

God's Promises





Year 1—Quarter 1 “God the Father”

Quarter Aim: God is not distant or unapproachable; rather, He is a caring Father who loves us deeply and wants the best for our lives.

Lesson 9: God’s Promises

God Keeps His Promises

Lesson Aim: Children will see how God made promises and remained faithful to them. They will also acknowledge that we can rely on God to keep His word, and that He will be with us always.

Remind children that unfortunately, we sometimes make mistakes. We don’t always do a great job of keeping our human promises. However, we know that God is faithful to His promises. In the Bible, He continually made commitments called Covenants with His people. He always kept His word, and ultimately gave us Jesus as the great sign that He kept His promises!

In Genesis chapter 9, God promised Noah that He would never flood the Earth again. To remind us of this promise, God created something beautiful: the **rainbow**! When it rains and the sun shines at the same time, we see a colorful arc in the sky. That’s the rainbow! It’s God saying, “I love you, and I’ll keep my promises.” Just as Noah and his family were saved by the **ark**, we are saved by Jesus. So, whenever you see a rainbow, remember God’s love and faithfulness!

God does not casually forget things. It’s likely that the rainbow is more of a positive reminder for *us* than it is for Him. We know, too, that when we see a rainbow, we can remember God’s promises to us to always watch over and care for us.

Intro Activity

Lesson Opening: This lesson refers to promises that God made to His people. Consider starting off with an activity involving commitments that people make

Pledges and promises: Come up with a list of vows or pledges that people recite. This could include things like the Pledge of Allegiance, a scouting oath, or wedding vows. Discuss what it means to say such things, and how important it is to stick with your word.

Alternative: “Don’t drop the Ark” balloon game— One of the representations of God’s covenant that the people of Israel valued highly was the Ark of the Covenant, which held the Ten Commandments. This container was so special that it could not touch the ground, and had to be carried in a very special way. Use a beach ball or balloon as your “ark.” Have children form a circle and work together to try to keep the balloon from touching the ground. For added challenge, spread the circle wider, or make sure students do not move their feet.

Power Point

We can rely on God to keep His word.

Lie:

God breaks His promises.

Truth:

Numbers 23:19,
“*God isn’t a mere man. He can’t lie. He isn’t a human being. He doesn’t change his mind. ...*” (NIRV)





Parent's Food for Thought

Teaching Children to Trust God, Our Promise Keeper:

We start life assuming all people do what they say they'll do, and then childhood involves the slow realization that they don't. That's because everyone makes promises he or she simply cannot keep.

One way to read the whole story of Scripture that connects easily with the world of a child—biblical theology for preschoolers, if you like—is to focus on the promises God makes and keeps throughout his Word. Even as they slowly recalibrate the likelihood of everyone else keeping his or her word all the time, children who hear and read the Bible story in this way can grow in confidence that God does always keep his.

After all, in the Bible, they meet a God who promised an elderly, infertile couple a child and a family as numerous as the stars in the sky—impossible. Then he did it.

They meet a God who promised a people who'd been enslaved for four centuries by the most powerful king in the known world that they'd soon be free and safe—impossible. Then he did it.

They meet a God who promised to destroy the walls of an impregnable fortress city without anyone so much as touching its stones—impossible. Then he did it.

They meet a God who promised to rescue people from the consequences of their sins, to create a people who know him, to give them a good land to inhabit in peace and plenty, to give them the joy—the blessing—of knowing him and living his way in his world, to give them a king to rule them with wisdom and love. More impossible than the birth of Isaac, the exodus from Egypt, or the walls of Jericho falling.

And then, in the coming of Jesus, he did it. By faith, those promises are promises to our children about *their* hearts, lives, and futures.

When in the normal ebb and flow of family life you don't keep your word—whether through sin or circumstances—don't make excuses or explain it away. Own it, repent if you need to, and then use it as an opportunity to tell your kids there's a Father who always keeps his promises. He's never compromised by flaws or constrained by external circumstances.

Parents, when your kids are struggling, point them to a specific promise of God and encourage them to live as though God's promises are true. Because they are. He keeps them, not just across time but in our own lives. I need to learn that as much as my kids do.

(By Carl Laferton, author of "God's Big Promises Bible Storybook.")





20 Promises of God for Kids

- 1) I will never abandon you (Deuteronomy 31:8)
- 2) I will strengthen you and help you (Isaiah 41:10)
- 3) I will fight your battles for you (Exodus 14:14)
- 4) I will work all things out for your good (Romans 8:28)
- 5) I will give you strength when you feel weak (Isaiah 40:29)
- 6) I will be with you when you go through tough times (Isaiah 43:2)
- 7) I will always love you, my love cannot be shaken (Isaiah 54:10)
- 8) I will help you when you feel brokenhearted (Isaiah 61:1)
- 9) I will always forgive you when you confess your sins (1 John 1:9)
- 10) I will be with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9)
- 11) I will always listen when you speak to me (1 John 5:15)
- 12) I will not erase your name from the book of life (Revelation 3:5)
- 13) I will deliver you from your troubles (Psalm 34:17)
- 14) I will be your resting place when you are mistreated (Psalm 9:9)
- 15) I will give you rest when you are sad and tired (Matthew 11:28)
- 16) I will take care of you, I know what you need (Matthew 6:32-33)
- 17) I will forgive you and heal you (Psalm 103:3)
- 18) I will let nothing separate you from my love (Romans 8:35)
- 19) I will pick you up when you fall (Psalm 37:24)



God's Rainbow Promise

