

## **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES**

### **Limestone Mini Camp Class Outlines**

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Our studies this year follow the theme of "God keeps His promises." We will study promises made and kept concerning Abraham and Isaac, Gideon, Jesus, and the Apostle Paul.

As has been the case in the past, these outlines are merely suggestive of all that one might do in the four classes you will have at camp. Again, we hope that supporting materials on these subjects will be relatively easy to find.

Some parts of the suggested outlines may not be suitable to the very youngest of our campers. Teachers should adapt those portions of the lessons to the make up of their students.

Bill Irby

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### LESSON ONE: God Keeps His Promise to Abraham

#### *Introduction:*

- I. This series of lessons concerns promises that God made to and concerning familiar Bible characters. When beginning it may be good to speak to the children in your class in a general way about what a "promise,, really is. Do they make promises? Have they been promised things by their parents, teachers, or friends? Is it right to break a promise?
- II. One thing we can be sure of is that when God makes a promise, He will keep it. God does not lie (Titus 1:2), and everything He says is true (John 17:17).

#### *God Keeps His Promise To Abraham*

- I. The first promise that we will study is one that God made to Abraham.
  - A. God told Abraham "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed because you have obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:17, see also Genesis 12:lff.)
  - B. By this God meant that a descendant of Abraham would bring great blessing into the world. That descendant was Christ (see Matthew 1:1-2, 16-17, and Galatians 3:16).
- II. An important thing we can learn from God's promise to Abraham is that Abraham really believed what God had told him.
  - A. How do we know that Abraham ' really believed God's promise? The answer is found in Genesis 22 (see verse 12).
  - B. This is the account of Abraham taking his son Isaac up on a mountain to offer him as a sacrifice to God. Now, God did not let Abraham offer his son. He was testing Abraham's faith. God provided a ram caught in a thicket for the sacrifice.
  - C. Abraham knew that God would never break His Word. He knew if God had wanted Isaac sacrificed, that God could raise Isaac up from the dead (see Hebrews 11:17-19).
- III. It is very important for us to believe God's promises today.
  - A. Consider Hebrews 13:5-6: "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" (NKJV).
  - B. Think about these questions:
    1. When we read of a promise God made in the Bible, what should our attitude be?
    2. When we make a promise, what should our intention be?

#### *Conclusion:*

- I. We should be like Abraham and believe the promises of God.
- II. And we should try our best to be like God and keep all Our promises.

## GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

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## LESSON TWO: God Keeps His Promise To Gideon

### *Introduction:*

- I. The Book of Judges tells of a very bad time in the history of the nation of Israel. Most of the time the people did whatever they wanted to do, and often what they wanted to do was wrong and sinful.
- II. From time to time God raised up leaders (Judges) who would help the people defeat their enemies. These leaders would also help the people to live better lives in the sight of God.
- III. One such man was Gideon. We read about him in Judges 6:1-8:35.

### *God Keeps His Promise To Gideon*

- I. When the Angel of the Lord first came to Gideon to give him the job of saving Israel from the evil Midianites, Gideon complained about their situation.
  - A. God made a promise to Gideon: "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man" (Judges 6:16).
  - B. Gideon wanted proof from God. God gave him two signs.
    1. There was the sign of the food consumed (Judges 6:19-23).
    2. There was the sign of the fleece (Judges 6:36-40).
  - C. Gideon came to believe that God was really going to be with him in the battle against the Midianites.
- II. An important thing for us to remember is that God does not use signs just like this anymore (See I Corinthians 1:18-32). He has left us a record of the things He has done so that we may believe His promises. That record is the Bible (John 20:30-31).
  - A. But we-can see signs of God's wisdom everywhere.
  - B. For example, when a person does not live like God wants them to live, they very often get into big trouble. (E.g.: alcohol, bad language, stealing, etc.) These troubles are different kinds of signs that we should live as God tells us to live in the Bible.
- III. God promised Gideon that He would help him fight the Midianites. God helped Gideon in a particular way that left no doubt whatsoever that it had been God who was helping the Israelites win the battle.
  - A. At first, Gideon had a large army, but God made him reduce it to a valiant three hundred men (see Judges 7:1-7).
  - B. God gave Gideon a plan (Judges 7) for victory.
  - C. (There is ample opportunity for object lessons in this account, with the fleece, the lamps, pitchers, and trumpets, etc.

## **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES**

### **Limestone Mini Camp Class Outlines**

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#### ***Conclusion***

Sometimes it seems that the odds are against us and we begin to doubt God. But remember that Gideon had those same kinds of feelings, yet he trusted God's promise. We should do the same. God's Word is always true. We can trust what God says. "Faith is the victory" (see 1 John 5:1-5).

## GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

### Limestone Mini Camp Class Outlines

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## LESSON THREE: God Keeps His Promise To Paul

### *Introduction*

- I. The Apostle Paul experienced a great many difficulties as he worked for the cause of Jesus Christ.
- II. Consider the list of things that happened to him that he gave in 2 Corinthians 11:22-33.
- III. One of the things that he mentioned in that letter was "shipwreck."
- IV. It is in connection with a shipwreck that God kept a promise that He made to Paul.

### *God Keeps His promise To Paul*

- I. The Apostle Paul found himself in some real trouble in Jerusalem and was put into jail (Study Acts 21:26-26:32).
  - A. Some people there wanted to kill him. In order to keep that from happening he "appealed unto Caesar" (Acts 25:12).
  - B. Paul was a Romans citizen, so neither the Jews in Palestine, nor the Romans in charge of the country, could dispose of his case there if he made such an appeal.
  - C. This meant that he had to travel from Palestine to Rome in order that he might stand before Caesar, the Roman Emperor.
- II. The journey from Palestine to Rome meant traveling on the Mediterranean Sea. The "ships" in those days were so small that we might call them boats. Ocean travel was very dangerous.
  - A. Acts 27:13-20 tells of a terrible wind, called Euroclydon, that caused the trip to be even more perilous.
  - B. Naturally, everyone on the ship became very frightened. But Paul was not afraid.
  - C. Why? Because Paul knew God and he knew that God's promises are always kept.
    1. See Acts 27:21-24.
    2. Note that Paul says in verse 25, "Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God, that it will be just as it was told me."
  - D. God had promised Paul that all the people in the ship would be saved, and, of course, everything that God had promised came to be (Acts 27:43-44).
- III. Just like Paul, we ought always to believe the promises of God.
  - A. When God says that there is a Heaven, we can know that it is true (John 14:1-6).
  - B. When God says He will help us, we can know that it is true (Psalm 23, Hebrews 13:5-6).
  - C. When God says He loves us, we can know that it is true (John 3:16).
  - D. When God says that He save those who obey Him, we can know that it is true (Hebrews 5:8-9, Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16, etc.).
  - E. When God says He will answer our prayers, we can know that it is true.

## **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES**

### **Limestone Mini Camp Class Outlines**

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#### ***Conclusion:***

- I. We should all try to develop the kind of faith that the Apostle Paul had.
- II. Remember Acts 27:25. It would be good to memorize this verse so that it will always be with you if you have trouble or difficulty.
- III. We can have great faith if we will read and study our Bibles (Romans 10:17).
- IV. Make it a goal of yours to be able to trust God like the Apostle Paul trusted Him.

## GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

### Limestone Mini Camp Class Outlines

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#### LESSON FOUR: God Keeps His Promise Of Salvation In Jesus Christ

##### *Introduction:*

- I. Remember that earlier we studied about Abraham and the promise God made to him concerning his seed (or descendant) Jesus Christ. Remember that it is by Jesus Christ that the whole world has the great blessing of the opportunity for salvation.
- II. God promised to send a Savior to the world.
  - A. The world surely needs saving, because people have sinned (Romans 3:23, 6:23).
  - B. We need God's help to be saved. We cannot save ourselves by ourselves. God provided what we cannot provide for ourselves, and that is Jesus Christ.
  - C. Jesus came and died on the Cross for our sins.
- III. God promised to send Jesus and by His rich grace, He did (Ephesians 2:1-13).
- IV. Our responsibility in this matter is to believe the Word of God and obey it so that we may take advantage of God's promise to save us in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 5:8-9).

##### *God Keeps His Promise of Salvation In Jesus Christ*

- I. The Old Testament teaches us about God's promises to send Jesus Christ to save mankind.
  - A. He was to be born of a virgin. He was. Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-23. This was a miracle. (See also John 1:1-4, 14; Galatians 4:4; Genesis 3:15).
  - B. He was to be born in a particular city, Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). He was (Matthew 2:1).
  - C. He would prove that He was the Christ by doing miracles (Isaiah 35:5-10). He did (Luke 4:16-21, John 6:1-14, John 11 [the matter of Lazarus]).
  - D. He'd be a suffering Savior and would be crucified (Isaiah 53:1-12, Mark 8:31). He was (Matthew 27, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
  - E. He would be numbered with transgressors (Isaiah 53:12). He was (Matthew 27:38).
  - F. Add to this list any of the other many prophecies concerning the coming and work of Jesus in the Old Testament, e.g.,: Isaiah 53:9 & Matthew 27:57-60, Isaiah 53:10 & Acts 2:29-36, Matthew 12:38-40 & Luke 24:46-47, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.
- II. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus to begin His preaching work (Matthew 3:1-12). This was also a fulfillment of an Old Testament promise (see Isaiah 40:3-5).

##### *Conclusion:*

- I. The promise that God made to send Jesus is the greatest promise God made.
- II. Jesus did indeed come and die on the Cross for us all (see Matthew 27:11-61).
- III. What should a person do when they are old enough to obey the gospel and take advantage of all of God's promises?