

ALLEY SG – September 9 – 11, 2023

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 (NIRV)

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: "Promise Choices" Activity Page (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Place the "Promise Choices" Activity Page strips in a stack.
- Let kids take turns choosing a strip from the stack. They will read their strip out loud for the group and then choose whether they would keep the promise or break the promise.
- Give them a chance to explain their answer. If their answer involved breaking the promise, ask them to share a solution that would still promote their friendship with the person in the scenario. Allow time for feedback from the rest of the group.
- Play until everyone has had a chance to choose a strip or every strip in the stack has been read.
- Be sure to take time and explain that when we keep a promise we have made to someone, it communicates to them that they can trust us. But there are circumstances in which keeping a promise could lead to someone getting hurt. In those situations, we have to be able to evaluate the best course of action. (Such as when a friend gossips about another friend but asks you to promise not to tell anyone else.)
- Remind kids that it's important to have people they can trust and ask for advice when they find themselves in a tricky situation like that. This is a great opportunity to assure your group that as their Small Group Leader, you are there for them!

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: "Timeline Telephone" Strips (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Choose a kid in the group to be "Young David."
- Choose another kid in the group to be "King David."
- Place both Davids on opposite sides of your group space and invite the rest of the kids in the group to form a line in between them.
- Play a "Telephone" style game where "Young David" will choose the first strip in the stack of "Timeline Telephone" strips and read it in a whisper voice to the kid next to him/her. That person will do their best to remember what "Young David" whispered, and they will repeat it to the next person in line in a whisper voice as well.
- Repeat until the message has been whispered all the way to "King David," who will then announce the message out loud to the entire group.
- Compare what "King David" says to the original message that was written on the card.
- Repeat the process with the next card and continue until all cards have been used.
- After you have finished, ask the following questions for discussion:
 - Do you think it was difficult for David to keep his promise after all that time had passed?
 - Why is it sometimes hard to keep promises?
 - Why is it important to keep the promises we make?

3. Discussion Questions

- Has a friend ever broken a promise they made to you? How did that make you feel?
- Should you trust everyone who makes a promise to you?
- What makes a friend trustworthy?
- Who is a friend you can trust?
- If a friend breaks a promise they made to you, does it mean you should no longer be their friend?

4. Prayer With a Friend

What You Need: “Daily Prayer Friend” Activity Page (one per kid), pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Put kids into pairs and invite them to spread out with their partner throughout the group space.
- Give each kid a copy of the “Daily Prayer Friend” Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Instruct kids to share prayer requests with each other that apply to specific days in the week ahead.
- Explain that they should think about things they may have coming up such as a dentist appointment, a test at school, or a soccer game.
- Kids should write down on the activity page what they plan to pray about for their partner each day.
- After everyone has had a chance to write these requests down for their partner, encourage kids to commit to praying about what they wrote each day.
- Remind them that life does get busy and it’s okay if you accidentally miss a day. But kids should try their best to keep their promise to pray for their friend.

5. Pray

- “God, thank You so much for the wonderful friends who we get to know. Please help our friends continue to grow in their relationship with You. Help us make the right choices so we can also be good friends to others and help us **choose your friends carefully**. Most of all, thank You for giving us Jesus who is the best friend of all. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”