



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

Bottom Line: We can have hope because God keeps His promises.

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

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

1. Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Read **Isaiah 9:6**

Review Questions:

1. Who broke their promise to love God over and over again? (*God's people, the Israelites*)
2. Name one thing the Israelites did to disobey God. (*They followed other gods and tried to do things their way*)
3. What did God do to show the Israelites that He was with them even though they weren't following Him well? (*He sent good kings and prophets to lead and help them*)
4. At Christmas time, how did God show us that He always keeps His promises? (*By sending His Son, Jesus, to Earth*)
5. Why did God send Jesus to Earth? (*To fulfill His promise / to rescue us*)

2. Promise Jump

What You Need: Small craft sticks

What You Do:

- Show the kids two craft sticks.
- Promise the kids that you will place the sticks two feet apart and jump over both sticks with just one jump.
- Ask the group if they think you can keep your promise.
- Jump over the sticks to demonstrate that you kept your promise.
- Move the sticks farther apart, and make the same promise. (*Make sure you can jump the distance you moved the sticks so you can keep your promise.*)
- Again, ask the kids if they think you can keep your promise.
- Jump over the sticks successfully.
- Next, move the sticks so far apart that it's obvious you can't jump over them in one jump.
- This time, don't promise to jump over the sticks.
- Ask the kids how they'd feel if you promised to jump over the sticks with one jump.
- Attempt to jump over the sticks.
- Give each kid two sticks.

- Instruct them to figure out how far apart they can place their sticks to fulfill a promise to jump over them with one jump.
- Ask the kids to demonstrate their jumps.

What You Say:

“Good job figuring out how far you could jump to keep your promise. When my sticks were close together, was it easy for you to trust that I would keep my promise? How would you have felt if I had promised to jump over the sticks when they were very far apart? Even if I had made a promise that I could jump over the sticks that were far apart, would you have trusted me to keep my promise?”

“It really makes sense to only promise things that you know you can do. And yet, there are times when you and other people you know, might not keep their promises. The good news is that when God makes a promise, He always keeps it. God always does what He says He will do.

“God promised His people over and over that He would send a Savior to rescue them. At Christmas, God sent Jesus. He kept His promise like He always does.

“When you remember that God kept His promise to send Jesus at Christmas, it can help you have hope in any situation. Since God always keeps His promises, that means that He will always keep His promises to you. What has He promised you? He has promised that He will always be with you. He has promised that He is always working for good, even when things are hard. Because God always keeps His promises, you can have hope that God will keep those promises, too.

“Maybe your family was impacted by COVID-19. That might mean that your Christmas will look different this year. You might not get all the gifts you want, or you might not be able to celebrate Christmas with your family and friends like you have in the past. No matter what happens, it’s important to remember that **[Bottom Line] we can have hope because God keeps His promises.**”

[Make it Personal] (Share with your kids a time when you saw God keep His promise to you when times were hard. What did He do, and were you surprised at how He did it? How did it bring you hope for the future?)

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- What’s your favorite thing to do during the Christmas season?
- What brings you joy and fun at Christmastime?
- What are you hoping for right now? (Not just in terms of what are you hoping to receive for Christmas, but is something you’re hoping will happen or how do you hope Christmas will turn out this year?)
- Why is hope important? How can we stay hopeful this time of year, especially with everything going on in our world right now?

Pray: “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.”