

A Special Promise

Lesson Focus

Our God is a God who always keeps His promises. Jesus was promised long before He came in the flesh. By examining the promise in Isaiah, we can teach our children about a God who always honors His promises. Because our God does so, we can count on His promise of salvation through Jesus, His Son.

Key Passage(s)

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the LORD Almighty will guarantee this!

– *Isaiah 9:6-7, NLT*

For the Parent

Begin with a discussion of promises. Point out what a promise represents: giving your word you are going to do something. The key point here is a promise happens before the doing, not after. Saying you did something is not a promise. Saying you will do something is. Then discuss how important it is to keep our promises. Explain if we say we're going to do something, it is important we try our best to complete that promise.

This should lead into how we sometimes are unable to keep a promise. Come up with some examples of when we can't meet our promises. Benign examples work best like a promise to go to the beach on Saturday because the weatherman said it was going to be sunny, only to wake up to rain, and lots of it. Discuss a bit why we might not be able to keep a promise.

Then talk about how God always keeps His promises. Explain we know He does because the Bible gives us His track record. Read the verses from Isaiah and talk about how they point to Jesus. Reveal how God's consistent example of honoring promises is why we can take Jesus at His word. Point out this is the reason we know we can believe in Jesus' promise to save us.

For the Child

A promise is when we say we're going to do something. We don't have to always say the words "I promise," in order to make a promise. Simply saying we're going to do something is good enough. Therefore, we should try and complete anything we say we're going to do. We should always honor our promises.

However, there are times when we can't. For instance, at lunch we might have promised to go over to a friend's house after we've done our homework. We get home and begin

working on our homework. We work hard but by the time we're done, it's too late to go over. While we tried our best, we couldn't honor the promise.

That's the big difference between God and people. God is always capable of completing His promises. Even better than that, not only can He but He always does. If God promises He's going to do something, we can count that He will. In Isaiah God promised to send Jesus. While Jesus' name isn't mentioned specifically, there is no doubt the promise refers to Him. And God did send Jesus just like He promised. That's why when Jesus promises He can forgive us and we will live with Him forever we can believe Him. Our God doesn't break promises. Therefore, we can trust Him when He says He's going to do something. He's promised to save us. We can count on it.

Reinforcement

Make a small promise to your child, something you'll be able to complete in the coming week. Perhaps it'll be to take your child out to play catch or maybe to get some ice cream. Or it could be to read with your child before bed. Also ask your child to promise something that your child is likely to meet in the next seven days. Hold each other accountable until each promise is met. When a promise is completed, discuss what it means to complete that promise and refer back to the promise God made in Isaiah.