

Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way



January 27, 2019

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21



*"Today this
 scripture is fulfilled
 in your hearing."
 Luke 4:21*

God's Promises Fulfilled

People make promises every day. Sometimes we give something to another person as a sign of our promise, sometimes we sign our name to seal our promise, other times we just give our word to another person that we will do something.

I'm sure you have all seen a ring like this. (Show the wedding ring.) When two people get married, they usually make promises to one another. They say something like, "I promise to love you for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health as long as we both shall live." Then they exchange rings as a symbol of that promise.

This is an ordinary letter like the ones we receive in our mail box every day. Right in the middle is the name and address of the person for whom it is intended. What do you see up here in the corner of the envelope? Right! It is a stamp. When the Postal Service sells you this stamp and you put it on a letter, it represents their promise to deliver it to the person to whom the envelope is addressed. It doesn't matter if it is cloudy or sunny, raining or snowing, hot or cold, the mail gets delivered. That is the promise that this stamp represents.

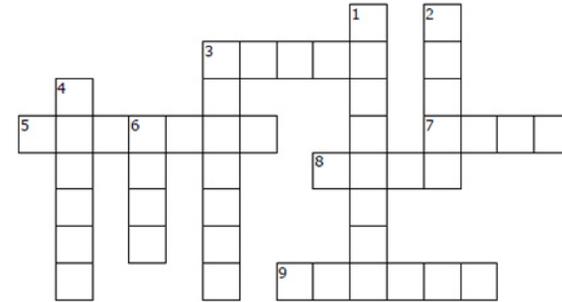
People make promises every day. Do they always keep their promises? Unfortunately, some people don't. God makes promises too. The Bible is full of God's promises. Does God always keep promises? Absolutely!

Jesus was in the city of Nazareth on the Sabbath day so he did what he always did on the Sabbath. He went to the synagogue. He stood up and began to read the words of the prophet Isaiah from the Scripture. He read where it says, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."

When he had finished reading, he sat down. All eyes were on Jesus. Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture that you have just heard read has been fulfilled this very day!" Jesus came to earth to fulfill the promises of God. All of God's promises are fulfilled in him. God's promises never let us down.

Gracious and loving God, thank you for your faithfulness in keeping your promises. Help us to be faithful in keeping our promises to you. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3. Something you do to help someone
- 5. A person who speaks for God
- 7. Information about recent events or happenings; previously unknown information
- 8. The opposite of bad
- 9. A long roll of paper with writing on it

DOWN

- 1. A person who is kept in jail
- 2. Unable to see
- 3. To be allowed to do whatever you want to do
- 4. To deliver a sermon
- 6. Having little or no wealth and few or no possessions

PRISONER	FAVOR	GOOD	PROPHET	POOR
BLIND	FREEDOM	NEWS	PREACH	SCROLL

Activity: Give children small pieces of various colored paper to write one of God's promises on each paper and fold at the top where there are no words. After 10 (or desired amount) promises have been written on the papers, give children a long piece of ribbon or yarn that will tie around their neck and hang down to display the promises. Children can fold the paper over the yarn or ribbon and tape each paper and then hang their Promises Necklace around their neck.

Discussion Question: God has made many promises to us. In the Noah's Ark story, God promised never to flood the earth again and sent a rainbow as a sign of that promise. In our baptism, God's promises are in the water in the font and the words spoken from the Bible. God claims us as God's own and promises to love us...NO MATTER WHAT. What are some promises we can make to God?

Family Table Prayer for January: Thank you God for all things new. For the morning and night time, too. Thank you for this food so yummy and the healthy ways you fill our tummy. Amen.

January Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Maze Puzzle/e

Find the path to the synagogue!

