



Younger IK Groups- PreK- 1st grade

March 12, 2025

Bible Story: Vows- Matthew 5:33-37

Big Idea: God wants us to do what we say.

The Win: Kids who can identify and take their next step of discipleship by embracing a preschooler's physical needs or engaging an elementary kid in things that interest them.

Wednesday Share:

Tonight during Impact Kids, we looked at Matthew 5:33-37. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus takes the complexity out of making vows or promises. Often we add qualifiers to our promises, such as "I swear by heaven!" or "I really mean it." But Jesus makes promises much simpler: If you always do what you say, then yes or no is all you need to say. Pray together as family. Ask God to show your kids his own faithfulness so they can model it as they learn to do what they said they would do.

Leader Devo:

<https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2025/03/05/mar-12>

Dig In to Prayer:

Ask God to show your kids his own faithfulness so they can model it as they learn to do what they said they would do.

Quick Tip:

This word from Jesus goes for you, too. In the hustle and bustle of a class, it can be hard to keep track of the fact that you told Aliyah, "I'll ask you about that later" in order to cut her story short, or that you promised Mateo you would fix his toy car during snack break. Ask God to help you remember what you promise kids you'll do, and be intentional about following through. Also, create a culture where kids know they can ask you again if you do happen to forget a promise because they know you really want to do what you say.

Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

Low Energy Game:

Supplies

- small classroom items, such as blocks, toy cars, or play food (1 item for every 5 or 6 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Hide the Toy

Say: Let's play a game of Hide-and-Seek. You can hide this [classroom item], and I'll find it. Encourage a willing child to hide the classroom item somewhere in the room.

Say: I'll close my eyes while you hide it.

Don't peek until kids tell you the item is hidden. Then find the item, asking for hints from kids if it's taking too long.

Say: Sometimes it's hard to do what we say. It was hard for me not to peek in our game, but I did what I said I'd do because I want to be a good friend.

Share an example of another time you didn't stick to what you said you would do. Maybe you told your kids you'd take them to the park and then got busy and forgot, or you told your mom you'd call her and then didn't.

Ask: • Tell about a time you didn't stick to what you said you would do.

Kids may say they didn't clean up their toys after telling Dad they would, or they didn't come inside right away after saying they would.

Remember Not to Peek

Say: God wants us to do what we say. Let's practice with our game of Hide- and-Seek. We can keep our eyes closed while our friends hide things, right? Give kids a chance to agree to close their eyes.

- Form groups of five or six kids, and give each group an item to hide.
- Pick a willing child from each group to hide the items, and encourage the remaining kids to close their eyes.
- Ask kids who are hiding items to quickly find a hiding spot and then return to their groups. Regularly remind kids who'll be seeking to keep their eyes closed.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music to drown out any sounds while kids hide the items.
- After all the items are hidden, encourage the seekers to go look for the items.
- After all the items have been found, choose a new child from each group to hide the items, and begin again. Be sure to remind kids regularly to keep their eyes closed.
- Continue playing as time allows.

Say: Games are more fun when we do what we say and keep our eyes closed when we're supposed to. God wants us to do what we say.

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch "Puppy Promises"

Say: In today's part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that God wants us to do what we say. In other words, when we make promises, we keep them!

Ask: • Tell about a promise that would be really hard for you to keep.

Share your own example first, such as promising to never eat chocolate again or promising to sleep only four hours a night.

Say: It's hard to keep those kinds of promises! Let's see what happens when a dog makes a promise that's hard to keep.

Watch "Puppy Promises."

Ask: • If you were Biscuit, what would you have done to make it easier to keep your promise?

- Pedro said breaking promises hurts others. Give an example of how that could happen.
- How can you regain someone's trust if you've broken a promise before?
- Do you really think Biscuit will keep his new promise? Why or why not?

Say: When we make a promise, even a really one that's really hard to keep, God wants us to do what we say. He wants our "yes" to mean yes and our "no" to mean no all the time.

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bible

Easy Prep: Ask an adult or teen helper who's small enough for you to catch to help you with the trust fall. Explain that you'll get "distracted" the first time he or she "falls," so encourage him or her to simply lean back and pretend to start to fall.

See a Display of Trust

Say: Today we're learning that God wants us to do what we say. When we do what we say we're going to do, people can trust us. God always does what he says, and he wants his friends to do the same. Let's see if [name of helper] trusts me with a little game.

Call your helper up in front of the kids. Stand with one foot forward and one foot back and brace yourself to catch your helper. Ask your helper to stand an arm's length away.

Say: Okay, whenever you're ready, you can just fall back into my arms.

I'll catch you, don't worry. As your helper starts to "fall," turn away and make a comment to kids about something else in the room. (For example, compliment a child on her dress.) The helper will pretend to start to fall and then catch himself or herself.

Say: Oh, I'm so sorry. I got distracted. Are you okay? Give your helper a chance to assure you that he or she is all right.

Talk About Trust

After apologizing to your helper, turn to the kids and say: I'd like to try again, but do you think [name of helper] will trust me to be ready this time? Show me with a thumbs-up if you think yes or a thumbs-down if you think no. Give kids a minute to show you thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

Ask: • Why do you think that? Allow kids to call out a few reasons your helper should or shouldn't trust you. Kids may say the helper should trust you because you can catch him or her or because you said that you will. Or kids may say the helper shouldn't trust you because you didn't catch him or her the first time and you might get distracted again.

Say: I told [name of helper] I would be there, ready to catch [him or her]. But I didn't do what I said I was going to do. Turn to your helper and ask: Will you give me another chance to do what I say and catch you? After your helper agrees, encourage your helper to fall back into your arms as you catch him or her.

Say: It's important to be able to trust people. [Name of helper] needed to be able to trust me to catch [him or her]. I didn't do what I said at the beginning. That made it harder to trust me. I don't want to be someone people can't trust. I want to be like my friend Jesus. I can trust Jesus!

Ask: • Tell me some people you trust to do what they say. Kids may say their mom, their grandma, or their friend.

Practice Being Trustworthy

Say: We can all be people who can be trusted. God wants us to do what we say. Let's practice that with a game. We can show our friends they can trust us.

- Form groups of five or six kids, and encourage kids to form a tight circle around one willing child. Kids forming the circle will be Catchers. The Catchers should stand shoulder to shoulder with one foot forward and one foot back and place their hands out in front of their chests.
- Ask the Catchers: Will you catch your friends in the middle when they fall? Give kids a chance to commit to catching their friends.
- Then encourage the kids in the center to cross their arms across their chests and keep their feet in place as they lean back into the hands of kids surrounding them.
- Catchers can gently catch their friends and move them around the circles for a minute or two.
- Allow different kids to come into the center of the circle, asking Catchers if they will catch their friends each time.
- Continue playing as time allows.

Say: God wants us to do what we say. Listen to what the Bible says.

Read aloud Ecclesiastes 5:5.

Say: That means when we say we'll do something, we do it. That way people can trust us. Let's ask God to help us be people who can be trusted. Lead kids to pray and ask God to help them do what they say.

Life Application:

Supplies:

- paper
- pencils

Thank God

- **Say:** We've been learning that we're not jealous and that we can be thankful instead. Let's try an exercise in thankfulness.
- Give each child a pencil and a piece of paper, and have kids each write 5 to 10 things they're thankful for.
- Have kids form pairs and trade lists.
- Kids will then pray with their partners, thanking God for what he's given the other person.

Wrap Up

Say: When we see people with something we want, we're not jealous. Instead, we can be thankful that God loves and cares for those people and takes care of them. Let's ask for his help to do that.

Pray: God, help us focus on thanking you for what we have and for what others have so we're not jealous. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

Activity Page with a Point:

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons.

Say: We're learning about a time Jesus stood up on a hill to teach a big crowd of people! He taught that God wants us to do what we say. He said our "yes" should always mean "yes"! Let's color some thumbs-up for "yes"!

Allow time for kids to color.

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that God wants us to do what we say. Let's decode a message about that.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will attempt to decode the message, but the key is incorrect. Allow a minute or two for kids to start to notice and feel frustrated, then pause for discussion.

Ask: • What have you noticed about this puzzle?

• Why is it frustrating that the key isn't doing what it's supposed to do?

Say: Let's try this again. The key is off by one letter. So if you see an A in the puzzle, you'd change it to a Z, because that's one to the right of what the key says to do. Help kids as needed by guiding them through the first few letters. J changes to I, not H. G changes to F, not E.

Ask: • This key didn't do what it was supposed to do, and that was frustrating. What does that show you about the impact it might have on people when you don't do what you say you'll do?

Say: God wants us to do what we say. When we don't, we cause problems and frustrations for others!

ANSWER KEY: IF YOU MAKE A PROMISE, DO WHAT YOU SAID.