

TEACHINGS FROM JESUS

LESSON 2: MAKING PROMISES

Through this lesson, the children will learn the importance of keeping their promises.

TOPICS

Accountability, Honesty, Promises, Reputation, Trust, Truth

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Broken Promises (Activity)

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." Matthew 5:37 NIV

Write the verse on the whiteboard but replace the words "Yes or No" with three blank lines as place holders for the words. Ask the class for suggestions on which words should be inserted in place of the missing blanks. If they don't know after several guesses, have a child look the verse up in the Bible to find the correct answer. Fill in the missing words and read the scripture as a class several times. Discuss why God wants us to say "Yes" or "No" when making promises.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

In today's lesson, we learn that once a promise is broken it can't be reversed, and that God wants us to reply simply with a "Yes" or "No." As we read today's scripture, I want you to think about what God is saying in these verses about making promises.

Read Matthew 5:33-37 (Oaths)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean when scripture says do not break an oath? (*Don't break your promises or a vow that you made.*)
2. What are some promises or vows that people break? (*A child may break promises to do chores, homework, or brush his or her teeth. Parents may break promises to play a game, read a book, or to take their children somewhere, etc.*)
3. Should we swear by Heaven that we would do something? (*No, because it is "God's Throne."*)
4. Should we swear by earth that we would do something? (*No, because it is "God's Footstool."*)
5. Should we swear by Jerusalem that we would do something? (*No, because it is the city of the "Great King."*)
6. Should we swear on our head that we would do something? (*No, because scripture states that we cannot even make one hair white or black.*)
7. Has there ever been a time when you had to convince someone that you were telling the truth? (*Allow children to share. If you are a person that always tells the truth and you keep your promises, you will not need to convince people that you are telling the truth.*)
8. God makes it very simple for us. What are two good words to use when making a

promise? *(Yes or No.)*

9. What does the end of verse 37 mean, when it states, "anything else comes from the evil one"? *(Excuses, lying, and deceiving someone are not of God.)*

CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

Stained Reputation (Skit)

ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

Tell Me No More Lies (Activity)

APPLICATION (2 minutes)

Today, we learned that God wants us to keep our promises. We should not swear by Heaven, earth, or anything else. We also learned that there are consequences to breaking promises, and we discovered the value in keeping our answers simply yes or no.

NEXT WEEK

It's not hard to love someone who loves us. We naturally want to be kind to those who are kind to us. However, do we treat people who are not kind to us in the right way? Come back next week to learn what Jesus teaches about loving even our enemies.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)