

**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**Today's Bible Story:** High Hopes (Jesus Is Promised) • *Isaiah 9:6*

**Today's Bottom Line:** We can have hope because God keeps His promises.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.* Luke 2:11 (NIRV)

**Monthly Life App:** Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## Small Group Connect (10 Minutes)



1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: "Ask them about the best and worst part of their week."

### 5. Activity

#### Opening Activity

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
- Explain to the kids that you will start a story, and they help you make it up and tell it.
- You will share one sentence to start the story about a promise.
- The kids will take turns adding sentences to the story.
- The goal is to turn the story into something that ends positively and happily.
- Share the first sentence of a story. Here are some examples:
  - Kiesha's mom promised she would get Kiesha a doll she wanted this Christmas, but she unexpectedly lost her job.
  - Mark's favorite uncle promised that he'd visit this Christmas season, but it's two days before Christmas and Mark's uncle is sick.
  - Danielle's grandma promised that she would make gingerbread houses with Danielle, but all of the stores are out of graham crackers.
- Play as many rounds of the game as time allows.

To create meaningful relationships with kids and parents so that they can confidently pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.

**What You Say:**

“Great job turning the story around until the promise was fulfilled! Did you know that God always fulfills—or keeps—His promises, too? *[Transition]* **Let’s go to Large Group to hear about a very important promise God made a long time ago that came true.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

6. Coloring pages and toys for play time.

7. **Transition to Large Group:**

Lead your group to the Story Experience area.



## Small Group Activity (20 Minutes)

### 3. Fill-In Bookmarks

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving*

**What You Need:** “Bookmark” Activity Page, Bibles, pencils, markers, hole punch, yarn, decorating supplies

#### What You Do:

- Look up this month’s memory verse (Luke 2:11) using the navigation tips below.

***Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:*** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Luke in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Luke, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Luke. Help the kids find the page. When they find Luke, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 11 in chapter 2.

- Find the verse and read it out loud as a group.
- Pass out the bookmarks and pencils, one bookmark and one pencil for each kid.
- Explain to the kids that this month’s memory verse is supposed to be written on their bookmarks, but there are words missing.
- Tell them that the missing words are written under each blank line, but the letters are scrambled.
- Instruct the kids to unscramble the letters to figure out the missing words.
- Punch a hole at the top of the bookmarks.
- Pass out a piece of yarn to each kid and demonstrate how to loop it through the hole and tie a knot.
- Set out the markers and decorating supplies.
- Invite kids to decorate their bookmarks.

#### What You Say:

“This verse is a great reminder that God promised to send the Messiah which means ‘Savior.’ Many years before Jesus was born, God promised that the Savior He would send would be a relative of King David. This verse is what the angel said when He told the shepherds that Jesus had been born. The angel was telling the shepherds that God had sent a Savior who was a relative of King David. God kept His promise because God always keeps His promises.

“Place your bookmark in a special place—in your Bible or a special book that you’re reading—anywhere to remind you that God is a promise keeper and He is always working behind the scenes to keep His promises. Remember, no matter what happens, **[Bottom Line] we can have hope because God keeps His promises.**”

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## Small Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

### 1. Say the Bottom Line and Bible Verse together:

2. **Today's Bottom Line:** We can have hope because God keeps His promises.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.* Luke 2:11 (NIRV)

### 4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Reflect: An activity that creates space for personal processing and application*

**What You Need:** Craft sticks from “Promise Jump” Activity and pens

#### What You Do:

- Make sure kids have their craft sticks from the earlier activity.
- Encourage the kids to take a few minutes to think about two things they're worried about.
- Invite them to write each of their worries on a stick.
- Ask the kids to hold their sticks as you close in group prayer.

#### What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for reminding us today that You are a promise keeper. Remind us that we can always trust You to keep Your promise to listen and help us deal with our concerns, worries, and disappointments. Please help us with these specific worries and stresses that we hold in our hands. **[Bottom Line] We can have hope because God keeps His promises.** Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them their “Promise Bookmarks” and share how the verse is a reminder that God always keeps His promises.



## 3. Check Out & Parent Pick-up

*Kids should stay in the Small Group until their parents arrive to pick them up and show the 3 digit tag that matches the number on the name tag of the child being picked up.*

1. **Talk** about doing the God Time Cards and send one home with each child.

When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their parent. Remember this week to **Bottom Line:**

**Encourage** families to do the God Time Card together and read the Parent Cue.

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