Lessons for the Leader

Although King Saul was David’s enemy, David mourned the death of the king as well as the death of Saul’s son, Jonathan. David lost his best friend.

• Read 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1. David remembered and desired to return the kindness Jonathan had shown to him. A spoken covenant, or promise, was binding. Today, we have to hire lawyers, draw up papers, and sign contracts to ensure that each party keeps his or her promises. How well do you keep your promises? Are you known for keeping your word or for breaking promises? How well does God keep His promises? God never breaks His promises. He says what He means, and He does what He says.

• Read 2 Samuel 9:2-13. Although King Saul tried for many years to kill David, David repaid injustice with love and honor. David extended kindness to Saul’s family, his grandson Mephibosheth (meh FIHB o sheth), instead of taking vengeance. How do you treat people who wrong you? How does God treat you even when you do wrong against Him? How can God’s love for you affect your actions and reactions toward others and toward Him? How can you teach preschoolers to keep their promises and treat others as God wants—with love and kindness?

• Notice David kept his promise and lavished benefits and blessings upon Mephibosheth. David restored Saul’s lands (providing wealth) to Mephibosheth. David offered a constant place at the king’s table (providing daily needs). David restored the dignity and worth Mephibosheth deserved as the grandson of a king. When you keep your promises, what kinds of rewards do others receive? What rewards do you receive? Because God sent His Son, Jesus, you will receive your eternal reward one day. How does knowing God’s promise of heaven awaits you affect your relationship with and worship of God?

What do these symbols mean?

1 ➔ Application Activities Format: Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.

1 Large Group Only Format: Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.
Introduction to Worship

1 ➔ Greet the Children

Pull It Together
Offering container

• Show the children where to place offerings.

2 ➔ Color the Word Promise

Pull It Together
Masking tape, paper, crayons, marker

• Cover table with paper and tape down.
• Tape the word PROMISE in large letters on the paper.
• Cover the taped letters with another paper and tape down so children cannot lift the paper.

• Invite children to color the paper to reveal a special, hidden word.
• State after the word is revealed: "The word is promise. We’ll learn about someone who kept his promise."

Worship

3 ➔ Sing "Whoa!" (DVD, 2 minutes)

4 ➔ Welcome Children and Define Promise (3 minutes)

• Say: "I’m so glad to see everyone today. What do you remember about David?"
• Encourage responses.
• State: "We learned David was anointed to be the next king of Israel. David promised to be friends with Jonathan and Jonathan's family. David and the Israelites praised and thanked God. David wrote many of the psalms we can read in our Bibles. Today, we’ll learn David remembered his promise. Promise means 'to do what you say.' God wants us to keep our promises. We can learn to keep our promises."

5 ➔ Explore Promises (7 minutes)

Pull It Together
Scissors, promise sign from step 2

• Ask: "What are some promises we make?"
• Encourage responses.
• Say: "We might promise our parents that we will brush our teeth [display picture] or make our beds [display picture]. I’ll show some pictures and read the promises that go with the pictures. If you would keep this promise, stand up. If you would not keep this promise, stay seated."
• Show the pictures one at a time.
• Challenge children who indicated they would not keep certain promises to tell why.
• Explain: "Let’s write some promises for our worship time together. Tell me some things we can promise to each other."
• Suggest: "We might include how we will work together, how to put things away, and how to behave during worship."
• Print the promises the children suggest on the large promise sign.
• Display the promises for all to see.
• Say: "We can learn to keep our promises."

6 ➔ Sing "We Can Praise the Lord" (DVD, 2 minutes)

7 ➔ Present Offering and Pray (2 minutes)

8 ➔ Sing "Ancient Words" (DVD, 2 minutes)

9 ➔ Find It (3 minutes)

Pull It Together
Print 2 Samuel from "Bible Books" (CD).

• Display and read aloud title.
• Say: "Second Samuel is in the Old Testament. Second Samuel is a book of history. First and 2 Samuel tell us about the first two kings of Israel: Saul and David. Open your Bibles to the Book of 2 Samuel."
• Enlist adults to assist the children.

10 ➔ Tell the Bible Story (7 minutes)

Pull It Together
Bible, scissors, tape, crutch

• Print "Mephibosheth’s Story" (CD).
• Tape papers together to make the rebus (3 pages across and 3 down.).
• Cut apart pictures, attach tape loops, and stick on the crutch.

Teacher Tips
• Attach tape loops to the backs of the pictures and lay on the floor instead of using a crutch.
• Cover rebus with clear contact plastic before using.

• Display the rebus and explain: "Our Bible story is printed out for us today. We have some
King Saul’s son, Jonathan, had a son named Mephibosheth (meh FIHB o sheth). When Mephibosheth was five years old, Saul and Jonathan were killed in a battle. Mephibosheth’s nurse picked him up and ran with him. While the nurse hurried, Mephibosheth fell and became crippled (crutch).

Years later, when David was king (crown), David thought about his promise to always show kindness to Jonathan. David asked, "Is there anyone alive from Saul's family?" A servant of Saul's family, Ziba (ZIGH buh), told King (crown) David about Mephibosheth. David sent for Mephibosheth to come to the palace. Jonathan's son came, bowed before David and said, "I am your servant."

David said to Mephibosheth, "Do not be afraid. I want to show you kindness because of your father, Jonathan. I will give back to you all of your grandfather Saul's fields. You will always eat meals at my table."

David said to Ziba, "I have given to Saul's grandson all that belonged to Saul and his family. You, your sons, and your servants are to work the ground for him and take care of his property. Mephibosheth will live in Jerusalem and eat at the king's (crown) table."

Ziba answered, "Your servant will do all you tell me to do, King (crown) David."

David kept his promise to Jonathan. Mephibosheth ate at David's table just like one of the king's (crown) sons.
Wrap-Up
(Large Group Only Format)

16 Sing "Clap Your Hands All Together" (DVD, 2 minutes)

17 Apply (1 minute)

Pull It Together
Print "Teaching Picture 13 David Remembered" (CD).

- Display the teaching picture.
- State: "We can learn God's plans for us by learning about David. Who can tell me about today's Bible story?"
- Encourage responses.
- Conclude: "We can learn God wants us to do what He says, to love everyone, to thank God, and to keep our promises. Let's remember to do what God wants us to do. We can learn to keep our promises."

18 Pray (2 minutes)

19 Pass the Cards (5 minutes)

Pull It Together
Index cards, markers
- Print these words on separate cards: David, Jonathan, Israelites, Promise, Anoint, Praise, Thank, Remember.
- Instruct: "We'll pass these cards around our group as we count aloud to different numbers. When we stop counting, the people holding the cards will tell us something about the words on their cards."
- Distribute cards and help children pass them around the group.
- Count aloud to 10 and stop.
- Read aloud the words one at a time, inviting the child holding each card to tell something about the word.
- Assist children with saying something about the words on their cards.
- Count aloud to other numbers under 20 and invite children to respond.

20 Dismiss Children to Parents

Wrap-Up
(Application Activities Format)

16 ➔ Sing "Clap Your Hands All Together" (DVD, 2 minutes)

17 ➔ Highlight Application Activities (2 minutes)
- Call on several children to tell what they did in their Application Activities.
  ➔ Arts and Crafts—Make Promise Cards
  ➔ Dramatic Play—Use Crutches and Canes
  ➔ Games—Use the Giant Game Floor Mat*
  ➔ Exploration and Discovery—Trace Letters
- Apply: "Our activities helped us learn we can keep our promises."

18 ➔ Apply (1 minute)

Pull It Together
Print "Teaching Picture 13 David Remembered" (CD).

- Display the teaching picture.
- State: "We can learn God's plans for us by learning about David. Who can tell me about today's Bible story?"
- Encourage responses.
- Conclude: "We can learn God wants us to do what He says, to love everyone, to thank God, and to keep our promises. Let's remember to do what God wants us to do. We can learn to keep our promises."

19 ➔ Review Stories of David (5 minutes)

Pull It Together
Index cards, markers
- Print these words on separate cards: David, Jonathan, Israelites, Promise, Anoint, Praise, Thank, Remember.
- Instruct: "I'll read aloud each word. Tell us something about the word on the card."
- Read aloud each word, inviting children with the cards to respond.
- Direct children with cards to give their cards to children without cards (or exchange with each other).
- Read aloud each word again, inviting children with the cards to respond.

20 ➔ Dismiss Children to Parents

* Giant Game Floor Mat (001114564) may be ordered through LifeWay Christian Resources Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-2772 or online at www.lifeway.com.
Application Activities

Select from the following choices. Each choice is designed for 20 minutes of small group time.

Worship Through Arts and Crafts

Make Promise Cards

- Comment: "David remembered and kept his promise. We can keep our promises. Let's make some promise cards to give to our parents."
- Read aloud the promises.
- Distribute "Promises," cards, and scissors.
- Instruct: "Cut apart your promise cards. Glue each promise card to an index card. You may choose to decorate your cards with the markers and pieces of tape."
- Assist children with cutting the tape.
- Talk about the Bible story as the children work.
- Comment: "When we keep these promises, we are doing things that are right and good. Our Bible verse tells us what to do."
- Say the Bible verse (Deuteronomy 6:18).
- Say: "God wants us to keep our promises. David remembered his promise to Jonathan. David helped Mephibosheth. We can learn to keep our promises. Give your promise cards to your parents. Remember, you are promising to do things for your parents."
- Lead children to clean the area.
- Pray.

Teacher Tip
Print the Bible verse (Deuteronomy 6:18) on peel-and-stick labels. Kids can put the labels on their cards.

Pull It Together
Index cards or construction paper, various colors of tape, children's scissors, markers
- Print "Promises" (CD).
- Print 1 page per child.

Worship Through Dramatic Play

Use Crutches and Canes

- Mention: "David remembered and kept his promise to Jonathan. David helped Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth walked using a crutch. I have some crutches (canes, etc.) for us to use. We'll take turns walking with the items. Some of us can help those with the crutches walk."
- Encourage children to choose partners and take turns walking with the crutches.
- Read aloud the promises tapes to the crutches.
- Invite children to prepare a pretend meal and set the table.
- Read aloud the promises displayed around the room.
- Say: "David invited Mephibosheth to eat at his table."
- Lead children to walk races using the crutches or canes. Kids can race to a displayed promise for you to read aloud.
- Lead children to clean the area.
- State: "God wants us to keep our promises. We read some promises that we can keep. We are to do what is right and good. Keeping our promises is doing what is right and good. Let's learn to keep our promises."
- Pray.

Teacher Tip
Use these options for canes: use broom handles, stack interlocking blocks, or roll newspaper into tight rolls and tape closed.

Pull It Together
Crutches, canes or wooden dowels; scissors; tape; play dishes and food
- Print "Promises" (CD) and cut apart.
- Tape a few "Promises" to the crutches or canes.
- Display the other "Promises" in the room.
Worship Through Games

Use the Giant Game Floor Mat

- Communicate: "God wants us to do what is good and keep our promises. Let's learn some promises we can keep."
- Read aloud and display "Promises."
- Ask: "What are some things we can do that are good?"
- Lead children to answer. Answers could include praise and thank God, be nice, obey, help people, and so one.
- Instruct: "Everyone stand around the mat. I'll choose two volunteers each time to play. I'll roll the color cube and the two volunteers will stand on the papers that match the color of the cube. I'll ask the volunteers to say a promise they can keep or to tell something good they can do."
- Select the first volunteers and play. Continue to play until all children play.
- State: "This time, I'll ask someone to name a color from the mat. Everyone will try to touch that color. Use your feet, toes, or fingers to touch the colors. Remember there are two pockets with the same color to use."
- Invite a child to say a color for everyone to stand upon or touch.
- Talk about an aspect of the Bible story after each color is called and children are standing on or touching a color.
- Conclude: "God wants us to keep our promises. We read some promises that we can keep. We are to do what is right and good. Keeping our promising is doing what is right and good. Let's learn to keep our promises."
- Pray.

Trace Letters

- Display the word.
- Ask: "Who knows what this word is?"
- Encourage responses.
- State: "This word is promise. Who made and kept a promise in our Bible story? (David) What is a promise? (to say you will do something) Who has made and kept a promise?" Allow responses.
- Instruct: "Let's look for these letters in the container. Trace around the letters on your papers. You can spell the word promise or just trace the letters anywhere on your papers. You might want to make fun animals or people with the letters. Add features to the letters you draw on your papers."
- Invite the children to find and trace the letters.
- Tell children to return their letters to the container after they use them.
- Talk about the Bible story as children trace letters.
- State the Bible verse (Deuteronomy 6:18).
- Conclude: "God wants us to keep our promises. We read some promises that we can keep. We are to do what is right and good. Keeping our promising is doing what is right and good. Let's learn to keep our promises."
- Pray.

Pull It Together

Giant Game Floor Mat*, construction paper (2 sheets each of blue, red, green, yellow, pink, orange), beanbag, scissors, tape
- Put construction papers in random order in the mat pockets.
- Lay mat on the floor.
- Print and assemble "Color Cube" (CD).
- Print and cut apart "Promises" (CD).

Teacher Tip
Remove the children's shoes to play the games.

Pull It Together

Several sets of letters p, r, o, m, i, s, e (magnetic, foam, written on paper, etc.); large container (shoebox); paper; markers
- Print the word promise on a paper to display.
- Fill the container with the letters.

Teacher Tip
Provide colored pencils, crayons, chalk, and colored ink pens.
2 Samuel
I promise to make my bed.

I promise to help someone.

I promise to do what my parents say.

I promise to be kind.

I promise to put my toys away.

I promise to invite someone to church.

I promise to read my Bible.

I promise to brush my teeth.
King Saul's son, _______ had a son named

came that Saul and _______ were killed

fell and became _______.

Years later, when _______ was _______

_______ asked, "Is there anyone alive
(Meh FIB oh sheth). When ________
in a battle. ________'s nurse picked him

, ________ thought about his promise to

from Saul's family?" A servant of Saul's
was _________ years old, a report

up and ran. While hurrying, _________

always show _________ to _________.

family, Ziba, told _________ _________
about __________. __________ sent for ________

and said, "I am your servant."

__________ said to _____________, "Do not

I will restore to you all your grandfather

__________ said to Ziba, "I have given
to come to the palace. _________ 's son

be afraid. I intend to show you _________

Saul's _________ . You will always eat

to Saul's grandson all that belonged to
came, bowed before __________

because of your father, ________.

meals at my ________.

Saul and his family. You, your sons, and
your servants are to work the ground for
the ________'s ________.

Ziba answered, "Your servant will do

________ kept his promise to ________
him and take care of his property.

all you command, __________  __________."
will live in Jerusalem and eat at

just like one of the ________'s sons.
Do what is right and good.

Deuteronomy 6:18
1. Cut along the dotted lines.
2. Fold on the solid lines.
3. Fill with scrap paper.
4. Tape closed.