

DAY 4

WHAT PROMISES DOES GOD HAVE FOR YOU?

Have you ever broken a promise to someone? If we're being honest, we probably all have. And we've all likely been on the other side too . . . we've been the person who has felt the pain of a broken promise.

Because of that, it can be hard to believe that we can trust ANYONE fully and completely. Except, we can. Because throughout all of time, God has kept HIS promises.

All throughout the Bible, as we read God's Story, we see Him making and fulfilling promises time after time, including His promise to send a Rescuer.

In fact, even that Rescuer, Jesus, knew that His Father could be trusted. That's why He was willing to sacrifice His own life for us—He knew that He was part of God's plan to save the world.

Grab a flashlight and get in the darkest room in your house—even under your covers will work. Then read the rest of this, using your light.

Promises like “. . . in all things God works for the good of those who love him.” (Romans 8:28a) And promises like Lamentations 3:23: “His great love is new every morning. Lord, how faithful you are!” And Luke 18:27: “Jesus replied, ‘Things that are impossible with people are possible with God.’”

God's promises are our light whenever the world seems dark. Thank God for keeping His promises and ask Him to help you remember them, no matter how dark it gets.

LIVE
FOR GOD

HOPE

BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING GOOD
CAN COME OUT OF SOMETHING BAD

DAY 1

Read John 12:9-16

There was an abundance of excitement in Jerusalem. Not only was everyone gathering in the city to celebrate Passover, but word on the street was that Jesus was coming.

Nearly everyone believed Jesus was the promised King. Everyone . . . except the religious leaders.

Jesus threatened their power, and so they made a plan to stop Him. Read Zechariah 9:9 and then read John 12:15.

Long ago, the prophet Zechariah had said the king would enter Jerusalem riding a donkey. And that's exactly how things went that day. While His ragtag caravan may not inspire images of a king, the crowds gathered certainly offered Him a royal welcome. As they lay down their coats for a carpet and waved palm branches in the air, they shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!” (NirV)

But the religious leaders did not let the people's enthusiasm sway their plan. If anything, they saw Jesus as an even bigger threat to their power and way of life. As they got more serious about their plot to stop Jesus from teaching and performing miracles, Jesus continued to live out God's plan.

Jesus is God's promise fulfilled. He's the reason we know we can trust God no matter what. Whenever you face anything hard, remember God has promised to be with you. **And whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.**

PRETEEN

HEAR
FROM GOD

WEEK 2

DAY 2

When we know God's promises we can truly lean into the hope He offers.

Feeling overwhelmed and exhausted?

Read Isaiah 40:29.

Facing a hard situation and you don't know what to do about it?

Read James 1:5.

Did you mess up and you feel awful about it?

Check out 1 John 1:9.

Whatever hard thing you are facing, there is nothing God is powerless against. The same God who made the world and saved the world is on your side, promising strength, power, wisdom, forgiveness, and to meet all your needs.

Take a few minutes to pray about whatever hard situation you are facing, and include one of the verses above in your prayer. Remind God of His promise. Not because He needs the reminder, but because He loves to hear you place your trust in Him to meet your needs.

PRAY
TO GOD

DAY 3

Whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises.

The longer you live your life following Jesus, the more opportunities you will have to see Him keeping His promises to you. That's one reason it's wise to have some people in your life who have been following Jesus longer than you have. They can share their stories with you of how God has kept His promises to them.

Think of two or three people you know who follow Jesus—maybe a parent, an older sibling, a friend, or a Small Group Leader. This week, take a minute or two to talk to them about how God's promises have given them hope during hard times.

Not sure how to start? Here are some sample questions you could ask to get the ball rolling.

- 1) What is your favorite promise from God?
- 2) Has that promise ever helped you when you were facing a hard time? Can you tell me about it?
- 3) Tell them about something hard you are facing, and ask them if they know of any of God's promises that might encourage you.

You can even ask your interviewee to pray for you and the difficult situation you are facing.

TALK
ABOUT GOD