



A NOTE TO PARENTS

This year your child will be studying the promises of God using the curriculum *FAITHFUL TO ALL HIS PROMISES*. Although many specific promises are taught in the curriculum, the greater aim of the curriculum is

to lead children to trust in the promises of God. The battle in the Christian life is not to know the promises but to place confidence in the promises of God.

To that end, we will be “simulating” a faith experience for your child, and modeling for your child the nature of a trustworthy promise giver. Each child has been promised a button which says, “GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES”. Each child who has been promised a button will receive a button, but the children will not all be receiving buttons at the same time. Some will wait a few weeks for their buttons, some will wait a few months for their buttons-- just as we often have to wait a long time for the fulfillment of some of the promises of God. The order of distribution will be random but those who wait longer may need to be encouraged to keep trusting in the promise of their teacher. The point of this exercise is to keep trusting even when it is hard, even when it takes a long time, and even when things don't appear fair.

These are the same kinds of “real life” situations our children will face as they grow up-- sometimes things will be hard, sometimes difficult situations last a long time, and life does not always seem fair. Our children will face many difficulties as they grow up. Some may even face tragedy and overwhelming problems of various kinds. What will carry them through these situations victoriously is an unshakable faith in the Almighty God who works all things for good for His children (Rom. 8:32). Faith grows by trusting in the promises of God in spite of seemingly impossible odds that they could be fulfilled, and seeing God watch over His word to perform it (Jer. 1:12). As children see a God who is not only almighty to see that His promises are fulfilled but also faithful to His word, they will learn that God is who He claims He is.

It is our prayer that as your child faces difficulties, fears, and discomfort, you will lead your child to the promises of God and encourage your child to trust in the God who makes such promises. Our God is worthy to be trusted!

May God bless you as you nurture the faith of your child.

Permission has been given to copy this page for parents.

A WORD ABOUT



TELL THE NEXT GENERATION

SHEETS

The responsibility (as well as the privilege) of nurturing the faith of children rests most heavily on parents (see Deuteronomy 6:5-9). As parents, you will have the most opportunity for “teachable moments,” situations which arise in everyday life which can be opportunities to apply the truth of God. We believe faith nurturing is not merely a classroom experience, but rather a consistent weaving of spiritual truth with everyday life. In order for us to partner together in nurturing the faith of children, take home sheets are provided.

The *Tell the Next Generation* sheets contain the scripture used in the lesson taught to your child that day, the memory verse, the key themes, and ideas for your follow-up:

Scripture and Key Themes: It is very difficult to pass on Biblical truth with heart and passion if it is not first in our own hearts. Therefore, scripture and key themes are provided so that you can dwell on the lesson and ask God to make the truth live in you.

Memory Verse: Memorizing scripture is of vital importance in spiritual growth. When the Word is memorized, it is with us as an ever-present counselor and an effective weapon against the attacks of the enemy. It could be a great encouragement to your child if you memorize the scripture with your child each week.

Ideas for Parent Follow-up: Each week we are encouraging parents to help your child with the memory verse and to review previous verses. We would also like to encourage you to appropriately share from your hearts what God has taught you from dwelling on the scripture and themes.

Prayer: Without the work of the Holy Spirit in your child's heart, these lessons will merely add information to your child's store of Biblical knowledge. While it is crucial to increase Biblical knowledge as “*faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ*” (Romans 10:17 NASB), faith grows by the incentive of God in a person's heart (John 6:44). Therefore, join us in prayer for your child to grow in faith.

Encouragement: It is suggested that you encourage your child to complete the children's take home sheet (*Growing in Faith*). Spiritual growth requires work. It is critically important to teach children diligence and good habits when they are young in order to encourage a lifetime of spiritual growth.

Permission granted to photocopy this sheet.

A WORD ABOUT GROWING IN FAITH SHEETS

Our *Growing in Faith* sheets have been written in order to encourage your child to make a response to the Word of God. When a child acts on the truth he has learned, faith is born in the heart. Each sheet has a checklist of exercises to help children grow in spiritual understanding and in faith. Although a child can “go through the motions” of “completing these tasks” and have little growth in faith, it is also possible that these exercises can encourage a child toward a heart response of faith.

Please encourage your child to complete as much of the sheet as possible during the week and to bring the sheets back to the next class session. Children should check the boxes of the activities completed. This will give your child a sense of accountability as well as communicating the importance of the truth of the lesson to your child. In class, the completed sheet can be used as a springboard for discussion.

The *Growing in Faith* sheets contain the following components:

Memorize: Children are encouraged to memorize a verse a week. Your child may be capable of more memorization and therefore more verses are provided. Teachers may check the verse the class is memorizing, or teachers may leave the choice to the parents. If children start memorizing verses while they are young, they will have hundreds of verses learned by the end of adolescence. Our hope is to cultivate a lifetime habit of Bible memorization.

Review: The goal of memorization is not to learn a verse and then forget it, but to retain the verse for a lifetime. Therefore, review is critical. Please look for opportunities for your child to review and use his memory verses at home.

Pray: One goal of the *Growing in Faith* sheets is to encourage children in their prayer lives. Each week we provide a prayer suggestion.

Tell: Accountability and conversation about spiritual matters benefits all believers. Another goal of the *Growing in Faith* sheets is to start this at a young age so children do not feel embarrassed to talk about deep faith issues when they are older.

Children may choose either the **Write** or the **Share** option.

Write: In an effort to encourage spiritual journalizing, the “Write” selection has been included on the *Growing in Faith* sheets. This can most easily be done if the child has a separate spiral notebook to be used expressly for this purpose.

Share: The “Share” option is provided to help children share their faith (or in the case of unbelieving children, to share their knowledge with the hope that faith will grow from hearing the Word of God). By sharing with an unbeliever, children will be obeying the Great Commission. Children have less fear than many adults in sharing with unbelievers and by nurturing that God-given gift, our hope is they will grow up to be adults who witness to unbelievers.

By sharing with believers, children will be obeying the command to:

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16).

Perhaps then they will grow up to be adults who can say,

“I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly” (Psalm 40:10).

We look forward to partnering with you this year, to the end that *“the next generation may put their trust in God.”*

If you have any questions or suggestions, or if we may be of help to you in any way, please do not hesitate to call. Any of us would be glad to talk with you.



Teacher _____

Helper(s) _____
