

UP IN THE AIR: Preteen

WEEK 3

BIG IDEA

I can count on God's promises.

Bible

Elisha and the Shunammite's son: II Kings 4:8-37; Genesis 18:1-10a

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)*
 - "Trust In You" (Lauren Daigle)
 - "Promises" (Maverick City Music)
 - "For All My Days" (Gateway Kids Worship)
 - "All of Me" (Gateway Kids Worship)
 - "We Shine" (Vineyard Kids)

SO WHAT?

BIBLE | Elisha and the Shunammite's Son

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Bookmark II Kings 4:8-37 in your Bible and read the passage in small chunks as you tell the Bible story*
- Well hello, friends! I'm so glad you're here today to hear another story about Elisha. This one is about how a family from Shunem invited Elisha to stay with them, and then all sorts of amazing things started to happen. Let's take a look, shall we?
- *[Read II Kings 4:8-16.]*
 - We can guess that this woman and her husband were pretty wealthy by the way they

made a room for him any time he came to town. They seemed to have everything they needed, except for a child.

- Having a child, especially a son, was a big deal in those days because they were the ones who would continue the family line.
- Elisha promised the Shunammite woman that she would have a son. She didn't accept this promise right away, though. She didn't want to get her hopes up.
- *[Read II Kings 4:17.]*
 - Just as Elisha had said, God kept the promise to her! Isn't it amazing that God cared for her so much?
- *[Read II Kings 4:18-21.]*
 - Wait a minute. Her son came as a promise from God and now . . . it looked like she had lost him for good.
 - **How would you be feeling if you were the mother?**
- *[Read II Kings 4:22-28.]*
 - The woman knew that Elisha would know what to do. She knew that if only Elisha would go to her son, God might do something impossible again.
- *[Read II Kings 4:29-37.]*
 - At first, Elisha's servant Gehazi tried doing what Elisha told him to do – he put Elisha's staff on the boy's face. But nothing happened.
 - But after praying to God and performing what looked like some kind of ancient CPR, Elisha was used by God to bring the boy back to life.
- Through Elisha, the Shunammite woman and her family were able to see that God keeps promises, even the ones that seem like they're too big, too far away, or too late.

VIDEO | Up in the Air, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

ACTIVITY | Promise Tag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids partner up linking up their pinky fingers and spread out around the room. Choose one pair to start the game, one player being "it" and the other running away. Before they can get tagged, the one being chased has to link pinky fingers with anyone in a pair. Once the new connection is made, the other half of that pair has to break off and run away. When a tagging occurs, the roles are reversed, but don't allow immediate tag-backs! Check out the original version of this game [here](#).*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *For kids who need to play in a stationary position, pass out the flashlights from the prism activity earlier and have kids play flashlight tag! Dim the lights and have kids try to catch their friend's beam with theirs. They can also lie on their backs and chase the lights on the ceiling.*
- People make and break promises all the time, just like this game kind of showed us! But God? Never! When God makes a promise, we can know that it's a guarantee.
- **I can count on God's promises.**

BIBLE | Genesis 18:1-10a

- A baby being born against all odds is something that happens quite a few times in the Bible.
- **Does anyone remember the story of Abraham and Sarah?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Genesis 18:1-10a or recruit a few readers to help you.*
- God promised Sarah that she would have a child, even though it seemed like she was too old and she had given up hoping for that one special thing.
- **Can you think of anyone else in the Bible who had a baby even though it was highly unlikely?**
- If you guessed Mary, then we're on the same wavelength! Mary having a baby was not only unlikely, it was impossible. But God promised she would have a son and that son is none other than Jesus!
- If God says something is going to happen, it will. That's how I know that **I can count on God's promises**, even the ones that seem impossible!

NOW WHAT?

REFLECTION | Promise Exchange

- **Have you ever been promised something by someone and they didn't keep their promise? What happened? How did you feel?**
- I'm sure it felt awful. A broken promise makes us feel so disappointed because we had been counting on that promise to be kept.
- But as human beings, it's really hard to keep all the promises we make!
- **Have you ever broken a promise?**
- I sure have! We don't do it on purpose but sometimes we make promises in the moment because we think we can keep it, but later we have to go back on our word. And like we just talked about, that's not a great feeling.
- But God doesn't do that. That's also why God doesn't promise us that everything will be fine all the time. God knows that we will face challenges. We will get heartbroken. We will not get something we want.
- But God promises to be with us and help us through all of those things. We can turn to God's words in the Bible and know for sure that you and **I can count on God's promises!** Always!

ACTIVITY | Bookmark a Promise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids make a rainbow cloud corner bookmark using plain paper, colored paper, glue, scissors, and a marker ([view tutorial here](#)). You can also make colorful strips that are the perfect length out of [rainbow sticky notes](#).*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Have the origami part of this craft pre-made.*
- The Bible is the first place we can go to find more of God's promises to us.
- Whenever you read the Bible and you come across a promise from God, you can bookmark it using your new rainbow bookmark.
- That way, the next time you're not feeling sure about something, you can re-read the page you saved and say, **I can count on God's promises!**

MEMORY VERSE | Tasty Rainbow

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out a fun-size pack of Skittles, colorful cereal, or gummy bears to each kid. Invite them to eat their snack one piece at a time in rainbow color order as you all recite one word from the memory verse at a time.*

PRAYER

- God, thank you that you love me and that you have good plans for me. You make promises that you keep. Remind me that I can count on your promises and that you will always do what you say you will. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What promise from God did Elisha tell the Shunammite woman and her husband?**
- **What happened to this promise they received?**
- **How did God use Elisha again to help the woman and her family?**
- **Read Genesis 18:10. What promise did God have for Abraham and Sarah?**
- **What is a promise?**
- **Have you ever made a promise before? Did you keep it?**
- **What is a promise that God has made to you?**

MEMORY VERSE | Colossians 3:2 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Colossians3-2.*
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."**