

CITY SG - September 9-11, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Friends Forever (David and Mephibosheth) • 1 Samuel 19-20; 2 Samuel 9

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. Tray Tableaus

Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Tray Tableaus" Activity Page (one per kid), markers

What You Do:

- Ask prompting questions to help kids remember as much of the story as possible.
- Give each kid a "Tray Tableaus" Activity Page and a marker.
- Paraphrase the story, touching on the key points below.
 - King Saul promised that he wouldn't hurt David, but **Saul didn't keep his promise**. One time, while David was playing the harp, he threw a spear at David, but David escaped.
 - Later, when David thought that Saul wanted to hurt him again, Jonathan promised to find out the truth. **Jonathan kept his promise** and warned David that his father wanted to kill him. He asked David to promise to always be kind to him and his family. David promised.
 - After **David** became king, he **remembered his promise to be kind to Jonathan's family**. So, David searched for Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth [meh-FIB-o-sheth], and had Mephibosheth brought to the palace.
 - David told Mephibosheth, "You can be sure that I will be kind to you. I'll always provide what you need."
- For each key point, guide kids to point to that picture on their Activity Page and decide if the person kept or didn't keep their promises.
- If the person kept their promise, kids will circle thumbs up; if not, kids circle thumbs down.
- Close by guiding kids to turn their papers over and draw their favorite part of the story.
- Ask kids to share what they drew with the group.
- Say, "Today's story shows us that **friends keep their promises**. David kept his promise to Jonathan, even though Jonathan wasn't alive to see David keep his promise. But David made the wise choice and kept his promise to Jonathan, because *that's what friends do*."

2. Promises

Application Activity

What You Need: "Promises" Activity Page (1 per bin), and red and green index cards (15 of each color per bin)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a red and green index card.
- Explain that you'll read a scenario that kids might experience.
- Instruct the kids to hold up a green card if they should make the promise or hold up a red card if they should not make the promise.
- In order to determine what color card to hold up, encourage kids to ask themselves:
 - *Can* I keep this promise?
 - *Should* I keep this promise?
- Before you begin, remind kids of the Bottom Line: **friends keep their promises**.

- Tell them that there are some promises that aren't wise to keep and that also means that we need to be careful what promises we make to others. (We shouldn't make any promises that we can't or shouldn't, keep.)
- Explain to kids that they are going to practice choosing which promises to make.
- One by one, read the scenarios on the "Promises" Activity Page to the group, prompting kids to hold up their card.
- Each time a promise is a "red card," talk about why it's not a promise they should make.
 - Ask the kids to determine what they could do instead.
- Put all of the red and green cards back into the bin for the next service.

3. We Got the Beat

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
- Repeat the memory verse together a few times.
- Share that you'll repeat the memory verse, one word at a time, to a specific beat.
- Tap your legs to set the beat.
 - Start simple and slow.
 - Repeat the memory verse, following the beat.
- Encourage the kids to recite the verse with you on the beat.
- Tap your legs to change the beat. (example: two quick taps, one slow tap)
- Repeat the memory verse, following the new beat.
- Consider selecting a kid to pick the next beat.
- Continue as time and interest allow.

4. Pray

- "God, life is certainly better with other people in it. Thank You for the friends You've put in our lives and for the opportunities You've given us to be good friends, too. God, help us to (*point to head*) **KNOW** who our good friends are and **UNDERSTAND** what it means to be a good friend to others. Help us to (*point to lips*) **SPEAK** words of encouragement and only make promises we can keep. Because we know that **friends keep their promises**. Help us to (*point to heart*) **LOVE** our friends and treat others the way we want to be treated. Thank You for keeping Your promise and giving us the best friend of all, Jesus! We love You, Jesus, and we pray these things in Your name. Amen."