



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
TWO
SEPTEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

TEACHING OUTLINE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Friends Forever David and Mephibosheth 1 Samuel 19-20; 2 Samuel 9

WEEK 2

Key Question: **Who is a friend you can trust?** As we talk about what it means to be a trustworthy friend who keeps their promises, we can ask kids to think about their own friends who can be trusted. Do these friends keep their word? Do they follow through when they say they'll do something? Do they keep their promises? We hope that as kids think about the trustworthy people in their life, they'll discover ways they can be a friend who others can trust in return.

In week 2, we head to **1 Samuel 19-20** and **Samuel 9** and take a look at one of the most famous friendships in the entire Bible, between David and Jonathan. Before David escaped to hide from King Saul, he promised Jonathan that he would always take care of Jonathan's family. David had a chance to follow through on that promise and took care of Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, making him feel like a part of his family.

Bottom Line: **Friends keep their promises.** Trust is a crucial part of friendship. One of the most important ways we can build trust with our friends is by keeping our word. When we promise to do something, we should do everything we can to keep that promise. We pray that as kids learn about David and Jonathan, they'll think about the ways they can keep their promises and show others that they can be trusted friends.

TEACHING GUIDE:

KEYSCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 19-20; 2 Samuel 9

This message should be 15- 18 min. More time for small group is key. Remember the lead small model.

"As we get ready to head to groups today, think about this question.

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

And guess what! When we keep our promises to others, we actually reflect who God is to others. By keeping our promises, we get the chance to show others how awesome God is in keeping promises to us. Think about the promises you've made recently. How can you make sure that you keep your word? This is what we'd want people to do for us, and we should work hard to [Basic Truth] treat others the way I want to be treated! In short, it all comes down to this: friends keep their promises."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you go to groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION "Who is a friend you can trust? When is a time they really came through? What makes them so trustworthy? Hopefully you have a friend like that, but if you're not sure how you'd answer those questions, talk to your Small Group Leader. They'd love to help you think about how you can find friends who keep their promises. Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us be the kind of friend that Jonathan was to David! Let's pray!"

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends keep their promises.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Who is a friend you can trust?

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIV



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10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Friends Forever
David and Mephibosheth
1 Samuel 19-20; 2 Samuel 9

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Who is a friend you can trust?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends keep their promises.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble
comes."**
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Friendship—Using your
words and actions to show
others you care**

BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Good morning, friends! So glad to see you all! In the spirit of making harmony, let's get started right way with a musical challenge. I need some volunteers who think they are experts on classic Disney songs for a game we call 'Remember the Lyrics.'"

SLIDE: "REMEMBER THE LYRICS"

Host chooses 4-5 volunteers (kids and/or leaders) and introduces them to the rest of the group by asking them their favorite Disney movie.

"Here's how we play. I will say the song title and the first line of a classic Disney song. Then I'll point to the first person in line. They'll sing or say the next line. Then we'll go down the line and back again, one person at a time until someone can't remember the lyrics. If you all make it through the entire chorus without forgetting the lyrics, we'll move onto the next song. Got it? Any questions? Awesome! Let's give it a try!"



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Download and print the "Remember the Lyrics Lyric Sheet" from the Week 2 Large Group Assets PDF. Host says the first line of the lyrics then moves down the line of kids, pointing to the next person to make it clear when a new line begins.

First song: "A Whole New World"

Second song: "You Got a Friend in Me"

Third song: "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?"

Fourth song: "Hakuna Matata"

"(After the game) Whew! Your Disney song knowledge is quite impressive, my friends! Let's ALL stand and make some harmony as we worship our amazing God together!"



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WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Friendship is a lot like harmony in music. It's amazing how different parts, singing different notes, all work together. That's what it's like in the kingdom of God. Each of us is unique, but we can also come together to worship and show God's love. This is a song about God's faithfulness. **[Basic Truth] We can trust God no matter what.** Let's sing about it!

AUDIO: "OVER AND OVER" / TRACK 8 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "OVER AND OVER" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"Yes—we can trust God, always! That was super-fun. Before we continue in worship, let's watch this.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

"I want to be the kind of friend to others that Jesus has been to me. That doesn't just happen. It's a choice we make, and a way we choose to live. As we sing this next song, think about what a good Friend Jesus is to you. Let's have some fun singing this. Come on!

AUDIO: "SAY IT AGAIN" / TRACK 5 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "SAY IT AGAIN" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"In Psalm 145:13, David wrote: *'The Lord will keep all his promises. He is faithful in everything he does.'* (NirV) That is good news! Our God is wonderful. Everything God MADE is wonderful. Let's lift our voices and worship God now."

AUDIO: "WONDERFUL" / TRACK 12 FROM CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "WONDERFUL" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “What is going on, everyone? This has been a great day so far! Let’s keep it up with something I’m wondering about . . . have you ever had someone make a promise to you—like a really big promise? Did they keep it? Maybe a coach promised to help you with your free-throws after basketball practice . . . but he ended up having to run home and couldn’t help you. Or how about a teacher who makes a promise on Monday to have an ice cream sundae party on Friday, but Thursday they tell you that the party is postponed. But then maybe someone promised they’d invite you to their birthday party and when the invites came out . . . sure enough, you got one! When it comes to promises, making them, keeping them, or breaking them can make you feel great one moment and completely awful the next. I remember this one time . . .

Share a personal story of an important promise that was made to you or that you made to another person and kept. Use the following as an example or share it as a hypothetical situation.

“When I was in third grade, our teacher made a BIG promise to us. When the whole class had good behavior—like going a whole week without anyone getting in trouble or staying quiet while other kids finished their math tests, she’d give us a certificate and post it on the wall above the whiteboard. And if we got 10 of these certificates, she promised to treat us to a pizza party.

“Let’s be honest, it takes a long time for a WHOLE room of third graders to do anything, much less stay well-behaved. But we finally received enough certificates for our first pizza party! When our teacher posted the tenth and final certificate, she announced that the pizza party would be the NEXT DAY at lunch time! We were SO excited. It was the only thing we talked about the rest of the day. When we showed up to school the next day, we were ready. And by ready, I mean, not a single one of us brought in a lunch from home and pizza was the only thing on our mind the whole morning.

“Lunch time came, and the teacher made an announcement. The pizza delivery person hit some traffic and would be late . . . really late. We were SO hungry. We wanted pizza NOW. She promised it’d be there for lunch. It wasn’t her fault, of course, but it was hard not to think that she had broken a promise to us. But then, one of the room parents walked into the room with . . . a whole cart full of ice cream and sundae toppings. Because the pizza was late, she decided to serve us dessert first! The pizza eventually came. And that teacher became our pizza hero!”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Okay, so in that particular moment, our teacher kept her promise. But unfortunately, that’s not always the case, is it? All of us have experienced moments in our lives when someone has made a promise to us that they didn’t keep. Maybe we’ve even made a promise that we haven’t kept. But, I don’t know, is it really that big of deal to skip out on keeping a promise? What’s the big deal about promises anyway? Most people tend to forget about them anyway. Maybe we just shouldn’t even make them if we tend not to keep them from time to time?

All great questions—ones that I’ve thought about from time to time and ones that are actually talked about in the Bible—which, by the way, is one of the best places to start when you have a question! In fact, the writers of the Bible



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talk A LOT about promises: promises that God makes to us, we make to God, and people make to each other. And you might be surprised at some of the promises that people actually kept! Including one we'll talk about today."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's jump into the story. Now I'm guessing when I say the name 'David,' many of you might think about David and the giant, Goliath! Or maybe you think about how Samuel anointed David, the shepherd boy, who God said would be the next king of Israel. Or how the current king of Israel, Saul, was so upset he threw a spear at David! We can read all sorts of popular David stories. But does anyone know who David's best friend was?"

Allow for responses.

"That's right—Jonathan. Now the tricky part was that Jonathan was King Saul's son. It gets a little awkward if your best friend's dad is also the one who is trying to throw a spear at you! But David and Jonathan were the best of friends, and they even made a covenant together. Does anyone know what a covenant is?"

Allow for responses.

"A covenant is an incredibly strong promise, an UNBREAKABLE one. It's way more than a pinky swear or a handshake. In a covenant, you basically put your life on the line. Like, 'I WILL keep this promise. You can count on it.'"

"So what was this particular covenant about? Well, like we said, Jonathan's dad, King Saul, was after David. And as Saul's son and heir to the throne, Jonathan had inside information to tip David off to any threats. And that's exactly what he promised. 'I won't let any harm come to you!'"

"You might be wondering what the other side of that promise looked like. Well, Jonathan asked David to remember his family when David became king, to show them kindness and loyalty, even if Jonathan was gone!"

"Okay, now before we jump ahead in the story, I need some volunteers. Let's bring some life to the story!"

Communicator brings five volunteers up. Two volunteers each get a slide whistle, one a kazoo, one a toy xylophone, and one a plastic trumpet.

"Okay from here on out, these sounds will represent our five characters. (*To volunteers, encourage them to try out sounds*) When we hear Saul—slide whistle (*high to low*). When we hear Jonathan—slide whistle (*low to high*). When we hear Ziba—xylophone (*slide down all the notes*). When we hear Mephibosheth—kazoo. And when we hear David, let's get a nice regal trumpet call (*plastic trumpet*).

"Got it? Let's try it really quick!"

Test the sounds out.

"Now as we jump ahead in the story, both Saul (*slide up to down*) and Jonathan (*slide down to up*) have died, and David (*trumpet call*) has officially been crowned king of Israel . . .

"David (*trumpet*) was officially the head of the nation now. He was the king. And as the head, he made all of the important decisions—who he kept near to him, who filled the important positions around him . . . and who to get rid of . . .



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"Now, I know that might seem 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. Drastic, right? Any thoughts on why they might do this?"

Allow for responses.

"That's right. Just in case the old king's family had any thought of rebelling or trying to regain power and take back the throne. Death would certainly put a stop to that. It's hard to take back the throne when you're, well, not around. Anyway, it looked like David (*trumpet*) might be headed down this road, too. Check out the start of the story.

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 9:1a (NirV) and read.

"David (*trumpet*) asked, "Is anyone left from the royal house of Saul? (*slide whistle down*) If there is, I want to . . ."

"What was he going to say next? Eliminate? Wipe out? Execute? Not quite. It was actually a lot more shocking than that.

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 9:1 (NirV) and read.

"David (*trumpet*) asked, "Is anyone left from the royal house of Saul? (*slide whistle down*) If there is, I want to be kind to him because of Jonathan (*slide whistle up*)."

"What?! Did you hear that? David (*trumpet*) was asking if anyone was left from Saul's (*slide whistle down*) house so he could show kindness to them. Why? For his friend Jonathan's (*slide whistle up*) sake. This was pretty incredible. And it turned out there was someone left. A servant named Ziba (*xylophone*) was still alive.

"David (*trumpet*) had Ziba (*xylophone*) brought before him and asked him this question.

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 9:3a (NirV) and read.

"The king asked, "Isn't there anyone still alive from the royal house of Saul? (*slide whistle down*) God has been very kind to me. I would like to be kind to that person in the same way."

"Ziba (*xylophone*) answered the king, "A son of Jonathan (*slide whistle up*) is still living."

"Now this was when things became even more crazy. Remember, David (*trumpet*) and Jonathan (*slide whistle up*) were really good friends. Jonathan (*slide whistle up*) was the whole reason David (*trumpet*) was asking this question in the first place! And remember the promise . . . what did we call that?"

"A covenant, right! So Jonathan (*slide whistle up*) had kept his side of the promise. But sadly, he died. So David (*trumpet*) was trying to find out who was left that he could show kindness to. In other words, that he could pledge his loyalty to.

"Well, it turned out that Jonathan (*slide whistle up*) still had a son who was living. His name is possibly one of the best names in the Bible. Ready for it? Mephibosheth (*kazoo*). Come on, I know you want to try and say it. Mephibosheth (*kazoo*).



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Kids try saying it.

“Nice try. But there was something else Ziba (*xylophone*) told him about Jonathan’s (*slide whistle up*) son . . .

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 9:3b (NirV) and read.

“A son of Jonathan is still living. Both of his feet were hurt so that he can’t walk.”

“We learn earlier in the story that his condition was the result of an accident when he was five. His nurse dropped him, and he became disabled.”

“David (*trumpet*) called for Mephibosheth (*kazoo*) to come to his palace. Now, imagine you were Mephibosheth (*kazoo*) and someone told you that KING David (*trumpet*) summoned YOU, the son of the former heir to the throne. What might be running through your mind?”

Allow for responses.

“Yeah, I bet Mephibosheth (*kazoo*) was terrified. Who knows what would happen to him there! Maybe David (*trumpet*) was cleaning house and finally found out about him. Maybe this was the end for him.

“So Mephibosheth (*kazoo*) arrived at the palace. (*To volunteers*) Okay, get ready for this next verse . . . it’s a doozy!”

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 9:6 (NirV) and read.

“Mephibosheth came to David. (*trumpet*) He was the son of Jonathan, (*slide whistle up*) the son of Saul. (*side whistle down*) Mephibosheth (*kazoo*) bowed down to David (*trumpet*) to show him respect.”

“Well done! Okay, here was the moment of truth. What would David (*trumpet*) say? What was he about to do to Mephibosheth (*kazoo*)?”

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

“Don’t be afraid,” David (*trumpet*) told him. “You can be sure that I will be kind to you because of your father Jonathan. (*slide whistle up*) I’ll give back to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul. (*slide whistle down*) And I’ll always provide what you need.”

“This was a powerful moment. David (*trumpet*) not only assured Mephibosheth (*kazoo*) that he would give him back King Saul’s (*slide whistle down*) land, but he told Mephibosheth (*kazoo*), ‘I have a place for you at my table.’

“Mephibosheth (*kazoo*) could hardly believe it. He said,

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 9:8b (NirV) and read.

““Who am I? Why should you pay attention to me? I’m nothing but a dead dog.”

“Look at what Mephibosheth (*kazoo*) thought of himself. A dead dog. But David (*trumpet*) said, ‘I have a place for you at my table.’



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“So David (*trumpet*) told Ziba (*xylophone*) about everything he intended to do and that Mephibosheth (*kazoo*) would always eat at his table. And the story went on to say,

Open Bible to 2 Samuel 9:11b (NIRV) and read.

“So David (*trumpet*) provided what Mephibosheth (*kazoo*) needed. He treated him like one of the king’s sons.’

“From that day on, Mephibosheth (*kazoo*) was like a prince in the palace of the king with his own place at the table.

“Hey, can you thank our volunteers?”

Volunteers leave instruments on stage and go back to their seats.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “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 want to show kindness rather than getting rid of a possible rival, like so many other kings would have done? Well, he did all of this because of a promise. David and Jonathan had made a covenant with one another. But at this point in the story, Jonathan was gone. David knew that no one was around who witnessed the covenant he made with his good friend. No one would know if he kept that promise or not.

“But you know what? David knew about the promise. And David knew that God knew, too. And that was enough for David to still keep his word and honor his promise to Jonathan. I think THAT’s truly amazing.

“I’m guessing that we don’t make a lot of covenants, but chances are that we do make promises—promises to invite friends over for a hang out, promises to help siblings with their homework, or promises to a parent to clean up our mess.

“So let’s go back to one of the questions we asked before we jumped into our Bible story today. What’s the big deal about promises anyway? Why are they so important? Well, maybe it comes down to trust. “When you keep a promise—when you do what you say you’ll do—it builds trust between you and the person on the other side of the promise. We want our friends, family, teachers, coaches—anyone really—to know that they can count on us to do what we say we’ll do!

“Of course, this is exactly what God does for us. God is always faithful. God’s promises will always come true! God promised to send a Savior to rescue us . . . and when the time was right, God sent Jesus. We can trust God no matter what!

“And guess what! When we keep our promises to others, we actually reflect who God is to others. By keeping our promises, we get the chance to show others how awesome God is in keeping promises to us. Think about the promises you’ve made recently. How can you make sure that you keep your word? This is what we’d want people to do for us, and we should work hard to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way I want to be treated!** In short, it all comes down to this: friends keep their promises.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Today as you go to groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION



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“Who is a friend you can trust? When is a time they really came through? What makes them so trustworthy? Hopefully you have a friend like that, but if you’re not sure how you’d answer those questions, talk to your Small Group Leader. They’d love to help you think about how you can find friends who keep their promises. Before you head out, let’s pray and ask God to help us be the kind of friend that Jonathan was to David! Let’s pray!”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP