Lesson 8: We Have Promises

Overview:

Key Focus: All of the promises in the Bible are for us today.

Bible Story: God's Promises

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 1:15–20; Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; Hebrews 6:17–18; Hebrews 3:7

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV) For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Bag or something to hold the "God's Promises" verses
- Ball

Classroom Prep:

- Print out the "God's Promises" verses listed in the Bible Story and cut them apart. Place the verses in a bag.

Engage:

Today we are going to talk about promises. Who can explain what a promise is? (A promise is saying you will do something and then doing it.) **What is a promise that someone made to you and kept?** Allow time for responses. **Nod your head if someone made a promise but didn't keep it. Sometimes people are unable to keep a promise that they intended to keep, but sometimes people say something and don't really try to keep their word. I am going to name some promises. I want you to jump once if what I name is a promise that you can keep.** Call out items from both lists of promises and let the children respond.

Promises:
I will listen in class today
I will be kind to everyone in the class
I will be helpful in class.

Promises children can't keep:
I will never sin
will forgive your sins
will heal you.

There were promises that are within your ability to keep. It will be your choice to keep your promise to listen, be kind, and be helpful. There were other promises that you cannot possibly keep. Who can keep the other promises? (God and Jesus) **Let's learn about God's promises to us.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and discuss the verse. Call out a group, such as the color of their shirt, or name a favorite color, and have that group stand and say the 1st half of the verse. Then have everyone else stand and say the rest of the verse. Repeat several times and change the groups that you call out.

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV) For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Bible Story:

Let's find out why Paul wrote about God's promises in our Memory Verse. Read 2 Corinthians 1:15–17. **Paul had promised twice to come visit the church in Corinth but was delayed. He was concerned that people might think he wasn't keeping his promise. Paul was even more concerned that since he represented God, people might think God didn't keep His promises.** Read 2 Corinthians 1:18–19. **Paul reminded that God is faithful, and God's "yes" always means "yes." The next verse is our Memory Verse.** Recite together or read 2 Corinthians 1:20. **When you read a promise from God in the Bible and ask God to do it for you, what is God's answer always going to be?** (Yes!) **As long as God promised it, the answer will always be "yes." God gave promises for us that bring Him glory. He doesn't give us promises to make us think we are great and deserve them or for us to be selfish with them. God wants all people to know about His love and His desire to be in relationship with us. When Christians believe and receive God's promises, God works through us to get the glory. For example, 1 John 5:14 says, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." I know that God keeps His promises, so if I pray and ask God to show me where my lost pet is, I know that God heard my prayer. When I find my pet, I tell others about how God heard my prayer and answered it. God gets the glory!**

The Bible shows in several places that we can believe God will keep His promises because God cannot lie. Read Numbers 23:19. **Moses told the Israelites that they shouldn't think of God in the way they think about men. The Israelites knew that people aren't perfect**

and sometimes choose to lie or break a promise. Whatever God says and promises, He will do it!

Read 1 Samuel 15:29. **Samuel delivered a message to King Saul that God was taking his kingdom away because of his disobedience. Saul wanted God to change His promise to take away the kingdom. Samuel explained that God doesn't lie or change what He said.** Read Hebrews 6:17–18. **The word "immutable" means "unchangeable." Let's see what things you learned in science that will never change.** Allow children to call out unchangeable things, such as the order of the seasons, mammals are warm-blooded, gravity, water freezing at 32 degrees, etc**. If we trust gravity to work 100% of the time here on the earth, we know that we can trust that God doesn't change or lie. So, when God makes promises to us, we know positively 100% that we can trust Him!**

But how will we know what promises God has made? (We read them in the Bible.) Hold up your Bible. **The Bible is full of God's promises to help us, to love us, and to forgive us. His promises start in Genesis and continue to the very last book of the Bible, Revelation. The promises in the Old Testament were God's promises to Abraham and His special people, the Israelites. When Jesus came to the earth, the New Testament tells the promises He made to everyone who believes that He is the only way to have relationship with God. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for all sins so that sin no longer stopped us from a relationship with God. We can be forgiven for our sins and become part of God's family forever! All of God's promises in the Old Testament belong to all believers in Jesus also. If you find a promise in the Bible, it is for you if you say "yes" to Jesus.**

Show the bag of verses. **In this bag are just a few of the many promises God made that we find in the Bible. Someone will pick out a verse and read it, or you may give it to me to read. Then I want the rest of you to raise your hand and I will pick someone to tell us exactly what God promised in that verse.** Select a volunteer to reach in the bag and take out a verse. Have the child choose to read the verse or have you read the verse. Then, the child, who correctly guesses what God promised in that verse, gets to select the next verse.

- Psalm 103:2–3 "Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: [3] Who forgives all your iniquities, Who **heals all your diseases**."
- Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you **a future and a hope**."
- Luke 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give **the Holy Spirit** to those who ask Him!"
- John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, My **peace** I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
- John 16:27 "For the **Father Himself loves you**, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God."
- Philippians 4:19 "And my God shall **supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

- James 1:5 “If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”
- 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to **forgive us *our* sins** and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness**.”
- 1 John 2:25 “And this is the promise that He has promised us—**eternal life**.”

How can we know for certain that all of God’s promises are for Christians now? Read Hebrews 3:7. **Here and in many other places the author of Hebrews uses the word “today” and no expiration date is given. Food packages have an expiration date of when the item needs to be used. God’s promises do not have an expiration date. All of God’s promises are “yes” and for today.** Lead a cheer for God’s promises.

Bible Story Questions:

- **Where will you find God’s promises**? (God’s promises are in the Bible.)
- **How do we know God will keep His promises to us?** (God will keep His promises because God cannot lie.)
- **Weren’t God’s promises just for Bible times?** (No, God’s promises are for today.)
- **When you ask God to do what He promised, what will His answer always be?** (Yes!)
- **Why did God promise so much to Christians?** (God wants to receive the glory.)
- **Which of God’s promises have you received?** (Possible answers: healing, salvation, forgiveness, answered prayer)
- **Which of God’s promises will you ask Him for this week?** (Answers will vary.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Stand at one end of an open area, and have the children stand shoulder to shoulder in a line facing you. Read the list of promises, if the promise is something God says “yes” to, then the children take a step forward. If someone moves forward and it wasn’t God’s “yes,” they return to the starting place. If the promise is something that isn’t God’s “yes,” they stand still. When someone reaches where you are, they are the winner. Play again as time allows.

  “Yes” Promises: supply your needs, health, bless you, forgiveness of sins, loves you, the Holy Spirit, peace, eternal life, hope, a future, heaven, shelter, cleanses you from your unrighteousness

  “No” Promises: disease, sin, trouble at school, unhealthy, unhappy, sick, tired, anger, poor, hunger, wars, famine, danger

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Have the children sit on the floor in a large circle. Name something that God promises and then roll the ball to someone. The child with the ball asks, "God, may I have ___?" and everyone says, "yes." The child rolls the ball to someone else to ask for the next promise.

  God's Promises: supply your needs, health, bless you, forgive your sins, loves you, give you the Holy Spirit, peace, eternal life, hope, a future, heaven, shelter

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Lead a Bible Sword Drill with verses about God's promises. Have each person in the group hold up a Bible. When you give the reference, everyone recites it back to you, and when you give the signal, they try to be the first to find the verse. When they find the verse, they stand up and start reading it.
  References about promises: Numbers 23:19, Ezekiel 24:14, Titus 1:2, Psalm 138:2, Hebrews 6:18, 2 Timothy 2:13, Hebrews 1:3, Numbers 14:28, and Psalm 119:89.

Worksheet:
Read the page together and have the children cross out the incorrect word or words in each sentence. Afterward, select volunteers to look up a verse and read it so everyone can check their answers. You may wish to do this activity in small groups with a helper in each group. Guide the children to take the letters found after each reference and write them in order on the blanks to complete the statement. On the back of their papers, have them create a poster about God's promises or write a song or poem about them.

Affirmation/Declaration:
All of God's promises are for me today.
God always says "yes" when I ask for what He promised.
I want all that God wants me to have.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
Previous generations had more integrity to keep their word which often was a binding contract. Today, people say they will show up at an event or meeting, but don't show up or feel badly about going back on their word. It is important that the children know they can trust God's promises to them. When the children truly believe that God promises heaven to those who

believe in Jesus' forgiveness of their sins, they should live like they believe it and are enjoying their relationship with God that is forever.

Missions Connection:
Some cultures believe that it is a higher virtue to protect someone from pain or consequences of the truth by lying to them. These cultures may not understand that when God's Word says something, it is the truth and all of God's promises can be believed. Pray for missionaries to have opportunities to share God's promises with people in a way they will believe what God says.

Family Connection:
Look online for lists of God's promises and print out a copy. As a family, look up the verses and ask for them. Talk about ways you will know they are answered and how you will let others know so that God gets the glory. Keep a list of God's promises that He answered and how your family gave Him the glory.

Prayer Points:
Take the God's Promises verses and hand them to volunteers to practice praying scriptures. Model praying scripture by praying the Memory Verse back to God:

Dear God,
I thank You that all of Your promises are "Yes" and "Amen."
Thank You for working through me so that You receive glory.
Help me to learn about Your promises so I can ask for all that You have for me.
I ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

Name _____

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Cross out the word or words that do not belong in these promises. Then, look up the verses and check your answers. Copy the letters after each reference to finish the statement below.

1. God promises to (teach, email) the way we should go. (Psalm 32:8) *f*

2. God (will, will never) leave you. (Hebrews 13:5) *o*

3. God loves you with an (everlasting, occasional) love. (Jeremiah 33:3) *r*

4. God gives (wisdom, good looks) when you ask Him for it. (James 1:5) *u*

5. God will supply all your (wants, needs). (Philippians 4:19) *s*

6. God will restore (health, riches) to you. (Jeremiah 30:17) *t*

7. God gives (good grades, peace) to those who love His law. (Psalm 119:165) *o*

8. God works things for (disaster, good) for those who love Him. (Romans 8:28) *d*

9. Jesus promised (eternal life, punishment) to anyone who believes in Him (John 3:16) *a*

10. Jesus is preparing a (party, place) for His followers. (John 14:3) y

All of God's promises in the Bible are _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, create a poster about God's promises or write a song or poem about them.*

ANSWERS

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All of God's promises in the Bible are f o r u s t o d a y.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, create a poster about God's promises or write a song or poem about them.*

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