

God makes many promises to those who believe in Him throughout Scripture. From the promise to Noah that the earth would no longer be destroyed by a flood in Genesis 9, to the promise He made to Abraham in Genesis 15, that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky, to His promise to David that his throne would be established forever in 2 Samuel 7. God fulfills his promises.

While God has made promises to specific people, particularly in the Old Testament, he has also made promises to all of his followers. The best promise of all comes in the New Testament, in the good news of the gospel. "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17)

Jesus Christ came and died for our sins, so that we could have the opportunity of eternal life in God's Kingdom.

In the book of Romans, we also hear about the promises of forgiveness and freedom from sin. Romans 6:22-23 reads, "But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:1-2 read. "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death."

Faith in God, trusting in Christ, yielding to the Holy Spirit, and acting on God's word unlocks the blessings He has promised.

Abraham was certain that God would fulfill his promises and acted with conviction. Romans 4:20-21 says, "Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised."

### **Review the following passages as a group:**

- For each passage, identify the promise and try to determine if the promise is for all believers, or directed to an individual:
  - Romans 8:1-4
  - Acts 13:38-39
  - Galatians 5:13-14
  - Matthew 6:31-33
- Are any of the promises you read about particularly reassuring? How might you use these promises to share hope or build the faith of those around you?