

## Unit 4 | Session 4

# GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

## Isaiah 9

When sin entered the world after Adam and Eve rebelled, God made an important promise. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve's family. As years passed, God's people waited for Him to keep His promise. God sometimes spoke to His people through prophets and prophetesses, men and women who received a message from God and then told it to the people.

The prophet Isaiah shared a message about God's promise to send a Rescuer. The Rescuer would be called the Messiah, which means "anointed one" or "chosen one." This is what Isaiah wrote:

"The people are living in darkness now, but they will see a great light. A light will shine on them. God will grow the nation and give the people joy. People will rejoice like they do at harvest time or after a war is won.

"This is how God will keep His promise: A child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

All these names tell us who Jesus is and the great things He would do. Jesus was coming to earth to help people and protect people. Jesus would be a king who cares

about His people, and He would bring peace to the whole world.

Isaiah also said, "His kingdom will be full of His power and peace. The kingdom will grow, and He will reign on the throne as the King. He will be a good, fair, and loving King who reigns forever."

Christ Connection: God keeps His promises. He remembered His promise to send a Rescuer and sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus grew up and provided salvation for sinners by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.



## 1 WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

- **Do you know if there is a story behind your name? Was it a family member's name or a name from a book?**

## 2 SESSION STARTER

### ☐ OPTION 1: THE NAME GAME

» **supplies:** index cards, purple and green markers

Use a purple marker to write the following nicknames on separate index cards: Annie Oakley, The People's Champion, Ol' Blue Eyes, Ice Commander, Honest Abe, The Father of His Country, Lady Lindy, Duke, The King of Rock 'n' Roll, the Godfather of Soul.

Then use a green marker to write these names on separate cards: Phoebe Ann Mosey, Muhammad Ali, Frank Sinatra, Neil Armstrong, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Amelia Earhart, Edward Kennedy Ellington, Elvis Presley, James Brown. Make two sets of each group of cards. You may also include names and nicknames of your choice.

Form two teams. Give each team a set of cards. Challenge each team to match each green name card to a purple nickname card. The team to correctly pair the most cards wins.

- **Do you have any nicknames?**
- **What might a name tell us about a person?**

### ☐ OPTION 2: SHARE THE STORY



» **supplies:** paper, pencils

Form groups of four to eight kids, and instruct each group to sit in a circle. Distribute paper and pencils to the kids.

Explain that kids will have 30 seconds to write the first sentence that they think of to start a story. After 30 seconds, they will pass their papers to the kids on their right. They will have 30 seconds to add on to the story that is now in front of them.

Continue around the circle until everyone in the group has added a sentence to each story. Then encourage kids to take turns reading the stories aloud to their groups.

- **Was the story you ended up with made-up or true? How do you know?**



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear a story of the greatest way God keeps His promises. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

#### Read from Isaiah 9.

##### •What does this story teach us about God?

**God keeps His promises.** God made lots of promises to us in the Bible. For instance, He promised to be loving, just, and faithful. God proved He is loving by promising to send a Rescuer when Adam and Eve sinned. He proved He is just when He punished sin and required a sacrifice on our behalf. He proved He is faithful when He kept His promise spoken through Isaiah by sending Jesus 700 years later.

##### •How did God keep the promises He made in Isaiah?

In Isaiah 9:1, God promised that Galilee would be filled with glory. In Luke 2, Luke told us that Jesus' home was in the town of Nazareth in the area of Galilee. Matthew explained in Matthew 2 that Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt when Jesus was born. Just like we have seen how God safely brought the Israelites out of Egypt, He brought Jesus safely out of Egypt and guided Him to Galilee. **Through Jesus, God shows us that He always keeps His promises,** big or small.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

---

### CHRIST CONNECTION

God keeps His promises. He remembered His promise to send a Rescuer and sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus grew up and provided salvation for sinners by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 2 MISSIONS MOMENT

Explain that God is faithful to keep all His promises. He sent Jesus and Jesus called all of us to share the gospel with the world. If you're a kid whose parents are called to be missionaries, you get to be a part of what they do. The McDonalds' kids, for instance, are looking forward to going on trips with their parents to some of the villages in Tanzania. They can work alongside their parents, helping people and telling them about Jesus. Ask a volunteer to pray for the McDonalds and missionary families your church supports

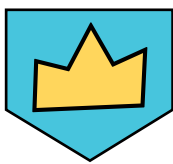
### 3 PRAY

God, You keep Your promises no matter how big or small. Thank You for faithfully loving us. Help us tell others how You keep Your promises so more people can come to know You. Amen.

## THE GOSPEL

### GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



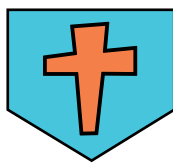
#### GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



#### WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



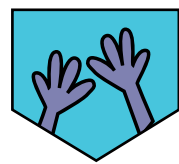
#### GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



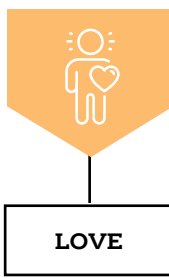
#### JESUS GIVES.

Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



#### WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### 1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- How should you react if someone breaks a promise to you?
- How do you feel knowing that God is always faithful?

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Isaiah 9. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 9:2. Remind preteens that when the prophet Isaiah told of the Messiah who would come and rescue God's people, he said "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." The Old Testament tells about the Israelites' being invaded by their enemies. It was a dark time for them, but they had hope. Light in the darkness reminds us of hope. By sending Jesus, God kept His promise to send a Savior. Jesus brings hope into a world invaded by sin. God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 9:2 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

#### 1. What do Jesus' names tell us about Him?

Help kids recall the names in Isaiah 9: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. These names tell us who Jesus is and the great things He would do. Jesus would be a king who cares about His people. He would bring peace to the whole world.  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 16:33.)

#### 2. Why should we tell others how God kept His promise by sending Jesus?

Remind kids that sin separates us from God. Guide kids to consider how the gospel frees us from the guilt of sin. Encourage kids to think of how the gospel affects those around us, as well.  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 6:23.)

#### 3. When can we tell others about God's faithfulness?

Encourage kids to think of times throughout the day that they experience God's faithfulness. Invite kids to think of major promises like those in the Bible that they can share with others. Remind kids that telling others about God's faithfulness pleases God and brings honor to Him.  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 63:4-5.)

---

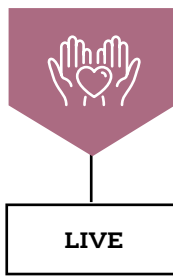
### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

---

Does God keep His promises?

Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

---



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### 1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Numbers 23:19. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Remind kids that through Moses' life and Isaiah's prophecy, we see that God keeps all of His promises. Our key passage helps us remember God's faithfulness.

Distribute index cards and crayons or markers to all the kids. Guide them to write the key passage from memory. Encourage kids to decorate their cards and think of who to give them to this week.

### 2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for always keeping His promises. Ask God to remind kids of all He has done and help them trust His perfect timing.

---

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

---

### SKILLS TO SHARE

Tell kids that they and their families can be on mission wherever God calls them. People around the world and right here in our community need Jesus. The McDonalds are missionaries who use their training as medical workers to help people and find opportunities to tell them about Jesus. Ask if kids can think of some ways their families could help people and tell them about Jesus.

Provide paper, pencils, and crayons and ask kids to think of at least one way that they could work with their families to help people and tell them who Jesus is. Lead them to make a drawing that shows their idea.

Allow the kids to share their drawings with the group. Brainstorm ways kids can show love through serving others, and encourage the kids to help others this week.