

Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Preschoolers live firmly in the present and have a hard time understanding delayed time. As a result, it may be difficult for them to understand the concept of long-term promises. They can, however, understand that God is trustworthy and dependable. God promises to care for us by giving us what we need, to help us make good choices, and to help us when we're sick—those are all things we can count on because God always does what he says he'll do. Use this lesson to show kids that God has done what he said he'd do in the past and that we can trust him to take care of us in the future.



► Bible Point
God keeps his promises.
.....

Key Verse
“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).
.....

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will trust God to do what he says he'll do.
.....

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	signal, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Promise Package Wait for a promised gift to be opened.	Bible, 1 box with lid, wrapping paper, scissors, tape, 1 sticker per child	Gift-wrap the box so that the lid can be removed. Put the stickers in the box.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Tell Theo the Bible Point, and watch as Theo blows into a trumpet to announce that God keeps his promises.	CD player, Theo puppet, string Teacher Pack: CD, toy trumpet	Tie the trumpet to Theo's paw.
	Bible Time: The King Is Coming! Announce the arrival of a king, baby Jesus, on earth.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p> <p><i>about 20 min.</i></p> <p><i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Shouting the News</p> <p>Use glue and glitter to put trumpets in the people's hands, announcing the arrival of God's promise—Jesus.</p>	My Bible Hugs, pencils, newspapers, white glue, glitter	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Tell-a-Friend Snack</p> <p>Use trumpet-shaped snacks to tell a friend that Jesus is coming.</p>	Bugles corn chips, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Stable Building</p> <p>Build a block stable to prepare for Jesus' birth.</p>	building blocks, stuffed animals or toy animal figures	
	<p>Center 4: Telly-Phones</p> <p>Make a telephone from paper cups, and share good news.</p>	2 white paper cups per child, scissors, pencil, tightly woven string, markers	Cut one 4-foot length of string per child. Use a pencil to poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup.
<p>5</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges</p> <p>Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs, pens	
	<p>Action Prayer</p> <p>Trumpet a prayer to God.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home</p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	My Bible Hugs	Tear out the Parent Letter in the back of each My Bible Hugs book to give to parents when they pick up their children.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

signal

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Everybody Ought to Come" (track 3), "All His Promises" (Psalm 145:13b) (track 18)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

Tips Don't know the melodies to the songs in this guide? Download the 99-cent Kids Songs app by Alkeo and play the tunes for 200+ common children's songs.

Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Everybody Ought to Come" (track 3 on the CD) to the tune of "Everybody Ought to Know." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Everybody ought to come,** (*motion with hand to come*)

Everybody ought to come, (*motion with hand to come*)

Everybody ought to come (*motion with hand to come*)

To church with us.

At church, we learn (*make a steeple with hands*)

Of Jesus' love. (*put arm around a friend*)

At church, we learn (*make a steeple with hands*)

Of Jesus' love. (*all kids connect arms around each other*)

(Repeat 3x.)

Say: **I'm so glad you're here today! Today we get to learn how ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. Let's sing about that now.**

Lead children in singing "All His Promises" (Psalm 145:13b) (track 18 on the CD). Have children hold hands in a circle as they sing with you.

 (*Chorus*)

The Lord is faithful,

The Lord is faithful

To all his promises

(All his promises),

To all his promises

(All his promises).

The Lord is loving,

The Lord is loving





Toward all he has made
(All he has made),
To all he has made.

Your kingdom is forever.
You're powerful forever.
You hold the world up every day.
You always do whatever you say.

(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

The Lord is faithful,
The Lord is faithful.

"All His Promises" (Psalm 145:13b) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **God promised to come, to care for you and for me. We know he will because
▶ GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. Let's learn more about that.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Promise Package

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Isaiah 9:6, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). This means that Jesus was born for us. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **To us Jesus is born (Isaiah 9:6).**

Say: **God promised to send a king that would save his people. The people had to wait a long time, but God did keep his promise. He sent his Son, Jesus.** Show the wrapped box. **I bet you want to know what this is. Pause. I have a surprise for you in here, but just as God's people had to wait for what he promised, you'll have to wait until I show you the surprise. First let's play a game to remember our Key Verse. Then I promise we can open this gift.**

Repeat the Key Verse together several times: **To us Jesus is born (Isaiah 9:6).** Then go around the circle and have children pop up one at a time to say one word of the verse (in sequence) and then sit down quickly. After going around the circle several times, open the promised package and distribute the stickers.



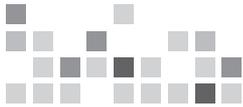
Promise Package Supplies

- Bible
- 1 box with lid
- wrapping paper
- scissors
- tape
- 1 sticker per child

Promise Package Easy Prep

Gift-wrap the box so that the lid can be removed. Put the stickers in the box.





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
string
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 2)
toy trumpet

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the trumpet to
Theo's paw.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like waiting to see what was in the box?
- Did you think I would keep my promise? Why or why not?
- What do you like about knowing ► **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES?**

Say: **God promised to send his Son, Jesus, for everyone in the world who believes. And God kept his promise—he sent Jesus, the savior of the world. ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. Let's say our Key Verse once more to remind us that God kept his promise.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **To us Jesus is born (Isaiah 9:6).** Save the wrapped box and lid for next week's lesson.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody! (*Pretends to blow into the trumpet.*)

Teacher: Good morning, Theo! I'm so glad you came to join us today. What are you trying to blow into?

Theo: This is my trumpet.

Teacher: Why did you bring a trumpet?

Theo: I like to use this trumpet when I have exciting news.

Teacher: Wow! What's your exciting news, Theo?

Theo: I just found out I'm going to have a little brother!

Teacher: Congratulations! That's definitely exciting news. How soon will your little brother be born?

Theo: Oh, I have to wait a long time before he's born, but my mom promised he would come—and when he does, we're going to play together.

Teacher: How wonderful, Theo! That reminds me of what we're learning in the Bible today.

Theo: Oh, is it about a puppy?

Teacher: (*laughs*) No, Theo. But it is about a promise that God made to send his Son, Jesus. And the people waited a long time, but finally baby Jesus was born.

Theo: (*Pretends to blow into the trumpet.*) Two babies! One puppy and one baby boy.

Teacher: That's right, Theo! And that baby boy, Jesus, is the savior of the world. When God sent Jesus, God showed that he keeps his promises. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► God keeps his promises.*)



Theo: That makes me so happy! I'm going to go get ready for my baby brother while you learn about baby Jesus.

Teacher: That's a good idea! Friends, let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think about how excited Theo was?
- Tell about a promise you were excited about.
- Why can you be excited about Jesus?

Say: **Theo was so excited, and we can be excited, too! ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES**—and that's so amazing because God's promises are really great.

Bible Time: The King Is Coming!

What You'll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Jeremiah 33:14-16, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we get to hear about a very special promise that God made. He told some of his leaders to tell everyone that he was sending a visitor to the world. The visitor was a king, and God said that king would save the people. Tell about what happens at your house when a special visitor is coming.** Allow time. **You might help your mom clean your room, put on fancy clothes, or make a special meal. We want neighbors and friends to know who's coming and to get excited along with us. Let's get excited about a special visitor now.** Have children get to their feet, crouch down, and begin whispering "A special visitor's coming! A special visitor's coming!" Lead children in standing up slowly and repeating the words louder and louder until they're standing tall shouting the sentence.

Have the children sit again. Then say: **When special visitors promise to visit us, it makes us very happy. In the same way, when God promised to send a king to save the world, the people were very excited, and God's special leaders told everyone they knew about the special visitor. Let's play a game to tell others about the promise that God made. The promise was passed from person to person, so when someone gives you the message, pass it to the person on the other side of you. I'll start.** Tell the child sitting next to you "The king is coming! Pass it on." Then help the children pass the message around the circle.

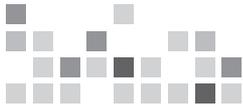
Say: **At that time, when there was an exciting message, they might've announced it with special music. Let's pass the message around our circle once more while we listen to special music.** Play "The King Is Coming Fanfare" (track 25 on the CD), and



Bible Time: The King Is Coming! Supplies

-
- Bible
 - CD player
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "The King Is Coming Fanfare" (track 25)





encourage the children to try to get the message passed around the entire circle before track 25 ends. Once it's passed all the way around the circle, have everyone shout together "The king is coming!"

Say: **The people didn't know when the king would come or what he would look like, but they knew that ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. They trusted God, and they knew that the king would come and take care of them, just as they needed. That king came for us, too! His name is Jesus!**

Have the children get to their feet, crouch down, and begin whispering, "Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming!" Lead children in standing slowly and repeating the words louder and louder. End with the children standing tall and shouting the sentence.

Say: **Let's sing a song about how ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.** Lead children in singing "God Keeps His Promises" (not on the CD) to the tune of "O, How I Love Jesus."

 **God has kept his promises,
God has kept his promises,
God has kept his promises,
He'll take all my sins away.
Jesus came to save us,
Jesus came to save us,
Jesus came to save us
And take all my sins away.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think is so great about the promise God made?**
- **What would you tell people about God's promises?**
- **What are some ways you can let others know about Jesus this week?**

Say: **Jesus was the best promise ever. He came to save you and me. When we believe in Jesus, we can live with God forever. That's an amazing thing, and we can be so thankful that God kept his promise to send King Jesus. Let's tell others this week about how ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES to love us, take care of us, and give us everything we need.**

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4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first.





Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.

CENTER 1:

Shouting the News

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Cover a surface with newspapers. Give each child a Lesson 1 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **The Bible says ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. And when he sent Jesus to the world, it was such an amazing promise that people celebrated with shouts and songs. Earlier we heard music made with trumpets—that’s one way the people might have celebrated. Let’s put trumpets in the hands of the people on our My Bible Hugs pages.**

Show children how to draw triangles in the hands of the people to represent trumpets. Then have them use white glue to fill in the triangles. Finally, have them sprinkle glitter over the glue. As children work, encourage them to make trumpet sounds and shout “Jesus is coming!” Say: **God promised to send a king to his people. Jesus is that king, and he came because ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. We can blow our trumpets because we’re excited about Jesus’ visit.**

CENTER 2:

Tell-a-Friend Snack

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **It’s so wonderful that ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. He promises to love us, take care of us, and give us what we need. We can trust him to keep his promises.**

Distribute the Bugles on napkins, and encourage each child to say something he or she needs, such as food to eat, a bed to sleep in, adults to take care of him or her, or friends to love. After each child shares what he or she needs, have your entire group of kids use their Bugles to “toot” their horns and say “God keeps his promises!” Choose a child to pray, thanking God for providing the snack and for keeping his promise to send Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What’s it like, knowing God promises to take care of all your needs?
- Why do you need Jesus in your life?



Center 1: Shouting the News Supplies

- My Bible Hugs
- pencils
- newspapers
- white glue
- glitter

Center 1: Shouting the News Easy Prep

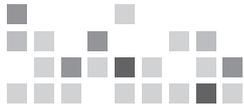
Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.

Center 2: Tell-a-Friend Snack Supplies

- Bugles corn chips
- napkins
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT





Center 3: Stable Building Supplies

building blocks
stuffed animals or toy animal figures

Center 4: Telly-Phones Supplies

2 white paper cups per child
scissors
pencil
tightly woven string
markers

Center 4: Telly-Phones Easy Prep

Cut one 4-foot length of string per child. Use a pencil to poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup.

Say: ► **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.** He promised to send Jesus to save the world—and he did. He also promises to love you and take care of you. Remember to celebrate God's promises this week!

CENTER 3:

Stable Building

What You'll Do

Say: **When God sent Jesus, as he promised, Jesus came as a baby. Jesus was born in a barn, or stable. Let's build a stable now to get ready for God's promise to come true.**

Have the children use building blocks to build a stable for the birth of baby Jesus. Encourage them to work together as they build a large stable. Have kids fill the stable with stuffed animals or toy animal figures in preparation for Jesus' arrival on Christmas.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like about getting ready for a special visitor?
- What can you do to get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas?
- What will you do to thank God for Jesus?

Say: **We celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas because Jesus came to save the world. God promised to send Jesus, and even though the people had to wait, they knew that ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. This Christmas, we can get ready to celebrate Jesus, and we can thank God for all his promises.**

CENTER 4:

Telly-Phones



■ **Tip** Be sure to closely supervise children while working with the string so that it doesn't become a choking hazard. Remind them never to wrap the string around their necks or any other body part.

What You'll Do

Say: **God had a special message: He promised to send his Son to earth. God's leaders were excited, and they told everyone. Let's make something that will help us tell a message in a very special way.**

Give each child two cups and one length of string. Help children thread the ends of their string through the hole in each cup, and tie a double knot on the inside for each child.





Let kids decorate the cups any way they choose using the markers. They can also use the stickers from the Promise Package activity if they want.

Have children pair up. Then have one child in each pair hold a cup on one end of the string while the other child holds the cup on the other end. Have the children walk far enough away from each other to keep the string taut between them. Show them how to take turns placing their cups to their mouths and ears to pass on some good news to their friends.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What good news did you share with your friend?
- Why did you want to share good news?
- Why would you want to share about Jesus with someone who doesn't know him?

Say: **God had good news—he promised to send Jesus to the world. The people wanted to share that good news because they knew that everyone who believes in Jesus will get to live in heaven forever with God. You, too, can live in heaven forever with God if you believe in Jesus. And you can be sure of that because ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.**

5 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

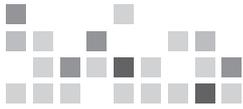
Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember that God keeps his promises this week.**



**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Hugs
pens





Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Use the cup phone you made today to tell a friend about how God kept his promise through Jesus.**
- ■ **Every time you see a nativity, tell someone near you that God keeps his promises.**

Say: **If you want to use your cup phone, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to look for nativities, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show children how to pretend to hold a trumpet by placing their hands in front of their mouths. Invite each child to thank God for a promise he kept. Then lead the children in saying the following prayer.

Pray: **Dear God,
Thank you for keeping your promise to send Jesus.
In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Send the letter to parents home with your kids or give it to parents when they pick up their children. This is a great way to show families they're important to your church and to support their role as spiritual leaders to their children.

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Tear out the Parent Letter in the back of each My Bible Hugs book to give to parents when they pick up their children.

