

The Savior's Playbook

Bible Story: The Savior's Playbook (Jesus encourages the disciples) • *John 14–16 (Supporting: John 12–13)*

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember what Jesus promised.

Memory Verse: “In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” *John 16:33b, NIV*

Life App: Hope—believing that something good can come out of something bad.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

1. Encouraging Words (Review the Bible Story)

What You Need: “Encouraging Words” Activity Page, Bible

What You Do:

- Tell kids they are going to pretend they're at the Last Supper with Jesus. To help make the Bible come alive, assign each kid a disciple's name. You can repeat names as necessary. Use the better-known names like Peter, James, John, Andrew, Matthew, Thomas.
- Explain that in those days, tables were very low, and people lounged on the ground with their feet out behind them, instead of sitting in chairs.
- Once kids are in place around your “table,” ask them to review today's Bible story. Make sure they mention the following points:
 - The Jewish leaders did not like how popular Jesus was getting.
 - The Jewish leaders wanted to arrest and kill Jesus.
 - Jesus met with His disciples to eat the Passover meal together.
 - He told them what was about to happen.
 - The disciples were confused.
 - Jesus encouraged His disciples.
 - He promised they would have peace because of Him.
 - Jesus' friends forgot to hold onto the hope He had given them.
- Then tell kids you're going to read them some encouraging words, similar to what Jesus told His disciples.
- Read the “Encouraging Words” Activity Page.
- Ask kids if they would like to add any encouraging words they think Jesus would give them.

What You Say:

“Jesus gave His disciples some very encouraging words, but when things didn't turn out the way they wanted them to, they forgot all of His promises to them. They lost hope. Let's not lose hope when things get hard. We know Jesus has promised us many amazing things. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when remembering Jesus' promises helped you through a hard time.) [Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember what Jesus promised.**”

2. God's Promises (*apply the story*)

What You Need: Promise symbol signs, foam door hangers, markers and stickers

What You Do:

- Ask the kids about promises. What is a promise? Has anyone ever made a promise to them? Have they ever made a promise to anyone else?
- Pass out the door hangers, markers and stickers.
- Read the following Scriptures that name some of the promises of God. After you read each verse, read the promise and hold up the symbol for that promise. Have kids draw that symbol on their door hangers.
 - Psalm 136:1, NIV: "Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever." The promise: God will love you forever. **Symbol: Heart**
 - Isaiah 49:13, NIV: "Shout for joy, you heavens! Be glad, you earth! Burst into song, you mountains! The Lord will comfort his people. He will show his tender love to those who are suffering." The promise: God will help you feel better when you're sad. **Symbol: Band-Aid®**
 - Psalm 4:8, NIV: "In peace I will lie down and sleep. Lord, you alone keep me safe." The promise: God will keep you safe. **Symbol: Pillow**
 - Hebrews 13:5, NIV: "God has said, 'I will never leave you. I will never desert you.'" The promise: God will never leave you. **Symbol: Write the words "NEVER LEAVE"**

What You Say:

"Did you know that there are over 3,000 promises that God has made to us in His Word? And did you know that God always keeps those promises? Every time. Jesus promised His disciples that they would see Him again. He wanted them to have hope that something good could come out of something bad. He wanted them to remember all that He had taught them.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a promise from God that has helped you in the past. How did knowing that promise help you have hope?) [Bottom Line] "Whatever happens, remember what Jesus promised."

3. Keep It Up (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Beach ball with Memory Verse written on it.

What You Do:

- Tell kids to keep the beach ball in the air as long as they can without it touching the floor, ceiling, walls, furniture, or someone's body part other than a knee.
- Every time the ball hits the floor, ceiling, wall, or furniture, they will all say the verse.
- When it hits someone's body part other than a knee, that person says the verse.
- If they can't remember the words, they can use the ball for help.

What You Say:

"We couldn't keep the beach ball from hitting something it shouldn't. It was almost like we were in a little battle against the beach ball, and it kept winning. We couldn't even win that tiny battle, but our verse tells us that Jesus won the battle over the WORLD. That's pretty amazing and powerful. What's also amazing and powerful is that He always keeps His promises to us. **[Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember what Jesus promised.**"

Pray

What You Need: Kids' door hangers

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has his door hanger.
- Ask kids to take a minute and pray silently, thanking Jesus for His promises, and asking Him to help them remember His promises
- Close with the following prayer. (Ask if a kid would like to pray for the group)

What You Say:

"Jesus, thank You for Your promises to us. Help us to remember Your promises when times get hard. Don't let us forget your promises and lose hope like the disciples did. Help us to rely on Your Holy Spirit to remember all that You have taught us. In Jesus' name, amen. **[Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember what Jesus promised.**"

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent Cue cards as adults arrive to pick up. Ask the kids to show their parents the Door Hanger they made and share with them why they chose that promise.

*****PLEASE KEEP KIDS IN SMALL GROUP WITH YOU UNTIL ALL KIDS HAVE BEEN PICKED UP!*****

EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY

What You Do:

- Ask the following questions:
 - What's your favorite meal?
 - If you could invite anyone in the world to dinner at your home, who would you invite?
 - What food would you want your mom or dad to serve?