

# WHY GOD MAKES PROMISES

*Stephen LeBlanc*

**Focus** God makes promises to us not only to benefit us, but also to call us into deeper relationship with Him.

**Open** Tell the group about an interesting place where you have traveled.

**Read** From beginning to end, the Bible is filled with promises. Everything God says is a promise, and we are called to live by His promises. Understanding *why* God makes promises helps us to know His goodness and it motivates us to go after the things He has promised.

*God makes promises because they are the basis for faith.* We get faith when we hear a word from God and believe it (Hebrews 11:1, 6; Romans 10:17).

*God makes promises because they lead us in the right direction.* Every promise in Scripture takes us somewhere we are supposed to go in God. Luke 6:35–38 gives examples of promises that lead us toward righteous living. God gives us promises because He wants us to have vision for where we are headed.

*God makes promises because they demonstrate His faithfulness* (2 Corinthians 1:15–20). God loves to make a promise in advance so when it's fulfilled, we know He is the One who did it for us (Isaiah 49:23; Zechariah 4:8–9; John 2:19–22). We receive the benefit of His promise, *and* we grow in relationship with Him as we see His faithfulness and respond with thanksgiving and praise.

*God makes promises because they encourage us during hard times.* Our Enemy, the devil, tries to defeat us with discouragement. With promises from God's Word, we can stand against the Enemy and overcome (1 Timothy 1:18).

**Talk**

1. What is one of your favorite promises from God in the Bible?
2. Read Hebrews 11:1 and Romans 10:17. Why do you think we sometimes struggle with having faith or being certain of God's promises?
3. The promise of eternal life through belief in Jesus Christ changes the direction of our lives. When we're saved, we follow God and His plans for our life instead of our own. What are some specific ways the promises of God have changed the direction of your life from before you were saved?
4. Tell about a time when you prayed for someone or something for a long time, standing on God's promises. What did you learn about God's faithfulness?
5. What are some of the lies the Enemy uses to discourage us? What does God's Word say to refute those lies? Read specific verses if you know them.

**Live**

Which part of this message spoke to you? Do you need greater faith? Direction? A greater understanding of God's faithfulness? Encouragement in the midst of a battle? Ask God to open your ears to hear His word and the promises He is speaking to you.

**Pray**

Thank You, Lord, for Your promises that bless us and draw us closer to You. We praise You because You are faithful to keep Your promises. Help us, Holy Spirit, to have faith to believe Your promises, to follow You and to stand when the Enemy tries to discourage us.