

The Power of God's Promises

“Experiencing God's Promises for Our Children”

INTRODUCTION

God's love for us is extraordinary, it is powerful and it is personal. We sometimes forget how powerful God's desire is for a relationship with each and every one of those He has created. That desire extends through time into future generations. We can see it in the promises of God to our children. Yet even with God's promises comes personal responsibility for our own salvation. We may experience the consequences of our parents' righteousness or sin, but we do not inherit their guilt or their virtue.

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. God's Love Through The Generations

Read: Ex 20:5-6, Deu 7:9-10, 1Ch 16:15- 18, Ex 34:6-7

1. Make a list of at least 6 of God's attributes that you find in these verses. Why do you think it is important to remember all of God's attributes when considering God's promises?

Read: Rom 9:6-8, Gal 3:6-7, Eph 1:4-8

2. Pastor Dave said “It is not the blood of Abraham flowing in your veins that makes you a member of God's family.” According to these scriptures, how do we inherit the blessings of God's promises?

2. God Sanctifies Our Households

Read: Joshua 6:25, 2 Sam 6:11, Gen 7:1

3. These verses demonstrate God's blessing upon entire households. How does this affect the way you view the responsibilities you have as a member of your own household? In what ways might your faithfulness (or unfaithfulness) impact your family?

Read: Joshua 7:24 -25, Ezekiel 18:14 - 17

4. God's judgment was visited upon the entire household of Achan in Josh 7:24-25. Do you feel the judgment of Achan family was just? (It is OK to wrestle with this) After reading God's declaration in Ezekiel 18:17 what conclusions might we draw concerning Achan's children's participation in this sin?

Read: 1 Cor 7:12 – 14, 1 Peter 3:1-2, 2 Cor 2:14

5. 2 Cor 2:14 says that, as believers, we carry with us the ‘fragrance’ of the Holy Spirit. What effects does that fragrance have on our family members as described in the first 2 Cor 2:14 two verses above? What effects is your “fragrance” having in your family?

3. God Uses Us to Influence Our Children

Read: Proverbs 23:13, Hebrews 12:11

6. Training and discipline go hand in hand. What benefits do these verses cite as a result of discipline?

Read: Proverbs 22:6, Deu 6:6-9 , Judges 2:10- 11

7. God has entrusted us with a sacred duty to pass on our faith to the next generation. How did Moses instruct the Israelite to do this? What were the consequences in Judges after failing to do so? List three new ways that you can share your faith with your children this week.

WRAP-UP

We are greatly blessed because God extends to us His promise of love throughout the generations, He desires to bless our whole household, and He entrusts us to pass the precious gift of faith along to our children. We rest confidently in the knowledge that God is faithful and loving; our hope and the hope for children.

Memory Verse: *Deu 7:9 (NIV) “ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.”*

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:

Pray for your group members needs (use other side also):

Challenge: Create your own family tree. Look for evidence of faith in past generations (family bibles, letters, stories, etc). Share what you find with your family.