

Session 6: This is Promise

March 17 – 23, 2019

THIS IS US
GOD'S WORD • OUR STORY

Hangout (30 Minutes)

1. Ice Breakers: Remember, everyone has the right to pass on any question.
 - What do you consider some of the greatest promises other people have made to you?
 - Can you describe a time when someone broke an important promise to you?
 - If you wish, you can use The Complete Book of Questions to continue getting to know each other. Have a group member choose a number between 601 and 700, look up the question for that number, and encourage everyone to answer.
2. Discuss any plans for your next meeting.

Watch the Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

Discuss (30 Minutes)

It's okay if you don't get to every question. Leaders, guide the group to the questions you think will be most helpful.

1. When you look at our culture today, where do you see important promises that are kept and important promises that are broken?
2. What is one promise that you wish more people would keep?
3. Look up and have different people read the following sets of Bible passages. Put yourself into the narrative and use your imagination to see what you would experience as one of God's chosen people in the narrative. After each set of passages is read, describe what you imagine the experience would be like, what you see.
 - **Exodus 6:1-8; 12:31-42; Joshua 3:14-17.** Read all three passages and then describe what you imagine the experience will be like.. Exodus is the second book in the Bible and Joshua is the sixth.
 - Share what anyone knows about the Babylonian Captivity. Use notes in your Study Bible if you have one. Read all these passages and then describe what you see. **Jeremiah 29:10-14; Ezra 1:1-7, 2:1, 68-70.**

Jeremiah is the book following Isaiah, which is found in the middle of most Bibles. Jeremiah was one of the major prophets of ancient Israel and his ministry covered these years 626 B.C. – 587 B.C. The book of Ezra is about one-fourth of the way into the Bible and is part of the second major section of the Old Testament, the History Books. Ezra was a priest and a scribe who helped lead the Hebrews as they left their captivity in Babylon and moved back to Jerusalem and the Promised Land. His ministry was 480-440 B.C.

- **John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Philippians 3:20-21; Revelation 21:1-7** Read all three passages and then describe what you imagine the experience will be like.

The New Testament is found about three-fourths of the way through the Bible. In the New Testament, John is the fourth book, 1 Corinthians the seventh book, Philippians the eleventh book, and Revelation is the last book. Rehearse any tips you have for remembering the order of Paul's letters in the New Testament (Romans – Philemon).

4. Do you think that when you die that you will go to heaven immediately or at the resurrection on the last day?
5. What do you imagine your experience in heaven will be like?
6. Describe any challenges that you have to trusting that God will fulfill his promise to raise you from the dead into eternal life in the paradise Jesus has prepared for all those who trust in Jesus.
7. *Leaders, lead this in a caring way.* If you have not yet surrendered your life to Jesus and would like to now, you are invited to indicate this to your group and then pray a prayer expressing your trust in Jesus and surrender to him. *As a group celebrate and affirm this step that anyone takes.*
8. Fill out the survey and discuss this question: What was helpful and encouraging to you during the last six weeks of this Church-wide life group experience?

Summary

God makes promises to us. From start to finish The Bible communicates God's many promises to us. We believe that through Jesus, God has fulfilled many of those promises. Our hope is that God will honor the promise he has made to us of eternal life in the earth-like paradise Jesus has prepared for us. This life ends and we die, then our only hope is that God will honor his promise to raise us to eternal life. We receive the promises of God when we trust in Jesus.

Pray (5 Minutes)

Leader: Ask someone to begin and end the prayer.

Think of something you are thankful for being in this group. Close by praying together and having each person thank God for what they are thankful for being in the group.