific worries and stresses that we hold in our hands. **We can have hope because God keeps His promises.** Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them their “Promise Bookmarks” and share how the verse is a reminder that God always keeps His promises.

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