God Keeps His Promises

Lesson 21a — God Promises His Son

Lesson 21b — God Promises to Be With Us

Lesson 21c — God Promises to Take Care of Us

Lesson 21d — God Promises Us a Reward If We Finish the Race

Lesson 21e — God Promises Us Jesus Will Come Again

OVERVIEW

The focus of this unit of study is on the promises of God, with the main point being, of course, the fact that the promises are sure. The initial lesson, the prophecy and fulfillment of the birth of Jesus, opens our study with irrefutable evidence. The possibility of coincidence in the fulfillment of the 60 specific prophecies of Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection is ruled out by the science of probability. The words of the men who recorded the promises of God may be completely depended upon, for their utterances have the stamp of divine authenticity upon them.

The remaining four lessons of the unit have a dual thrust — first, the fact that the promise was made, and secondly, what action we must take in order to receive the promise. As you teach each lesson, it is vital that

the students understand what action is required on their part. God's promises are not unconditional!

In the second lesson of this unit your students should see that God promises to be with us when we obey His directives. The next lesson brings out that God promises to take care of our needs if we seek Him first. On the following Sunday, we focus on the fact that there is a reward promised for those who finish the race. In the final lesson, we learn that Jesus will come again and that we must make preparation if we are to go to Heaven to be with Him.

This unit is primarily one of action! Make sure this is the emphasis you make.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Make a rainbow out of cardboard. Use a different strip of color made from construction paper for each Sunday, five colors in all. Make small holes through it. Put questions on pieces of paper and insert through holes, so that all the questions for each Sunday are on the same strip of color. Let each child pick his own questions, alternating colors if you so desire. Have a small prize for those who guess the right answers.

Cut a piece of plywood approximately 3' x 4'. On it mark 12 spots and screw in cup hooks with point values marked next to them, (5,10,15,20,25,30,35,40,45,50,55,60). On your paper have 12 questions marked from 5 to 60 depending on their difficulty. Have 12 volunteers come up and toss a canning jar ring to try to hook a point. If they do, they are asked the question that goes with that hook. If they can't answer, have someone from the department give the answer. If they

can't ring a hook, the next person tries. The one who answers the question with the most points wins the grand prize, with the rest of the department getting a small prize such as a balloon.

One at a time, show the children objects: angel, baby, crown, picture of Jesus, cloud, and ask them which promise or memory verse each reminds them of. The correct answer earns a prize.

CONTEST IDEAS

Make a game board from heavy cardboard (see Patterns). Use small pictures of faces with each child's name on it for their game piece that can be pinned on the board as they move along. They may move up one space for each thing done each Sunday, (attendance, bring Bible, missionary, memory verse, etc.). Sometimes a space may tell them they can receive a prize, a balloon, or a sticker. At the end of the contest those

who made it to the winner's mark should receive a certificate and a McDonald's coupon.

Make a rainbow contest board (see Patterns). Use light blue for your background. Make the rainbow in five colors, one color for each lesson: 21a Red, 21b Orange, 21c Yellow, 21d Green, 21e Blue. (Make sure the red is on the top!) Cut small squares of paper, (about two inches or size to fit inside a color arc) using the five rainbow colors. On the back of each square write a different question about the lesson. On the front write what prize they will receive for a correct answer: lollipop, balloon, stickers, candy, etc. Attach these small squares to the same color on the rainbow: red squares on red, etc. Let the children try to win the prize of their choice each week by answering the question. Be sure you have enough questions for all in your class.

BULLETIN BOARDS

In the upper right-hand corner of the board place an angel holding a crown with a little child looking up to it from the left side of the board (see Patterns). Printing could read IN HEAVEN WE WILL WEAR A CROWN.

The focus of your board should be a large, open Bible (see Patterns). From the Bible, put ribbons running to the various areas of the board. At the end of the ribbon, put the symbols of each of the lessons of this unit, along with the words explaining each promise.

Cover your board with a blue background. Cut a large tree for the left side of the board. Glue popcorn on the tree for blossoms. Make five large flowers. Write words on each flower representing one of the five promises studied in this unit. Caption the board, GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

UNIT PROJECTS

Have your class help you make the mobile featuring the words GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES (see Patterns). On the first Sunday cut out a cloud shape which encloses those words and attach the strings to holes. On each of the five Sundays, you will have them cut out and color the symbols significant of that week's lesson. The five symbols should be a child, a child and Jesus, food (an apple), a crown, and Jesus' figure in cloud with arms outstretched.

At the beginning of the unit, let each child make a May Basket (see Patterns). They should color and cut out the basket, and fold forward on all the fold lines. On each Sunday, let them place a flower in the basket on which you have written the promise being studied that Sunday.

CHART IDEAS

Fold a piece of light blue construction paper in half. On the front paste a cloud made from white construction paper, leaving a slit so the "Heaven" can slide inside. Make a Heaven from yellow construction paper (see Patterns). Inside the folder the children could write memory verses and use stickers such as Jesus, angel, crown, to remind them of the lesson.

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