

# Junior Soldiers

UNIT 15 : LESSON 10



## Promises, Promises

**PURPOSE:** For the children to explore some of the promises that God has made to his people and to understand that we can follow his example by keeping the promises that we make.

God's way is perfect.

All the Lord's promises prove true.

He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

Psalm 18:30

## Consider & Prepare

Read:

Read the verses in the table of God's promises that is in this lesson. Consider how God has kept his promises to you. Think about the promises that you have made to God and to others. Spend some time thanking God for his faithfulness.

This lesson examines some of the promises that God has made. It is a reminder of God's faithfulness throughout history and to us as individuals. The Junior Soldiers are then asked to consider the promises that they have made. Focus on the inspiring example of God's faithfulness and the inspiration that this is for us to lead lives of integrity.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- For option 1: Paper and pens or pencils

For 'The Main Thing'

- Optional: Jesus Storybook Bible
- Print copies of the God's Promises table, cut each set into cards and mix up the order in each set. You will need one set per team (approx. 3-4 children per team)
- Bibles – enough for each child

For 'Prayer Activity'

- Copies of the table containing the Junior Soldier promise – enough for one per child
- Scissors – enough for one pair per child
- Tape

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child

## Connecting In

Activity

Option 1:

Variation of 'two truths and a lie'. Ask each child to make three statements starting with "I promise that I have..." Instruct them to choose two that are true and one that is made up. Give them a minute to think about what they will say and make notes if they would like to (this will allow them to focus on the rest of the game rather than try to remember their own statements). Explain that they can say them in any order. As each child says their statements, the rest of the group must try to guess which one is not true.



## Option 2:

Ask the children to share briefly about a time when someone made a promise to them. What happened? Did that person keep their promise?

## Link

Often people make promises. You might be able to think of some promises you have made. You might not have used the words 'I promise', but when you say you will do something, people should be able to trust you to do it. Promises can be big or little. Sometimes promises are kept. Sometimes they are broken. God has also made many promises. Today we are going to explore some of God's promises.

# The Main Thing

Let's start by looking at a promise that God made to Abram (whose name was later changed to Abraham).

Optional: In the Jesus Storybook Bible, read the story of Abraham and God's promise to make his descendants as numerous as the stars

Ask the children to look up and read Genesis 15:1-5

God promised to make Abram's descendants as numerous as the stars.

Ask the children to look up and read Genesis 26:1-4

God repeated this promise to Moses, the great-great-great-great grandson of Abraham.

Ask the children to look up Deuteronomy 1:10 -11

Many years later, Moses spoke to the people of Israel and said...

Read Deuteronomy 1:10 -11

God kept his promise. He did what he said he would do. Sometimes we describe this as faithfulness.

Let's look at some more of God's promises.

Divide the children into teams and give each team a set of cards (ensure the order of the cards is mixed up).

Explain that the cards include Bible verses and promises.

The teams must race to match the verses with the promises.



Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:33  
God will give us what we need

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28  
God will give us rest

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20  
God will always be with us

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." Revelation 21:3-4  
God will put an end to sadness and suffering

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. 1 Corinthians 10:13  
God will help us when we are tempted

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. James 1:5  
God will give us wisdom

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:37  
God will forgive us

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16  
God gives us eternal life

He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Isaiah 40:29  
God gives us strength

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. John 14:27  
God gives us peace

When all the teams have finished, ask the children

- Which of these promises is most important to you? Why?
- How could you use one of these promises to encourage someone this week?

Link...

Romans 15:4 says, "Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures gives us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled."

God always keeps his promises. When he says he will do something we can trust him completely. I wonder what promises you have made?

## Tying In

Explain to the children that you are going to read out some promises that are often made. If they have made the promise then they must run to the right side of the room. If they have not made the promise then they can run to the left side of the room. Remind the children that they might not have actually said the words, 'I promise' but it is still very important to do what we say we will do.



- Clean your room
- Walk the dog
- Be someone's best friend forever
- Wash the dishes
- Finish your homework
- Return something that you have borrowed
- Pray
- Read your Bible
- Be clean in thought, word and deed
- Not to use anything that may may injure your body or your mind

Link...

God's promises can always be trusted. They are solid and we can rely on them. When people, including us, make promises they can sometimes be broken. We can ask God to forgive us, to help us to be more trustworthy and to be more like him.

## Memory Verse

God's way is perfect.

All the Lord's promises prove true.

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Play a game of 'Whispers'

Ask the children to sit in a circle. Whisper the first line of the memory verse to one child. They must then whisper it to the next child, who will whisper it to the next child and so on, around the circle. When the message reaches the last child, they can say it out loud. Compare to the original line. Ask all the children to say that line together.

Repeat with each line of the verse.

Ask the children to put all the lines together and repeat three times.



## Prayer Time

Give each child a copy of the table containing the Junior Soldier promise. Ask the children to cut each line into a strip then use them to create a prayer chain.

Pray, Dear Jesus, please help us to keep our promises.

Invite the children to each choose one line from the promise that they would like God to help them with this week and read it out loud.

Amen

Ask the children to take home their prayer chains to use for Home and Beyond

## Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.



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# God's Promise

<p>Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:33</p>	<p>God will give us rest</p>
<p>Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28</p>	<p>God will always be with us</p>
<p>Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20</p>	<p>God will always be with us</p>
<p>He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." Revelation 21:3-4</p>	<p>One day, God will put an end to sadness and suffering</p>
<p>The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. 1 Corinthians 10:13</p>	<p>God will help us when we are tempted</p>
<p>If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. James 1:5</p>	<p>God will give us wisdom</p>



<p>"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:37</p>	<p>God will forgive us</p>
<p>"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16</p>	<p>God gives us eternal life</p>
<p>He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Isaiah 40:29</p>	<p>God gives us strength</p>
<p>"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. John 14:27</p>	<p>God gives us peace</p>



# Prayer Chain

I know that Jesus is my Saviour from sin

I have asked him to forgive my sins

And I will trust him to keep me good

By his help, I will be his loving and obedient child

And will help others to follow him

I promise to pray,

To read my Bible

And to lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed

I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind

Including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco



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