

Lesson #13  
Hebrews 6:13-20  
January 21, 2015

Raise your hand if you can tell me what a promise is? What do you say when you make a promise? (*Give the kids a chance to answer.*)

Let's pretend that you want to borrow a toy from your brother so you say, "May I play with your remote control truck?" Then he says, "No, I think you will break it or you won't give it back." Aaargh! You really want to play with that truck, so you make a promise. You tell him, "I promise I will be gentle with your toy and I will give it back to you as soon as I am finished." "You promise?" He asks. "I promise!" You say again. He then hands you the controls and truck and everything is worked out, right?

Well, this story can go in many directions, but let me tell you two possible endings. Let's say you take the truck and play with it very gently and you have lots of fun making it go fast, slow, forwards, backwards, and around in circles. After a while, you give it back to your brother and thank him for letting you play with his special toy. Yay! That's a wonderful ending, right?

Hmm, now here's a different ending: Let's say that you play with the truck very carefully just as you promised, but it turns out you don't know how to use the controls very well. Instead of making the truck back up, you push the wrong button and it goes fast forward! Vroom, vroom! The truck bolts right over the edge of the stairs and tumbles down the long staircase, breaking off one of the wheels on its way down. Oh no! You take the toy back to your brother and explain what happened. You feel terrible about it and you tell him that you are very sorry. No matter how hard you tried to keep your promise, you broke it—even though it was an accident. Thankfully, though your brother is upset at first, he soon forgives you and things are worked out. Whew!

You and I will try and keep our promises, won't we? Sometimes we will succeed and our promises will be kept. Sometimes, though, we may not keep our promises. The same thing goes for people who promise things to you. Sometimes they will keep them and sometimes they will break them (not keep their promises). Broken promises don't feel good, do they?

Today I have some great news to tell you. There is One who always keeps His promises to us. It even says in the Bible in the book of Hebrews that it is impossible for Him to lie. It is impossible for Him to break His word. He is someone you can trust 100%! He is someone who says something and we can believe that it is completely true and that He will make it happen. When He makes a promise, He is really going to do it!

In the book of Hebrews it goes on to say that this promise keeper gives us hope and it greatly encourages us. The hope is that—no matter what happens—He loves us and wants to be with us. He wants to be with YOU! Doesn't that hope feel like a big smile? Do you know who this promise keeper is? It's God! He can never let us down. He has delivered on His greatest promise

of Jesus who has gone before us, died for us and made a way for us to be with God forever. How great is that? He promises that He will never leave us or forsake us.

Our Bible verse for today is Hebrews 6:19 "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Do you know what an anchor is? An anchor is a huge hook that is attached to a great big chain connected to a ship in the water. When the captain wants to stop the ship he commands the anchor to be lowered and it sinks to the bottom of the water, keeping that ship from moving any further. The anchor keeps the ship firm and secure and unable to drift away into the danger of the sea. God's promises anchor our heart and our feelings to a safe place, helping us to not drift deeply into the dangers of fear and sin. Let's thank Him for this hope and His faithfulness to us. He is the only perfect promise keeper.

"Dear God, thank you for keeping your promises. Thank you for keeping us in the palm of your hand. Helps us to be better promise keepers, too. We love you. In Jesus' name. Amen."

**Bible verse: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19**

Grow At Home #13  
Hebrews 6:13-20  
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Today the children learned this God fact:

- God is the perfect promise keeper

**Live It Out:** We all make promises from time to time. Usually we make promises with the intent of keeping them, but sometimes we fall short. Sometimes we forget our promise, or something happens and we are not able to keep our promise, or we change our mind and decide not to do the thing we promised after all! But, there is One who we can trust to always keep His promises to us—God! When the Lord makes a promise, we can count on it.

Today and throughout the week talk to your child about these God promises, or search for others from His Word:

- “Give your burdens to the Lord, and He will care for you...” Psalm 55:22 (NLT)
- “Here is what we can be sure of when we come to God in prayer. If we ask anything in keeping with what He wants, He hears us.” 1 John 5:14 (NIRV)
- “Lord... You have never deserted those who look to You.” Psalm 9:10 (NIRV)

After you read these aloud and explain what they mean to your child, take a minute to thank God for His promises.

**Prayer:** “Thank you, God, for Your promises to us. We can trust You and count on You to always be a promise keeper.”

**Bible Verse:** “So God made His promise and gave His word. These two things can’t change. He couldn’t lie about them.” Hebrews 6:18b NIRV