



Scotts Hill Baptist Church

GROWING STRONG IN THE TRUTH // • EVERYTHING WE NEED // • 2 PETER 1:3-4 •

MAIN POINT

Our God keeps His promises.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Do you remember the first time you broke a promise? What was the context?

What kind of impact did your broken promise have? Were there any repercussions?

How do you feel when someone breaks a promise with you?

Do you think people view promises differently than God? Explain.

Nowadays people do not seem to treat promises with much gravity. We break our promises for a variety of reasons: fear, selfishness, pride, or perhaps we simply forget our oaths. However, as we see in today's video session, promises are sacred. Not only are promises important to God, but as John MacDonald says, "the entire motif of the Bible is promises."

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 PETER 1:3-4.

According to this passage, what kinds of things has God given us?

As you look back at your life up to this point, what has God “multiplied in your life” and given to you?

After reading these verses, in what ways do you think God’s promises are different from our promises?

As James MacDonald explains, a promise is God’s way of relating to us. God does not owe us His promises. There is nothing we can do to earn His extravagant promises. Rather, God has graciously given us these life-giving promises for His glory and for our good.

What are some other verses that come to mind when you think about God’s promises?

What is your approach to God’s promises? Do you cross your fingers and hope that they come true, or do you have confidence in God’s promises and trust that He will come through?

HAVE THREE VOLUNTEERS READ PSALM 119:40, JOSHUA 21:45, AND 1 KINGS 8:56.

What can we learn about the nature of God’s promises from these verses?

What do you love about Gods promises?

In what ways have you tried the promises of God?

God does not simply make promises that are easy. He makes promises that are hard (consider the cross). But however difficult or painful a promise may be, He is also always faithful to see His promises through (consider the empty tomb). God’s promises to us are not empty oaths. He gives His promises to us knowing full well that we will need them some day, and with that in mind we must be willing to lean on His promises, hold onto His promises, and rest in His promises. To put it another way, we must be willing to test God’s promises, to allow them into our lives and put them into practice.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20.

In what ways are you currently relying on your own strength rather than leaning on Christ?

What current problem in your life is keeping you distracted and preventing you from celebrating the good news of God’s promises?

Christ is God's promise to us, His promise of salvation. God's promises are experienced in Christ and, as we see in this verse, God's promises are achieved through Christ. They find their yes in Him. That being true, it follows that the fulfillment of God's promises lives inside you, and His name is Jesus. We must stop striving in our own strength, even if we're striving towards the promises of God, because God's promises only find their yes in Christ.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What is one area or relationship in your life in which you struggle to keep your promises?

In what ways do you understand promises differently now that you are a Christian?

How do you think God wants us responding to His promises?

PRAYER

Thank God for the extravagance and goodness of His promises. Take a moment and pray for those in your life who need to hear and believe the promises of God.

COMMENTARY

| 2 PETER 1:3-4

1:3-4. Peter next reminded his readers of the resources they had through knowing Christ. He provides believers everything they need for life and godliness. Life is eternal life, whereas godliness is godly living; the latter cannot be obtained without the former. The divine call of believers served as a foundation for Peter's appeal for godly living. Christ calls to Himself those whom God has saved, and this calling is brought about by His own glory and goodness. Christ's glory and goodness combine and seem to refer to the moral excellence of Christ. By these—by Christ's glory and goodness—He has given us very great and precious promises. The content of these great promises includes sharing in the divine nature. Peter did not mean that believers become gods or that they share in the divine nature of God in every way. He meant that they participate in God's moral excellence and will one day be morally perfected. Participation in the divine nature is

possible only after escaping the corruption in the world because of evil desires. Jesus Christ offers the only way of escape from the rebellion of this evil world system that is opposed to and alienated from God.

| PSALM 119:40

119:33-40 This section focuses on God's reward for obedience. The pursuit of material gain leads to sin, but life is found in the ways of the Lord. On with all my heart, compare Dt 6:5.

| JOSHUA 21:45

21:45 The conclusion that everything was fulfilled shows how God kept His promises and how all the enemies of Israel that they fought against were defeated. Israel did not drive out all the inhabitants of the land, but this was not God's responsibility. He kept His part of the covenant.

| 1 KINGS 8:56

8:54-56 In his role as the spiritual representative of the people, Solomon had prayed in a posture of humble obeisance before God. This role as the spiritual intermediary between the people and God continued when Solomon stood, turned to the people, and blessed them by announcing, May the Lord be praised .

| 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

1:20 Every one of God's promises in Scripture is fulfilled directly or indirectly in Him (Rm 1:2; Eph 2:12). Amen means "so be it" or "this is true." God's glory is displayed in Christ as well as in believers' confession of Him.