

God's Promises

Part 1

“I will never leave you...”

Hebrew 13:5; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Matthew 28:16-20

To understand that God promises he will never leave us. Holy Spirit is God with us, when we invite Holy Spirit to live inside us, he stays with us.

Worship

Choose from these ideas:

- Use the theme song for this series – “Yes and Amen” by The Housefires
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkHo70DeiMM>
- Put 2 cushions or chairs side by side, sit on one and invite Jesus to sit on the other. Spend time with Jesus beside you -talk together. At the end discuss what you and Jesus talked about. Play the song “God with us” by Jesus Culture in the background. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEyRoj2sFc4>
- Turn the lights off to make your room dark, use torches or if you have them glow sticks. Use the song “Not afraid” by Rend Collective <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-ovvWdhMwA> to sing and dance along to with your torches or glow sticks.
- Shout out praises to God thanking him for who he is.

Intro Activity - “God’s promises” bunting

Welcome to our series – God’s promises. God made lots of promises to us in the Bible and today we are going to learn about one of them.

Each session we are creating another section of our bunting illustrating God’s promises to us. On the first flag of the bunting write and decorate with the title **“God’s promises to us”**.

Look up our promise for today, promise in Hebrews 13:5. Read together what it says and add the phrase **“I will never leave you.” Hebrews 13:5** to the second flag of bunting.

Explain the promises of God throughout the Bible give us hope. 2 Corinthians 1:20 says *“The yes to all of God’s promises is in Christ. And that is why we say “Amen” through Christ to the glory of God.”* Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection we can be sure and confident that every promise God has made to us will happen.

Object Lesson - Do you trust me?

The illustration for today can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLy_O1K46bc

You will need: Water, ziplock bag, 3 round pencils, not hexagonal!

Instructions:

1. Fill the ziplock bag with water and close the bag tight.
2. Ask for a volunteer. Tell them you will poke 3 pencils through the bag of water over their head, but you will not get them wet. Ask them, “Do you trust me?”
3. Holding the closed bag over their head, poke the pencils through the water as in the illustration above.
4. Ask the volunteer why they trusted you?

God says do you trust me to be with you always, to never leave you. That seems impossible but we can trust him even when things seem impossible.

Bible story

Remember God's promises are throughout the Bible. God always keeps his promises and today our Bible story illustrates our promise – **“I will never leave you.”**

Read the story of Jesus speaking to His disciples and going to heaven from Matthew 28:16-20 and the Holy Spirit coming. A great version is the Jesus Storybook Bible – “Going Home” and “God sends help”

For Younger Children: Here is a very simple retelling of the story.

Use these actions for the these words –

Happy – show a happy face and point to your smiling mouth.

Alive – hands either side of your face, palms forward, fingers wiggling

Time – tap wrist with index finger of other hand

Remember – tap your temple with your index finger

Bye – wave

Jesus' friends are **happy** that he is **alive** again! “It's **time** for me to go now,” says Jesus. “**Remember** to tell everyone all about me. You won't be on your own – God will be with you. His Spirit will help you all the **time**. Thank you God, **Bye, bye**, amazing Jesus.

Discuss: This Bible story illustrates that God keeps his promise that he will never leave us. Holy Spirit is with us, He is our helper, our comforter, our guide, our friend. He is God with us always. God chooses to be with us, to never leave us. We can be sure of this promise.

- How does this promise help us when we are afraid?
- How does this promise help us when we feel alone?
- How does this promise help us when we need help to know what to do?

Activation

- Hug a Cushion or your favourite cuddly toy. Ask Jesus to bring to mind a time when you felt alone or afraid or didn't know what to do. Ask Jesus to give you comfort. Then ask Jesus to show you where he was in that memory. Ask him to show you what he was doing in that time. How does that make you feel? What does Jesus say to you?
- Make a card to yourself from God. Ask God what picture he wants to put on the front for you and what words he wants to write to you. Keep it somewhere safe so that when you next feel alone or afraid, you can get it out and read God's message to you. Add to it each time God speaks to you.