

November 22, 2020

Activity Bible Promises Game

Write the Bible promises one per index card and put them in the middle of your space.

Ask everyone to all look up each verse with you or give a verse to each person to look up. Then have them read the verse aloud. Challenge the group to match each Bible promise to the correct Scripture reference. As they make a match turn that promise over so they can see what is left to choose from.

1. The Lord will never leave us. (*Hebrews 13:5*)
2. The Lord will be our helper. (*Hebrews 13:6*)
3. The Lord will complete what He has started in us. (*Philippians 1:6*)
4. Jesus' words will last. (*Matthew 24:35*)
5. All things are possible with God. (*Mark 10:27*)
6. People who believe in Jesus have eternal life. (*John 6:47*)
7. God will supply the needs of His people. (*Philippians 4:19*)
8. Those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. (*Joel 2:32*)
9. Jesus will be a shepherd for God's people. (*Micah 5:4*)
10. The Lord is a strength and refuge to His people. (*Psalms 28:8*)

Say • Who always keeps a promise? God does. He is completely trustworthy. If He promises something, it will happen. It might not happen when we think it should, but He will keep His promises. The Israelites waited 70 years for God to keep His promise.

Bible Story Questions

God Brought His People Home

Bible Passage: Ezra 1:1-2:2; 2:64-3:13; 4:24-6:22

Main Point: God changed the king's heart so the Israelites could go home.

Christ Connection: Zerubbabel led God's people back to the temple to rebuild it. The temple was the place where God met with His people on earth. Jesus came to earth to rescue God's people. One day, Jesus will return to restore a greater home for all of God's people, and we will spend eternity with Him.

How long were God's people in exile? (*70 years, Jer. 29:10*)

Which prophet told about God's promise to bring His people home? (*Jeremiah, Ezra 1:1*)

During which year of Cyrus's reign did God send His people home? (*the first year, Ezra 1:1*)

Who got ready to go home? (*the leaders of Judah and Benjamin, the priests, the Levites; Ezra 1:5*)

What did the people donate when they arrived at the site of the temple? (*gold, silver, and priest clothes; Ezra 2:69*)

What did the people start rebuilding first? (*the altar, Ezra 3:1-3*)

After the priests finished rebuilding the altar, what did the people do? (*They gave a burnt offering to God, Ezra 3:2-3*)

Why did some people shout for joy when the foundation of the temple was laid? (*They were happy to be home in Jerusalem and were praising God for His goodness, Ezra 3:11*)

Why did others cry at this same event? (*They remembered the first temple and were sad that it had been destroyed, Ezra 3:12*)

How can we obey God? We trust God to give us strength to obey Him.

Prayer

Ask kids to think about promises God has made and allow anyone to share that would like. How can we know that God's promises always come true?

Say • Sometimes we might feel very far from God. It can be easy for us to forget some of His promises or wonder when He will carry them out. God's timing is different from our timing, but we can look back and see all of His wonderful promises. He has always kept His promises to us, and we know that He always will.

Take prayer requests. Pray, thanking God for His faithfulness to us even though we struggle to be faithful to Him. Ask Him for strength to obey Him and trust in His promises. Praise Him that Jesus will return, and ask Him to hasten that day.

God Brought His People Home

Ezra 1:1–2:2; 2:64–3:13

Many years before God's people were taken to Babylon, God promised the prophet Jeremiah that the exile would last 70 years; then God would bring His people back home. God always keeps His promises.

Cyrus, king of Persia, had taken over Babylon. God gave Cyrus an idea. Cyrus said, "Let all of God's people go back to Jerusalem so they can rebuild the Lord's temple. Give them gold and silver and animals. Give them gifts for God's temple."

The exile was over! God's people were free to go back to their homes. God's people got ready, and their neighbors gave them gifts—gold and silver and animals and other expensive things.

Zerubbabel (zuh RUHB uh buhl) and the high priest led God's people back to Judah. They had been away for 70 years. Many of the people were born in Babylon; they had never seen the land God had given their parents and grandparents. In all, thousands of people went back to Judah. **They settled in their hometowns and set up their houses. Then the people met together in Jerusalem to rebuild the Lord's temple.**

First, the priests rebuilt the altar in the same place it used to be. They followed all the laws of God for building. When the altar was finished, they offered burnt offerings to God. The people also obeyed the law about special celebrations. They had a festival like God had told them to do, and they made sacrifices to God.

Then God's people gave money to stonecutters and carpenters who would work on God's temple. They paid people to bring cedar logs to Jerusalem. Finally, when everything was ready, the people started to work. They laid the foundation of the temple. The foundation was important; it would make the building strong.

When the foundation was finished, the priests put on special clothes, and the people praised God. They sang, "The Lord is good. His faithful love will last forever." Then the people shouted and praised God. They were so happy! The foundation of the temple was complete!

Not everyone was happy though. **Some of the older people remembered what the temple had looked like 70 years ago, before it had been destroyed. They cried. The noise of the crying and shouting was so loud that the people could be heard far away.**

Christ Connection: Zerubbabel led God's people back to the temple to rebuild it. The temple was the place where God met with His people on earth. Jesus came to earth to rescue God's people. One day, Jesus will return to restore a greater home for all of God's people, and we will spend eternity with Him.