

PROMISE

God Story:

Isaac Is Born | Genesis 21:1-7

Big Idea:

We can trust God to keep his promises.

Key Verses:

"I will make you into a great nation. And I will bless you. I will make your name great...All nations on earth will be blessed because of you." | Genesis 12:2-3 (NIRV)

Leader Tip:

Pray for the students in your group before they arrive.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **7 minutes**
Talk about promises and trust. Introduce this week's Big Idea.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes ***
Find out whether a few lucky students trust you to give them chocolate bars later in the lesson.

Gs God Story

Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

Ms My Story

- 4. Application Activity** **12 minutes ***
Review the Key Verses for this series. Gather in smaller groups to talk about some of God's promises.
- 5. Wrap-Up Activity** **10 minutes**
Extend the Application Activity by having the students present what they learned. Quiz them to see how much they recall!

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal** **2 minutes**

* Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- Get the discussion rolling by sharing your own answers first.

Instructions:

- As the students arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- Check in quickly to see how their week went.
- Ask:
 - Has anyone ever made a promise to you that they didn't keep?
 - Did you trust them to keep their promise? Why or why not?
 - How did you feel when they didn't keep their promise? Were you more or less likely to trust them the next time they made a promise?
 - Have you ever made a promise that you didn't keep? Why didn't you keep it?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **We can trust God to keep his promises.**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Three full-sized chocolate bars

Leader Tip:

- Make sure the chocolate bars are not visible!

Instructions:

- Invite three students to join you at the front.
- Promise to give each of them a chocolate bar if they come back to you at the end of the lesson.
- Ask them whether they trust you to do it. Why or why not?
- Engage the rest of the group by asking whether they trust you to keep this promise.



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Instructions:

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Isaac Is Born | Genesis 21:1-7)
 - Life Story (James White trusts God in a bullying situation at school)
- Invite the students to give a quick recap of the God and Life Stories.
- Ask:
 - How do these stories and the Big Idea (**We can trust God to keep his promises**) connect?
 - Do you have a story from your own life that also connects?

Ms My Story

4. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key Verses sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Activity pages (different promises for different groups)
- Pens
- Bibles

Leader Tip:

- The following Wrap-Up Activity builds on this activity.

Instructions:

- Hang or hold up the Key Verses sign.
- Read Genesis 12:2-3 together.
- Explain that learning Bible verses can be hard for some people. However, it's worth it because having them saved in our minds is helpful as we journey through life.
- If you have 16 or fewer students, divide them into four groups. If you have more than 16 students, form additional groups. Some of them will work on the same material.
- Give each group a different verse/promise activity page and a Bible.
- Instruct them to look up and read the verses. Then they should use the page to record what God's promise was and how he fulfilled it.
- When they're done, gather everyone back together.

5. WRAP-UP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Whiteboards
- Dry erase markers
- Q&A activity page
- Prizes

Instructions:

- Invite the groups to present what they learned about God's promises in the Application Activity.
- Give each group a whiteboard and dry erase marker.
- Use the Q&A activity page to quiz them on how well they paid attention! Read each question and ask if the answer is a, b, or c.
- Direct the groups to write their answers on their whiteboards, then raise them in the air.
- To wrap up, discuss:
 - Based on these passages, do you think God is trustworthy? Why or why not?
 - How does this change the way you trust God?

Os Our Story

6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Take-home cards
- Key Verses cards

Instructions:

- Give the chocolate bars to the three students and fulfill your promise to them!
- Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.