



Take Another Look ... At the Promises of God By Shari Miller

Leader's notes and Bible passages for this study available online or by calling the LWML office. If time is short, please omit the sections marked "If Time Permits." These sections could be done in private.

God gives many promises throughout His Word from Genesis to Revelation. **2 Timothy 3:16a** reminds us that *All Scripture is breathed out by God*. Scripture contains the promises of God and all His promises are true. **Psalm 86:15** says that our God is *merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness*. We know that our God is faithful to all the promises He makes. Jesus perfectly fulfilled all of the Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament, and God will be faithful to fulfill all the promises to His people into the future. During this study of God's Word, we will take another look at some of these promises of God.

Identify two important promises that you have made in your life. Have they been difficult or easy to keep? Why? Share with a partner or your small group.

Opening Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, You are a God of promises. We thank You for preserving us and keeping Your promises to us daily. We are especially thankful that You saw our need for a Savior and, in Him, Your promises of redemption, salvation, and eternal life have been fulfilled. We thank You for the Holy Spirit who works through Your Word, Holy Baptism, and the Lord's Supper to call, gather, enlighten, sanctify and keep us in the one true faith. Please be with us in our study of Your Word today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Promise of Grace

Read **Genesis 3:15**. These words were spoken by God to the serpent in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve's fall into sin. It speaks of conflict between enemies. Who is the conflict between? _____

Take another look: This verse is often called the "protevangelium," or the first promise of the Gospel. How can conflict result in promise? What is God actually promising in these words? Identify God's grace in this promise. _____

This promise in Genesis reveals God's plan for the salvation of mankind. The devil (serpent) would ... bruise the heel ... of the descendant of Adam, but that same descendant would ... bruise the head ... of the devil, thus annihilating him. How was this promise fulfilled? See **Galatians 4:4-5**; **John 3:16**; and **Romans 5:6-11**.

If Time Permits

Read **Genesis 3:21-24**. Take another look and find God's grace in these passages.

Faith Talk

Share with a partner or in a small group what Jesus' perfect life, suffering, death, and resurrection mean for your life here on earth each day.

Promise of Restoration

Jeremiah has sometimes been called "The Wailing Prophet." He was sent to preach to the people of Judah a message of judgment from God, exile to Babylon, and the destruction of Jerusalem. God, speaking through Jeremiah, pleaded with His people to repent and to return to God's Word. Jeremiah's message was often not a very popular one with the people of God, and they refused to listen to his warnings. What judgment of God is Jeremiah prophesying in **Jeremiah 25:8-11**? _____

The Babylonian captivity was a 70-year exile. It would be long and many would die while in captivity. However, Jeremiah offers the people God's own promise in **Jeremiah 32:36-44**. God promises restoration to His exiled people. Identify the blessings that they would experience after their exile. _____

Now, take another look: Even though exile would normally not be considered a positive situation, what were God's instructions for His people during exile in **Jeremiah 29:4-7**? What blessings could this long exile have for the people of God? _____

Read Jesus' words in **Acts 1:8**. How does God restore His people today? _____

What restoration "means of grace" does the Holy Spirit use to sanctify and keep us in the faith? See **Colossians 3:16**; **Romans 6:4**; and **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**.

Faith Talk

Think of a relationship that needs restoration in your life. What are some concrete actions or words that you can use to help accomplish restoration of that splintered relationship? Share with a partner or in a small group.

Promise of The Child

God's promise made in **Genesis 3:15** is fulfilled! Read **Luke 1:26-27, 30-33**.

This promise to the young unwed Mary was truly an amazing one! She had found favor with God and was to be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. However, what were some of the possible consequences that accompanied this promise? See **Matthew 1:18-23**. _____

Faith Talk

Mary's response to the angel's announcement in **Luke 1:38** is simply and profoundly, "*Behold, I am the servant of*

the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." How would you have responded? Why? _____

Promise of Hope

Read the following passages and identify the promises in each one.

Jeremiah 29:11 (spoken to the Israelites in exile) _____

Romans 5:1-5 _____

Romans 6:23 _____

1 Peter 1:6-9 _____

Take another look: According to the above promises, how would you describe the life of a Christian? Do the blessings outweigh the trials and sufferings? Why? _____

Read **Hebrews 10:23** and **Revelation 22:20**. What promise do we look forward to as believers in Christ? _____

Faith Talk

How does living with the hope of eternal life in Christ shape your daily actions and attitudes? Share with a partner or in a small group.

Faith Walk

1. Each day thank your faithful God for fulfilling all His promises to you in Christ Jesus.
2. Participate daily in the study of God's Word.
3. Search the Bible for God's many promises. Make a top ten list of your personal favorites.
4. Keep a "Promise Journal" and note how God keeps His promises to you every day.
5. By the power of the Spirit, share with at least one person the promise of the hope that you have in Christ Jesus.

Closing

Read together the words of **2 Corinthians 1:20**:

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

Pray Together

Dear Lord, You have given us Your Word with many promises. We thank You that the greatest promise You made and fulfilled was sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to live a perfect life, suffer, and die for the sins of all mankind. Because He lives, we too will live with You forever in the glories of heaven. Help us to live lives that reflect the hope and confidence that we have in You. Be with us, Holy Spirit, as we witness to those around us of the Good News of salvation. You are faithful, Lord, and we believe You hear and answer our prayer, just as You have promised. We pray in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

Sing together "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" (*LSB* #729; *LW* #408; *TLH* #428).

All references taken from the ESV

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