

Alley Rundown - April 13-14th, 2019

Bible Story: This I Promise You (Palm Sunday) • *John 12:9-16*

Key Question: What promises does God have for you?

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.

Memory Verse: *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*
John 16:33b, NIV

"Hey everybody! Let's have a quick show of hands for everyone in this room who loves when people keep their promises to you! (Pause for response) Wow! A whole bunch of you raised your hands. That was me!"

Share a brief story of a time when someone broke a promise to you.

"I was *completely* disappointed. This was not the first and certainly not the last broken promise I'd experience in my lifetime. From time to time, friends, strangers, and other family members have all said they would do one thing, but for one reason or another, it didn't happen. They said they wouldn't tell my secret, but they did. They promised to help me study for a big test, but they didn't. Sadly, the promises people make to one another are often broken."

"Moments like this leave us disappointed. And when people around us break their promises from time to time, it can be hard to trust anyone—including God. Why should we trust God's promises when we can't even trust our best friend with our secrets? But does God break His promises like my dad broke his promise? Does God say one thing but do something completely different?"

"Wow! Those are big questions. Questions like these are perfectly normal, and the first place we should look for answers is the Bible. In this case, the Bible is full of promises that God has made throughout history. But like we said, can they be trusted? Well, today, let's look at one of God's promises through this week's episode."

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:10)

"The scene was electric and momentous. This was not random guy riding a random donkey surrounded by a random, cheering crowd. This was the fulfillment of a promise from God many centuries before about our King. God planned this celebration long before. This is a great story in part because it is proof God keeps His promises. Every time. Forever and always."

"Think with me about other stories. God promised Abraham he would have a huge family when he didn't have a single kid. And guess what. Abraham's family grew to be enormous. God showed a young Joseph through a dream that he'd be a ruler one day. And even though he was put into slavery and jail, that's exactly what happened. Over and over again throughout God's Word, we can see God can be trusted."

"Yes, it is true that *people* break their promises. People promise to come with you, but they don't show up. People promise to let you do something, but you're never given the chance. If all of us in this room today are being honest, we might admit we have broken promises, too. I know I have. But God is different from us. When God makes a promise, He keeps it. No matter who breaks a promise or what is going on at school, home, or your neighborhood, God can be trusted."

"It's not easy to remember God is different than others around us, but it's incredibly important. The promises made by God are not only for a few in the Bible. God has made promises for all of us as well. As you head to Small Group today, think about this."

CG: Key Question Slide

What promises does God have for you? For example, Jesus promised to always be with us. And don't worry if you have a hard time thinking of some of those promises; that's where your Small Group can help.

You'll keep taking about this with them, too. But before you head there, let's take a moment to worship God with our offering and attention."

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

CG: Kenyan Facts

"Offering Time is important here in the Alley, because it gives you all an opportunity to worship God by giving your money generously. Here at (*your campus*), we give our offering to help support (*your campus child*) in Kenya. Our offering goes to show kindness to them by buying clothes, and food, and other materials they may need. We have a picture of some facts about Nairobi where (*campus child*) lives! If you brought an offering today, you may place it in our Alley Offering Bin (*point children to location of bin*)

CG: Alley Offering Bin JPEG

...when the video plays. If not, that's ok too. You can bring an offering next week. The Bible tells us this about bringing our offerings to Him..."

CG: Offering Verse JPEG (Acts 20:35)

(Invite students to place their offerings in bin)

CG: Worship Experience Video (Runtime: 5:00)

NOTE: Instructions for the activity are listed below

What You Need: Plastic eggs (25 per 3 students)

What You Do:

- **Form** teams of up to three students.
- **Give** each team 25 plastic eggs.
- **Explain** that you will call out a letter (indicate whether it is capital or lower case) or shape, and teams must work together to be the first to form that shape on the floor using the eggs.
- **Repeat** as time allows.