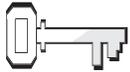


Back to the Future



References

Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; Isaiah 53; Mark 15:22-39; Acts 1:9-11; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 231-242, 469, 470, 627, 628, 830, 831



Memory Verse

"You know . . . that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled" (Joshua 23:14, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that fulfillment of Bible prophecy helps us know God keeps His promises.
Feel confident in God's Word, believing that He keeps His word.
Respond by learning more about God's promises and claiming them.



The Message

I know God keeps His promises, because Bible prophecies come true.

Monthly Theme

God keeps His promises.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The Old Testament records prophecies of Jesus' birth and life on earth. The New Testament records their fulfillment. For example, Micah 5:2 foretells Jesus' birthplace, and Matthew 2:1 records the fulfillment. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 predicts His life as the suffering servant of God and humanity, and the four Gospels faithfully record the fulfillment. This fulfillment brings the assurance that God keeps His word.

This is a lesson about grace.

Because so many promises in Scripture describe events that have come to pass, we can have the assurance that God keeps His word. When He says Jesus will come again, we can believe it because of the promises fulfilled in the past.

Teacher Enrichment

To the travelers on the road to Emmaus, "Christ expounded in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Had He first made Himself known to them, their hearts would have been satisfied. In the fullness of their joy they would have hungered for nothing more. But it was necessary for them to understand the witness borne to Him by the types and prophecies of the Old Testament. Upon these their faith must be established" (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 796-799).

"It is the voice of Christ that speaks through patriarchs and prophets, from the days of Adam even to the closing scenes of time. The Savior is revealed in the Old Testament as clearly as in the New. . . . The miracles of Christ are a proof of His divinity; but a stronger proof that He is the world's Redeemer is found in comparing the prophecies of the Old Testament with the history of the New" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 799).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

Program Overview

| Lesson Section | Minutes | Activities | Materials Needed |
|------------------------------------|----------|--|--|
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>God Keeps His Promises!</i> B. <i>Promises, Promises</i> C. <i>Weather Forecasts</i> | blank paper, pencils, markers, crayons, Bibles blank cards, pencils and markers, Bibles clipping of a newspaper weather forecast |
| Any Time Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | Fellowship Songbooks Mission Offering Prayer | none <i>Sing for Joy, The SDA Hymnal Children's Mission</i> piece of pottery from last week with a sign reading "God is faithful" none |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study | pictures of Baby Jesus, Jesus on the cross, the second coming of Jesus three boxes, three labels, Bible, miscellaneous items to place in two boxes (see activity) Bibles, picture of Daniel 2 image (see p. 97), long piece of paper for a time line, paper, pencils |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Sharing Time</i> | Bibles |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Prophecy Picture Book</i> | paper, crayons, markers, pencils; or pictures from Readiness A, scissors, glue |

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- blank paper
- pencils, markers, crayons
- Bibles

A. God Keeps His Promises!

Have the children divide a paper into thirds and draw the following three pictures: Jesus as a baby, Jesus on the cross, and the second coming of Jesus. (You may want to provide sample pictures.) Ask them to title the page "GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!" These pictures may be used for "Experiencing the Story" and for "Sharing the Lesson."

Debriefing

Say: **These pictures may be used during the rest of today's lesson about Bible prophecy. What is prophecy?** (Telling what will happen before it happens.) **How would you feel about someone who says something will happen, and it does—over and over?** (safe, trusting, frightened, etc.) **In the Bible God tells us what will happen in the future. When you read or hear something that God says, what can you know for sure? Let's look in Joshua 23:14.** Read the memory verse portion aloud. **Our message today repeats the answer we just found in the Bible.**



I KNOW GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES, BECAUSE BIBLE PROPHECIES COME TRUE.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- blank cards
- pencils and markers
- Bibles

B. Promises, Promises

Give the children blank cards and ask them to draw pictures of something they promise to do this week to make someone happy.

Debriefing

Ask: **Do you feel sure that you will keep your promise?** (maybe, yes, no) **Do you always keep your promises?** (I try, no) **How do you feel when people do not keep their promise to you?** (sad, disappointed, etc.) **Let's read Joshua 23:14 to find out who always keeps His promises.** Read the memory verse portion aloud. **Today we will discover why we can trust those promises. And today's message is:**



I KNOW GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES, BECAUSE BIBLE PROPHECIES COME TRUE.

Say that with me.

C. Weather Forecasts

Show the children the newspaper clipping. Ask them if they know the meaning of *forecast*. Do they know the weather forecast for today? Let them tell and discuss it.

Debriefing

Say: **What are weather forecasters trying to do?** (make prophecies about the weather, tell what will happen before it happens) **Do their forecasts always come true?** (no) **What about God’s prophecies? Do you think they always come true?** (yes) **Let’s read Joshua 23:14.** Read the memory verse portion. **Today we will discover why we can trust those promises. Our message is:**

You Need:

- newspaper clipping of a weather forecast



I KNOW GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES, BECAUSE BIBLE PROPHECIES COME TRUE.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any Time



Fellowship

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week’s lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- “Standing on the Promises” (*The SDA Hymnal*, no. 518)
- “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 83)
- “Jesus Keeps His Promises” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 41)
- “He’s Able” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 40)



Mission

Use a story from *Children’s Mission*.



Offering

Say: **God does what He promises. He is faithful. One way we can be faithful is to give money to help His work in this world.**

You Need:

- piece of pottery from last week with a sign reading “God is faithful”



Prayer

Ask for prayer requests. Remind the children that God promises to be with them no matter what happens—and He keeps all His promises. Invite them to close their eyes and fold their hands as you sing your prayer together. Suggested prayers to sing: “The Lord’s Prayer” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 99) or “Thank You, Jesus” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 101).

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- pictures from Readiness A or pictures of Baby Jesus, Jesus on the cross, and Jesus' second coming

Experiencing the Story

Say: **In today's story you will hear the words *promise, promises, or promised*.** Then share the following and have the children practice their responses before you read the story.

| When you say: | They do: |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| promise, | Put index finger to lips, then move |
| promises, | lips, then move |
| promised | outward in an arc. |

Read or tell the story.

Can you remember a time someone broke a **promise** [touch lips] to you? [Allow responses.] Human beings often break **promises**. [Touch lips.] But God never breaks His **promises**. [Touch lips.] Whatever He says, He will do. He has always been like that, and He always will be.

God **promised** [touch lips] the Jews a king who would save them and bring them peace (Micah 5:1-5). They were told where He would be born. Where was that? [Children respond, "Bethlehem."] This **promise** [touch lips] was made 700 years before it actually happened.

Then, 700 years later, a baby was born. [Show picture of Baby Jesus.] Guess where. [Children respond, "In Bethlehem."] The Baby's name was "Immanuel," which means "God with us." And He would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:20-23). God keeps His **promises!** [Touch lips.]

Micah the prophet said that the **promised** [touch lips] Ruler would "shepherd His flock." Sure enough, when Jesus grew up, He called Himself the "Good Shepherd" who lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:14, 15). God keeps His **promises!** [Touch lips.]

And Jesus did lay down His life for the sins of everyone in the world (1 Corinthians 15:3). [Show picture of Jesus on cross.] God had **promised** [touch lips] through the prophets that Jesus would suffer and die to save His people from their sins (see Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53; etc.). Isaiah said, "He was . . . a man of suffering. . . . He was crushed for our iniquities; . . . by his wounds we are healed. . . . The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. . . . For he bore the sin of many" (Isaiah 53:3-12, NIV). Yes, Jesus really did die to save you and me from our sins. God keeps His **promises!** [Touch lips.]

One Sabbath, after Jesus had been living here on earth and was grown up, it was His turn to read from the Bible of that time—the scrolls. Jesus read a **promise** [touch lips] from Isaiah to the congregation about God's anointing someone to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and to free prisoners from darkness (Isaiah 61:1). Everyone listened closely. Then Jesus rolled the scroll back up and handed it to the attendant. He sat down for the discussion part of the service and said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21, NIV). He was clearly saying, "I am the person you were **promised.**" [touch lips] This **promise** [touch lips] has come true!

In our time—the time of the end—we are waiting for the rest of God's **promises** [touch lips] to happen. One of these **promises** [touch lips] was given by angels just after Jesus went back to heaven. Do you remember it? [Show picture of Jesus' second coming.] It was the **promise** [touch lips] that "this same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11, NIV). Jesus Himself said, "I will come back and take you to be

with me that you also may be where I am” (John 14:3, NIV).

All the other **promises** of God [*touch lips*] in the Bible came true. So we can believe this **promise** [*touch lips*] too—for God keeps all His **promises!** [*Touch lips.*]

Debriefing

Ask: **What prophecies about Jesus have already been fulfilled?** (He will be born in Bethlehem; He will die to save us; He will suffer for our sins; etc.) **Which prophecy has not yet been fulfilled?** (He will come again.)

After hearing our lesson story, what do you know about God? (I can depend on Him; He keeps all His promises.) **What is a good way to help you remember that God keeps His promises?** (To learn about His prophecies and how they came true.)

Remember today’s message?



I KNOW GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES, BECAUSE BIBLE PROPHECIES COME TRUE.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

In advance, write “God Box” on one label and put a Bible inside that box. Place five or six miscellaneous items in the other two boxes. On a label for each of the other two boxes,

list what is in each box. Switch the two labels and attach each to the wrong box.

With the children, open the boxes with the labels switched, pointing out that the labels are not true. Take the Bible out of the God Box and say that God’s Word is always true. He never makes mistakes. He keeps His promises.

You Need:

- three boxes
- three labels
- Bible
- miscellaneous common items to place in two boxes

Have the children find and read the memory verse (Joshua 23:14) from their Bibles as you read from the Bible in the God Box. Teach the memory verse one phrase at a time. Have the children repeat it until it becomes familiar.

Bible Study

In advance, copy the following time line on a long piece of paper (shelf paper works well).

600 B.C. __ 500 B.C. __ 400 B.C. __ 300 B.C. __
200 B.C. __ 100 B.C. __ Jesus __ A.D. 100 __ A.D.
200 __ A.D. 300 __ A.D. 400 __ A.D. 500

Have the class take turns reading the verses of Daniel 2:31-35. Say: **God told Daniel this prophecy more than 500 years before Jesus was born.** Show the picture of the image.

We are going to mark on our time line when this prophecy came true.

Help the children mark the following dates on the time line.

Babylon fell, Medo-Persia came to rule—539 B.C.

Medo-Persia fell to Greece (Alexander the Great)—331 B.C.

Greece fell to Rome—168 B.C.

Roman rule ended/divided kingdoms begin—A.D. 476

God’s kingdom set up—?

Debriefing

Say: **The last part of the prophecy is yet to come true. Let’s write the words of Daniel 2:44 on a piece of paper to put in our promise box or book.** (Let the students know they can take their box or book home today.)

Since the rest of Daniel’s prophecy happened just as God said it would, do you think we can trust that the last part will also come true? (yes) **Let’s remember today’s message:**



I KNOW GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES, BECAUSE BIBLE PROPHECIES COME TRUE.

You Need:

- Bibles
- picture of Daniel 2 image (see p. 97)
- long piece of paper for a time line
- paper
- pencils

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:
• Bibles

Sharing Time

Say: **Did you wake up this morning? Are you breathing? Did you have breakfast this morning or supper last night? God has promised to supply all our needs. Let's read about that in Philippians 4:19.** Allow time.

Ask: **What other promises has God made to you that He has kept?** Allow time for the children to tell any personal experiences that answer this question in the following manner: 1. Ask the children to give the main idea of one of God's Bible promises. 2. Then ask them to tell an experience of how God kept that promise in their lives. Example promises:

Unlimited blessings
Mark 9:23

Answers to prayer
Mark 11:24

Rewarding of our faith
Luke 17:6

Food
Psalm 136:25

Care
Psalm 91:11

Possibilities
Mark 9:23

Spiritual food and drink
John 6:35

Spiritual light
John 12:46

Power for service
John 14:12

Salvation
Romans 1:16

Debriefing

Ask: **How does telling about how God has helped you in the past keep you from worrying about tomorrow?** (If I remember how God kept His promises before, I won't worry about what I don't know.)

What do Bible prophecies tell you about our faithful God? (His prophecies always come true, so I can trust anything else He says He will do.) **Let's say our message again:**



I KNOW GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES, BECAUSE BIBLE PROPHECIES COME TRUE.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Prophecy Picture Book

Ask: **Whom do you know who might trust God more if they knew about how God's prophecies came true?** Allow time. **You can tell them that there are many incidents in the Bible in which God said things would happen and then later they did.** Have the children make a booklet to share with such a person.

If the children drew pictures for Readiness A, have them cut them apart and glue them in the appropriate place in their booklet.

Fold four sheets of paper in half to make two separate pages per sheet. Have the children do the following: Write portions of Micah 5:2 on one page and glue or draw a picture of Baby Jesus on the page across from the text. On the next page, write Isaiah 53:12, last part, and opposite it glue or draw a picture of Jesus

on the cross. Write Acts 1:11 on the next page and glue or draw a picture of Jesus coming in the clouds. On the last page have them write a promise of their choice from their promise box or book and draw a picture to illustrate it.

Debriefing

Have the children tell the class with whom they hope to share their promise booklet. Ask: **Because of our lesson today, how sure are you that you can really trust God's promises?** (very, very sure) **Let's say our message one more time:**



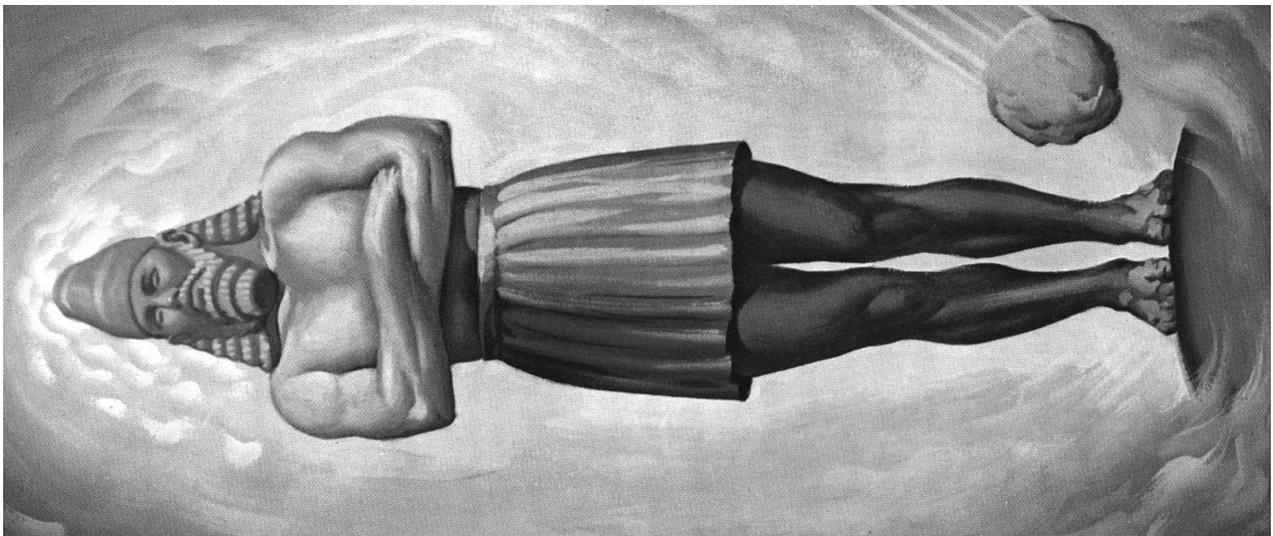
I KNOW GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES, BECAUSE BIBLE PROPHECIES COME TRUE.

Closing

After prayer, sing "In His Time" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 42).

You Need:

- paper
- crayons, markers, pencils or
- pictures from Readiness A
- scissors
- glue



Use this picture with Bible Study activity.

Back to the Future

References

Micah 5:2;
Matthew 2:1;
Isaiah 53; Mark
15:22-39; Acts
1:9-11; *The Desire
of Ages*, pp.
231-242, 469,
470, 627, 628,
830, 831

Memory Verse

"You know . . . that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled" (Joshua 23:14, NIV).

The Message

I know God keeps His promises, because Bible prophecies come true.

Carlos knew how to ride a bicycle, but his little sister Sarita did not. Sarita wished that she could learn. "Carlos, would you teach me to ride a bicycle?" Sarita begged.

"I'll start teaching you tomorrow after school," Carlos promised. "I want to ride to Juan's house right now."

The next day after school Carlos got out his bicycle. Sarita came running to him. But Carlos said, "I'll see you later, Sarita. Juan has asked me to play ball with him." Sarita started to cry and said, "But you promised to teach me after school today."

Carlos answered, "I don't want to do it today. Juan is waiting for me." And he rode away.

Did Carlos keep his promise?

God never breaks His promises. He has always done what He promised, and He always will.

God promised the Jews a king who would save them and bring them peace (Micah 5:1-5). They were told where He would be born: Out of Bethlehem will come "one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2, NIV).

Seven hundred years later a baby was born in Bethlehem. This Baby's birth was announced by angels from heaven! He was Emmanuel, which means "God with us." And He would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:20-23). God keeps His promises!

Micah the prophet said that the promised Ruler would "shepherd his flock." His greatness would "reach to the ends of the earth" (Micah 5:4, NIV). That was an exciting promise, because the Jews

had been treated like servants for many years.

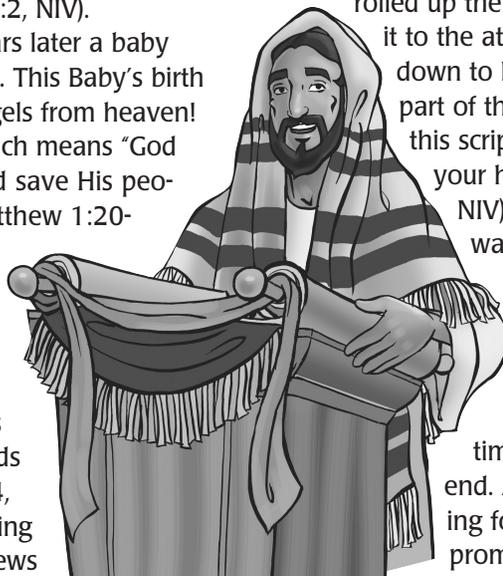
Sure enough, when Jesus grew up He called Himself the "Good Shepherd" who lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:14, 15). God keeps His promises!

And Jesus did lay down His life for the sins of everyone in the world (1 Corinthians 15:3). God promised more about Jesus through the prophets. Jesus would suffer and die to save His people from their sins (Isaiah 53:5, 12). Isaiah also wrote that Jesus was familiar with suffering. "He was crushed for our iniquities; . . . by his wounds we are healed. . . . The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. . . . For he bore the sin of many" (Isaiah 53:3-12, NIV). Yes, Jesus really did die to save you and me. God keeps His promises!

One Sabbath after Jesus had been living here on earth and was grown up, He was in the synagogue. He was invited to read from the Bible of that time—the scrolls. Jesus read about a promise from Isaiah. God would anoint someone to preach good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and release prisoners from darkness (Isaiah 61:1). Everyone listened closely. And then Jesus

rolled up the scroll and handed it to the attendant. He sat down to lead the discussion part of the service. "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21, NIV), He announced. He was clearly saying, "I am the person you were promised. This promise has come true!"

Now it's our time—the time of the end. And we are waiting for the last of God's promises to be fulfilled—



the promise given by angels just after Jesus went back to heaven. Do you remember it? “This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11, NIV). Jesus Himself said, “I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” (John 14:3, NIV).

All the other Bible promises of God have come true. And this one will too. We can believe this promise—for God keeps all His promises! Jesus will come again!

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Read and discuss your lesson story with your family.
- Take a Sabbath walk together. Find a strong rock and bring it home. Read your memory verse in Joshua 23:14. Copy it on your strong rock to remind you of the strength of God’s promises. Then thank Him for them.

Sunday

- How has God promised to let us know His plans? Read and discuss Amos 3:7 for family worship. Thank God for His plan for us.
- Attach your memory verse to the cover of the promise book or the promise box that you made in Sabbath School. Point to it and read your memory verse with expression. Then read a promise from the book or box.

Monday

- Find a twig or small branch. Break it, then tape the broken pieces together. Was it easy to break? Was it easy to repair? Is the repaired twig as strong as before? This twig is like promises. If they are broken, their strength is gone, and they can’t ever be like new.
- Read and discuss together Genesis 8:18-9:1, 8-17. What promise did God make to Noah and to us as well? Has He kept it?
- Say your memory verse; then thank God for Bible promises.

Tuesday

- For family worship, read and discuss Daniel 2:31-45. Make the image in the king’s dream out of clay or draw one and color the different parts the right color. What are the materials in the image? Show the image to your family and explain the dream to them.

- Say your memory verse together.
- Sing “Soon and Very Soon” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 89). Thank Jesus for the promise of His coming.

Wednesday

- Today would be a good day to share with someone the “Prophecy Picture Book” that you made in Sabbath School. If you are nervous about sharing, read God’s promise in Matthew 28:18-20.
- Say your memory verse without help.
- Sing “Anywhere With Jesus” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 45) before prayer. Ask Jesus to be with you as you share your book.

Thursday

- Something exciting is going to happen soon. With your family, read about it in Revelation 22:12.
- Read John 14:1-3 together. What is the promise? Is it for us?
- Where would you like to live in heaven? Draw a plan of your home there. Ask your family what they think their home in heaven will be like.
- Say your memory verse together. Sing “Jesus Keeps His Promises” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 41). Then thank Him for the home He is preparing for you.

Friday

- For sundown worship, celebrate the prophecies that came true when Jesus was born. Read aloud Micah 5:2-5 and Matthew 2:1. How many years before Jesus’ birth did God tell His people exactly where Jesus would be born? What other prophecies have come true?
- Sing this song to the tune of “Happy Birthday”: Dear God, we love You. / Your prophecies came true. / When Jesus was born / On that wonderful morn’.
- End the celebration with a prayer of thanks to God for keeping all His promises.