

Promise Keeper

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 11****Focus:**

God keeps His promises.

Lesson 11**Bible Basis:**

Genesis 15:1-6;
17:1-8; 18:1-15;
21:1-3; 22:1-18;
Heb. 11:17-19

Lesson 11**Memory Verse:**

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
—Hebrews 10:23

Students will consider the human tendency to waver in keeping promises and will discover that God is the ultimate Promise Keeper.

Materials:

- Internet access

Captain Allen Vaught, an American soldier, made a promise to Sam, an Iraqi translator who helped the U.S. army in combat.

Share this video [2:53].

Army veteran keeps 11-year promise, helps Iraqi translator get to safety in Texas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdImN9L9VAg>

Because Sam put his life on the line to protect U.S. soldiers and served the U.S. army as a local translator, he was promised help in coming to America and escaping the those who wanted to kill him for helping the U.S. army. However, in spite of this promise, it's possible Sam wondered if Captain Vaught would keep that promise. After all, there was war and tension between his country, Iraq, and the United States. It would have been easy for the U.S. army to ignore their promise after they received all the help they needed from Sam.

➤ **Do you think Sam was surprised by the promise kept? Why or why not? (Answers will vary.)**

➤ **How do you think Sam would have felt if Captain Vaught hadn't kept the promise? (Answers will vary but may include: betrayed, confused, hurt, disappointed, angry, depressed, unable to trust his friend's word, etc.)**

People are good at promise making but are not always as good about promise keeping. We make some promises with serious intent to fulfill them. Sadly, other promises are made without much thought about how we'll fulfill them. Some people cross their fingers when they make a promise and claim that means they don't have to keep the promise. Others are unable to keep a promise due to circumstances out of their control, even though they intended to stay true to their word.

- **What promises have you made and kept?** (Answers will vary.)
- **What are some promises that people made to you? Was the promise kept?** (Answers will vary.)
- **When someone broke a promise to you, what do you think when that person makes you another promise?** (Answers may include: don't believe them; the person will not keep this promise either; I will need to remind the person to keep this promise; this person doesn't really care about me, etc.)
- **When someone has kept a promise to you, what do you think when that person makes you another promise?** (I can trust this person; this person cares about me.)

Abraham counted on a promise made to him. Then he was asked to do something that seemed to contradict the fulfillment of that promise. Still, he trusted his Promise Giver to be a Promise Keeper. Let's find out what happened.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Promise Keeper

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 11**Focus:**

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21:1-3; 22:1-18;
Heb. 11:17-19

Lesson 11**Memory Verse:**

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
—Hebrews 10:23

Materials:

- Internet access
- Promise-a-Day Calendar bases printed on cardstock (1 per student; template found at the end of this document)
- Whiteboard and marker (or screenshared document)
- Sticky notes (10 notes per student)
- Pens or fine-tipped markers
- Optional: art supplies; extra calendar bases and sticky notes for making extras to give away

Before class, print one (or more) Promise-a-Day Calendar bases on cardstock for each student; the template (found at the end of this document) contains two bases per sheet. Also, write the following on the whiteboard prior to this step:

Monday - God will never leave you (Deuteronomy 31:6)
Tuesday - God will meet your needs (Philippians 4:19)
Wednesday - God will forgive your sins (1 John 1:9)
Thursday - God will carry your burdens (Matthew 11:28-29)
Friday - God will answer your prayers (Matthew 21:22)

If your class is meeting online, email the Promise-a-Day Calendar to students and families so they can print a copy before class. Invite them to also bring 10 sticky notes and a pen or fine-tipped marker to class:

God made a promise to Abraham. Even though God’s request of Abraham made it look like God was not going to fulfill His promise, Abraham knew better. He knew that God always keeps His promises. That gave him the strength to obey God’s instructions even when they were challenging.

We can count on God’s promises every day of our lives. People may accidentally or intentionally fail in keeping promises, but we can know God will always come through. To help us depend on God’s promises, we are going to make “Promise-a-Day” calendars for the school week ahead.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home) and direct your students' attention to the whiteboard (or screenshared document):

Monday - God will never leave you (Deuteronomy 31:6)
Tuesday - God will meet your needs (Philippians 4:19)
Wednesday - God will forgive your sins (1 John 1:9)
Thursday - God will carry your burdens (Matthew 11:28-29)
Friday - God will answer your prayers (Matthew 21:22)

- **Which of those promises means the most to you today? Why?** (Answers will vary.)
- **Which of those promises have you experienced God fulfilling? How?** (Answers will vary.)

Give each student 10 sticky notes, still stuck together, from the pad.

Guide your preteens through the following steps to make the Promise-a-Day calendar. Keeping their 10-note sticky note pad intact, have them copy each line on the whiteboard (or screenshared document) to a different sticky note and leave the last five blank. Ask your students to fold their cardstock calendar template in half on the dotted line to make a tent-style base and affix their sticky note pad of promises to the shaded area. Optional: students may decorate their calendar base before affixing the sticky notes; they may want to make an extra calendar to give to someone as an encouragement.

Use this Promise-a-Day calendar this week at home. Each school day this week, before you leave home, read the memory verse and then peel off the top note that contains one of God's promises. Read the day's promise and then carefully remove it from the rest of the pad. Take the day's promise with you and stick it on your notebook or in your locker. Look at it and think about it throughout the day. When you get home from school, look up the promise's Scripture passage in your Bible. Thank God for keeping His promises. Remind your students that since the coming week contains the Thanksgiving holiday, they can start, stop, and start again when they return to school.

Encourage your students to be on the lookout for additional promises to include on the blank sticky notes. To inspire them to keep up this practice, you might want to offer to supply them with additional sticky notes when they run out if they will bring you a list of other promises they've found.

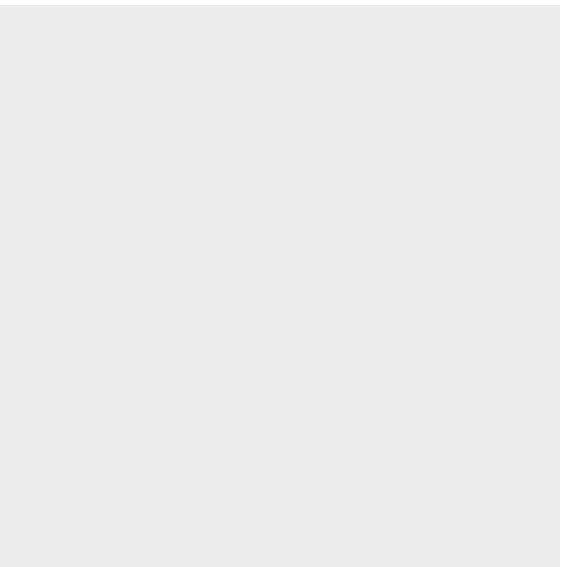
Close in prayer, thanking God for being the ultimate Promise Keeper.

Optional: If you feel comfortable, you can play this song in the background as the students work [4:58]:

Elevation Worship – Your Promises (with lyrics)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rr3o6M0_Ixs&pp=ygUfeW91ciBwcm9taXNlcyBlbGV2YXRpb24gd29yc2hpcA%3D%3D

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