

Christmas: Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift



DAY 1

Read Isaiah 9:6

It's the Christmas season! Only the most anticipated, most celebrated, most awesome month of the year! And while the presents and lights and decorations are nice; you know what this holiday is really all about? Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

Long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God made a promise. You read it in today's verse. About seven hundred years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah (a prophet who spoke on behalf of God) told us that a child would be born, that He would be a mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.

Now, thousands of years *after* God kept that promise, we celebrate Jesus' birth. It's a huge reminder to us that no matter what happens, God is completely trustworthy. **We can have hope because God keeps His promises.**

Think about the last promise you made. Did you keep it? Why or why not? Spend some time thanking God for keeping His promises and ask Him to help you be a promise keeper too.

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DAY 2

Read Joshua 21:45

When you hear the word "promise" what do you think about? A promise is to follow through with what you say you will or will not do.

Finish the sentences below:

I promise I will not say _____
to my parent. I promise I will put away my
_____ for a whole week. I promise
I will not leave my _____ in the
middle of my bedroom floor. What's easier?
To make a promise or to keep a promise?

It's so much easier to make a promise than to actually follow through and keep that promise. Lucky for us, God never messes this up.

As today's verse reminds us, God kept all the promises He made to His people, the Israelites. Even when the Israelites turned their back on God and tried over and over again to do their own thing. Still, God kept His promise and sent His Son, Jesus. That's why we can have hope. Not just at Christmas but every single day. God can be trusted because God keeps His promises.



DAY 3

Read Ezekiel 12:28

When was the last time someone made a promise to you and that promise was broken? Can you think of an example? Sooner or later, everyone breaks a promise because everyone, including you, is imperfect. Everyone, including you, makes mistakes.

But there is good news. God is not like us. He is completely perfect. There is no wrong or bad or imperfect part of Him. He never messes up, says something He doesn't mean, or "forgets." When God makes a promise, you can trust that it's as good as done. Because God said He would send His one and only Son and because He did, you can trust God, always.

Below is a secret message! Cross out all the letters in the alphabet in order starting with the "A" at the beginning and ending with "Z". Then write the remaining letters in the blanks below in order to reveal the key truth from today's verse.

**A E B V C E D R E Y F T G H H I I
N J G K I L S M A N Y O W P I Q L
R L S C T O U M V E W T X R Y U Z E .**

“ _____
_____.”

Answer: Everything I say will come true.

DAY 4

Read Jeremiah 23:5

Today, create some salt dough ornaments to hang on your Christmas tree to remind you of God's promises:

Salt Dough Recipe

Ingredients:

4 cups all-purpose flour

1 cup table salt

1 ½ cups warm water

Cookie cutters

A toothpick

Paint or paint markers for decoration

Ribbon for hanging

Preheat the oven to 300° Fahrenheit. Stir together the flour and salt. Slowly add the water, stirring constantly. Knead the dough until soft, about five minutes. Place the dough between two large pieces of parchment paper. Roll out until 1/8 inch thick.

Use the cookie cutters to cut out shapes. Use the toothpick to write the words "HOPE," "LOVE," "JOY" and "PEACE" on four separate ornaments. Poke a hole in the top of every ornament for hanging. Transfer the parchment paper to a baking sheet. Bake for one hour.

Once cooled, decorate the "HOPE" ornament and other blank ornaments with paint or paint markers. Thread ribbon through the top and hang on the tree. Save the "LOVE," "JOY" and "PEACE" ornaments to decorate in the weeks to come.