

Get Ready!

A Promise Fulfilled

By: Terri Tschaenn



Text

Isaiah 40:3-5; Luke 1:5-25 & 57-64; Revelation 22:12

Key Quest Verse

“And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him” (Luke 1:76, NIV).

Bible Background

The God we worship is infinitely capable as author of life, sustainer of all creation, and designer of the plan for all time. He had everything orchestrated before the creation of the first thing! He knew in advance all that would happen and planned accordingly.

The most incredible aspect of God’s plan is the gift of His Son, Jesus. Before God spoke the words “Let there be” God knew that mankind would sin and be in need of a savior. He formulated a plan (Logos – John 1) that became flesh (vs. 14) in the life of Jesus. On account of (or because of) Jesus, all things could be created (Colossians 1).

It is interesting to examine the birth of Jesus from the viewpoint of God planning for it all to happen. There are numerous Old Testament accounts prophesying the birth of Christ. Many of them are very specific, defining the place, the family line, and the virgin birth. The selection of parents for Jesus, the requirement of a census that brought them to Bethlehem, and the placement of the magnificent star in the heavens to lead the Magi are all further evidence of our God controlling everything and perfectly presenting His plan of redemption to His people. All creation should marvel at His awesome works!

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:**

- Know:** God's word is full of promises that have already been fulfilled, as well as, promises meant specifically for us that we are still waiting to see happen.
- Feel:** God loves them enough to include them in His promises for a better future.
- Do:** Recognize the prophecies and fulfillment of Jesus' coming.

Leader's Devotion

Paul referred to Timothy as a young man who was faithful and a servant. Timothy did not magically start out with those qualities, he had to grow in his faith. Who helped Timothy in his walk with God? Who was behind the training that led him to be called "faithful?" Scripture answers that question for us:

(2 Timothy 1:5, NIV) "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

Timothy received early training from his Grandmother and his mother, and from others later. He was raised learning the things of God and then mentored by Paul.

The youth of today are searching for answers to the craziness around them and are looking for examples of faithfulness and something to follow. Unfortunately, many of the people or "things" they turn to are unfaithful and do not set a Godly example. How wonderfully blessed you are to be in the position you are. Over the next few weeks you have an opportunity to share about the promises of God. You will be a mentor that can restore hope to youth who are used to half-truths and broken promises – you are training youth in faithfulness.

As you unfold the lessons of God's promises, what excitement you can have knowing that while you are planting God's seed, you are also leaving a legacy.

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: A puzzle with approximately 500 pieces taken out of the original box and put in an unmarked box or paper bag (it can even be an old one without all the pieces).

Procedure: Empty the pieces on the table and then ask your students to put it together – encourage them to get started quickly and work together, even push them by saying that there’s not much time. If some of them are good at doing puzzles they’ll probably immediately get busy sorting the edge pieces, separating by color, and even match up a few pieces; but they’re likely to ask for the picture of the puzzle. They’ll of course want to know what it is they’re trying to put together! You just keep encouraging them to do their best. After a few minutes of frustration, ask them why they want to see the picture on the box before they put the puzzle together. It makes it easier; it helps to know what you’re doing, etc.

Tell them that in the Old Testament, the people of Israel sometimes felt as if they were living their lives as one giant puzzle. They knew they were part of God’s plan, and they could see pieces of the puzzle, but they couldn’t quite see the whole picture or how all the pieces fit together. In our lesson today, we’ll be talking about the pieces of the puzzle (they’re called prophecies or promises) that the Israelites could see.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: Lengths of yarn in various colors (4 yards or longer, one for each student), 3x5 cards, cut in half (3-4 for each student), hole punch

Procedure: Before class, divide the Key Quest Verse into 6-8 parts and print a part of the verse on each half piece of card (doing one full set for each student). Punch a hole in each card. Tie one end of the yarn to one of the cards and spread the rest of the pieces in random order along the length of the yarn. Hide the card at the end of the yarn somewhere in your classroom, then wind the complete length of yarn around chairs, table legs, etc., weaving it back and forth so that some effort and time will be needed to unwind it. Bring the loose ends to various starting points at your table or around the room.

To play: Each student is assigned a loose end of yarn and then follows it to the other end, unwinding it until he has the complete set. When all the cards have been retrieved, the students take their cards off the yarn and sort their verse into the correct order. If necessary, remind the students of the Key Quest Verse. Say, **As the Israelites began to see the promises unfold in the birth of John, they gradually were able to unravel the mystery of what God had in store for them with the birth of Jesus. Let’s see why this verse was important to the Israelites – and even to us today!**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles.

In Old Testament times God talked to His people by giving messages to men that were called prophets. Sometimes these messages gave instructions for the Israelites to follow, sometimes they were a warning to turn from sinful actions, and sometimes they offered hope and promises for the future (these messages are called prophecies).

Some of these hopeful messages came through the prophet Isaiah. Have students look up and read aloud Isaiah 40:3-5. Then ask the following questions: 1. **Who is speaking?** (Isaiah) 2. **To whom is he speaking?** (Israelites) 3. **What is the message?** (Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord) 4. **Who gave Isaiah the message?** (God)

Isaiah's prophecy explained how the one who would announce Christ's coming would also prepare His way so that all could see who He was. Who can tell us the name of the person who fulfilled this prophecy? (John the Baptist) Have students look up and read aloud Matthew 3:1-3. Point out that John was a part of the fulfillment of God's promise to His people.

Isaiah also prophesied details about the birth and life of Jesus. The Jews knew that God had promised them a Savior, but they didn't know exactly what God's plan was or when it would happen. Only God knows when the perfect time is to fulfill His plan.

About seven hundred years passed from Isaiah's time until the Israelite people saw the fulfillment of these prophecies. Generation after generation of faithful Jews followed God's law and looked for the promised messiah. They continued to trust God to fulfill his promises.

One particular Jew who served God faithfully was a priest named Zechariah. Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth had been married many years and had never been blessed with a child. (To Jewish people, children were a special blessing, and it was especially important to carry on the family name.)

One day it was Zechariah's turn to burn incense in the temple as part of his duties as a priest. While the priest burned incense inside the temple, the people worshiping outside were praying. As Zechariah was performing his duties, he suddenly saw an angel standing at the right of the altar. Seeing Zechariah's fright, the angel told him not to fear because his prayer had been heard. His wife would have a son and they would name him John and he would be filled with the Holy Spirit. The prayers of the Jews for Israel's salvation were beginning to be answered! (Luke 1:5-17)

Zechariah was shocked (can you blame him?) and he questioned the angel. Read Luke 1:18. The angel said his name was Gabriel and he had been sent from God to give Zechariah this good news. Then Gabriel told Zechariah that because of his unbelief he would not be able to speak until the promise was fulfilled. (Luke 1:19-20)

Get Set!

Bible Story

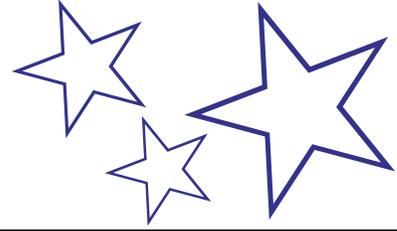
CONTINUED

What do you think it would be like to suddenly not be able to speak for several months?

Of course, God keeps His promises, so Elizabeth did have a son. The neighbors and relatives were surprised that Elizabeth wanted to name the child John instead of naming him after his father, so they used signs to ask Zechariah what the child's name should be. Zechariah wrote, "His name is John." The promise that the angel brought from God had come true, and at that moment Zechariah was able to speak. What do you think his first words were? If we look at Luke 1:64, we find out that Zechariah praised God! (Luke 1:57-64)

Isn't it wonderful to know that God keeps his promises! God always fits the pieces of His promises together so that we can see His promises fulfilled. The birth of John was just the beginning of a beautiful promise coming true. We can see "the big picture" of the Old Testament promises of a coming savior fulfilled in the New Testament as Jesus is born.

Did you know that God has given us promises that we're still waiting to be fulfilled. Look up and read Revelation 22:12. Repeat the questions from above: 1. **Who is speaking?** (Jesus) 2. **To whom is He speaking?** (us, believers, Christians) 3. **What is the message?** (Jesus is coming soon and will reward His followers.) **Jesus will come back to earth again and this promise will come true! We have seen how God kept His promises about John and Jesus. We can be sure that the promises made to us will be fulfilled when Jesus returns.**

Go!**Promise Stars****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Worksheet entitled “Promise Stars,” a small artificial tree or an evergreen plant (such as a large Norfolk pine), various colors of construction paper or card stock, a hole punch, small lengths of yarn. (If it’s not possible to bring in a tree or plant, use the stars around the room or to decorate a bulletin board.)

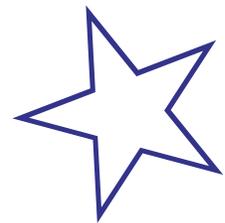
Quest Connection

Today’s lesson focused on the promises that God fulfilled to the Israelites a long time ago. Yet, God’s word is full of promises for you and me still today! Let’s look up some of those promises and see what they mean to each of us!

Procedure: Pass out the worksheet entitled “Promise Stars.” Using the star pattern, instruct the students to cut out several colors of stars to decorate the “Promise Tree.” Each student should choose several verses to look up and print on their star. Have them print the verse location on one side of the star and the promise on the other.

Close

Ask each student to choose a favorite promise verse and encourage them to memorize it. Close in prayer, thanking God for keeping His promises.



Go!**Smuggle****MEMORY**

Materials: Any small object can be used for this game, but to fit the theme of your lesson use one of the stars from the promise tree, or print the Memory Verse on a cardboard star.

Quest Connection

How did it feel when you were the one left holding the promise? Were you happy to have it, anxious to get it going again, or did it really not matter much to you? The Israelites knew about the promises that God had made to send a savior into the world. They were happy to have it and anxiously passed on their knowledge from generation to generation, faithfully waiting for the right time. Think about the promise that God has left with us – the promise of eternal life. Again, how do you feel about that? Are you happy to have it, anxious to pass it on to others, or does it really matter at all to you?"

Procedure: Have the kids sit (or stand) in a circle with their hands behind their backs. Choose someone to sit (or stand) in the middle of the circle. Hold up the promise star and say: **Let's see how clever you are at passing this promise star without letting the person in the center know where it is. We'll pass it behind our backs for a few seconds, and then we'll see if the person in the center can guess where it is.** Have the kids begin passing the promise star behind their backs around the circle. Encourage your students to try to confuse the person in the center so that he or she doesn't know where the promise star is by pretending to pass it back and forth while trying to distract him/her. After about 30 seconds, have the person in the center guess who's holding the promise star. If they guess correctly, they switch places and the person holding the promise star becomes the center person and the game continues. If the guess is incorrect, have the players continue to pass the promise star for a chance at another guess. If the second guess is also incorrect have the person who is really holding it show who they are and then switch places.

Close

God wants us to know that He keeps His promises and He also wants others to know about them. Think about how you can share His promises with someone who doesn't yet know about His Son Jesus Christ and the promises He has in store for our future.

Go!



A Promise Puzzle

PUZZLE

Materials: Copies of the worksheet “A Promise Puzzle,” pencils

Quest Connection

Our lesson today has been about some of the promises that the Israelites were looking forward to God fulfilling. It’s important for us to remember that the Bible is still full of promises and help for us in our lives today. Reading and studying our Bibles will help us to find the answers to problems that come our way every day. God will give us the strength and courage we need if we trust in Him.

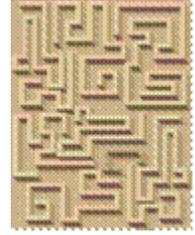
Procedure: Hand out copies of the worksheet entitled “A Promise Puzzle” and pencils to your students. Read through the verse and instructions together.

Close

Repeat Deuteronomy 31:6 together: **“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”** Thank God for this promise as you close your class in prayer.

Puzzle solution:

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Go!**Blind Faith****OBSTACLE COURSE**

Materials: One or two blindfolds

Quest Connection

Do you ever feel as if your life is like walking through a maze? There are a lot of people telling us what to do and some people trying to get us to do something we don't want to do – or maybe something that may even be harmful to us. When we have these times of confusion, it's important to focus on the voice of God and tune out the words of the world. As the Israelites began to see the promises unfold in the birth of John, they gradually were able to unravel the mystery of what God had in store for them with the birth of Jesus. Sometimes we may wonder what purpose God has for our lives and we may feel like we're lost in some kind of maze – but one thing we can be sure of is that God is in control and He'll be able to help us get out of any mess we might get ourselves into!

Procedure: Prior to this activity, set up a simple obstacle course using items in your room or somewhere around the church. Group students in pairs and blindfold one person in that pair. The blindfolded person will take a turn going through the maze, guided by the voice of his partner, who will be standing at the starting point. Other students in the room will call out instructions of their own (they should be both accurate and misleading) as the person makes his way through the maze. The blindfolded person will have to tune out those voices and focus in only on the voice of his partner. Continue by letting each student have a turn.

Close

Undoubtedly, most of your students may feel that some things in their lives are painful or confusing to them. They may not know their place in the church or understand the reassurances of the promises of God's grace. Ask for students to think of things in their lives that they feel are out of control (give them a minute to think about it, but don't have them answer out loud). Remind them that God can be the one in control if we let Him. He has had a plan for them from the beginning of their lives and the gift of Jesus if just as much for them today as for the Israelites 2,000 years ago. By asking Jesus into their lives to be their personal savior, they can be relieved of the tangles of daily problems by having the strength and the resources to deal with them. Lead them in a prayer asking God to help them focus on His guidance and the reassurance He has given us through the gift of His son, Jesus.

Go!**From Promise to Fulfillment****RESEARCH**

Materials: Copies of the worksheet “From Promise to Fulfillment,” pencils, Bibles

Quest Connection

These are just a few of the prophecies the Bible has about the life of Jesus. Many more can be found about His death and resurrection and even more about future events like Christ’s return and God bringing together His believers into an everlasting kingdom. Just as we can see many prophecies have already come true, we can be sure that the promises that affect our future in the kingdom will also come true when God says the time is right. Encourage the students to study their Bibles and try to find more about the promises that God has made to them.

Procedure: Have the students work in pairs to look up the verses. Have one student look up the Old Testament promise while the other looks up the New Testament fulfillment, then have them compare the answers and what the promise was referring to.

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|---------------------|--|
| 1. Elijah | Refers to the one who would announce Jesus’ coming. |
| 2. Virgin | Refers to Jesus’ mother. |
| 3. Bethlehem | Refers to Jesus’ birthplace. |
| 4. Gold and Incense | Refers to gifts brought to the baby Jesus. |
| 5. Egypt | Refers to Joseph and Mary escaping to Egypt with the baby Jesus. |
| 6. My Son | Refers to Jesus being called the Son of God. |

Since a couple of these were not specifically mentioned in today’s story, this would be a good time to give a quick summary of the Magi coming to visit Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12) and then the directions that God gave Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15).

Close

Close in prayer thanking God for His faithfulness in keeping His promises.

Go!**Act It Out!****DRAMA/ACTING****Materials:** Bibles**Quest Connection**

After their presentations, praise students on their work and then ask, **What did you learn about trust from each of these passages? What did you learn about God?** Allow for responses, then say, **Like Zechariah and Elizabeth, you can show your faith in God by obeying His commands and trusting Him to fulfill His promises.**

(If you don't have enough students for separate groups, have them act out each section of the story as one group. They'll also enjoy it if you join in – encourage them to be the director and tell you what part to play.)

Procedure: Divide students into three groups, giving each student a section of today's scripture:

Luke 1:8-13 (Zechariah in the temple)

Luke 1:18-22 (Zechariah questions the angel)

Luke 1:57-66 (The birth of John the Baptist)

Instruct students to read the text you've given them, and then create a drama based on the story in their assigned text. Allow a few minutes for preparation, and then have groups perform their skits in proper order.

Close

The announcement and birth of John the Baptist is just one example that God always does what He says He will – even though it might not be on our time schedule or in the way that we might think it should be done. Even though we don't always understand what God's plan is, He sees the "whole picture," and in the end, His way always works out for the best. We just need to learn to trust Him and obey His commands in the meantime!

Go!**What's my Job?****GUEST QUEST**

Materials: Find someone (or two) in your congregation who can give your students a description of their job (their occupation needs to be unknown to the students).

Quest Connection

In today's lesson we learned that the Israelites had a description of the person that God would send to be a savior to the people. They somewhat knew what the job was that God was sending Jesus to do. They had learned from the prophets Isaiah and Micah some of the events that would surround His birth and also what would happen in His life. Still, even though they expected Jesus' coming, many were still confused and doubted that Jesus was who He said He was. The Israelites had to trust God to fulfill His promises and bring the promised savior that would change their lives forever, just as we need to trust God to bring the right circumstances into our lives to lead us in the path He has planned for us.

Procedure: Have your visitor list the qualifications, training, experience, etc. that would be necessary for his position. From his description, have the students guess what his occupation is. Encourage your students to question your visitor about his or her job and the steps he has taken to get to where he is.

Option B: Bring in the classified section of a newspaper. Read aloud the descriptions of or qualifications for several jobs and have the class guess what the occupations are. Explain that the purpose of the classified ads is to help businesses find qualified people to fill job positions.

Close

Have you thought about what kind of job you'd like to have when you get older? Do you know what you'll have to do to achieve that goal? – what kind of training or skills you'll need, etc. God has given each of us special talents and abilities and He has a plan for our lives. Remember to ask God for guidance as you make choices about your future. He will direct your path and bless you if you follow His will for you.

Go!**Pop-up Greetings****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Card stock paper in various colors (this is a heavier weight paper you can get in the paper section of a craft or office supply store), scissors, recycled greeting cards, (ask your congregation for last year's cards – you'll get plenty!) glue, markers.

Quest Connection

Just as John the Baptist spread the news of the coming Savior, we can continue to share this Good News with friends and family. Sending Christmas cards is a tradition that continues to allow us to spread God's love for us to others.

Procedure: Cut out a design you like from a recycled Christmas card. It should be about three to four inches across. (Encourage students to use designs that tell a part of the Christmas story as opposed to Santa, etc.) Fold a piece of card stock in half, either direction, depending on the cut-out you will be inserting. Make two snips in the middle of the fold about 1 inch in length and 1 inch apart. This will be the tab that will hold your cutout design. Fold the cut tab and crease it to form the shape of a step inside the card. Glue the cutout to the rising part of the step. If desired, to hide the cuts, glue this card inside another piece of card stock cut to the same size, or slightly larger. Draw a picture on the front of the card or cut out one from wrapping paper or another Christmas card. Have students print their own Christmas messages to a friend or family member or have each student pick a member of your church congregation and have the student send a special Christmas message to them.

Close

Ask your students to think of someone that could use some Christmas cheer and encourage them to spend some time with them. (This could lead to a great service project.)

Go!**12 Days of Christmas Gift Baskets****SERVICE PROJECT**

(Adapted from an idea used at Troy View Church of God in Troy, Ohio.)

Materials: Copies of letter to families of your students (the sample is in the resource pages), copies of the resource page “12 Days of Christmas,” baskets to hold the 12 presents, wrapping paper, tape, gift tags to list each day’s gift, and a card for the final day’s present.

Quest Connection

This would be a good service project for your class. It’s important to remember (especially at this time of year) the importance of giving to others. Your students are probably familiar with the song “The 12 Days of Christmas.” Let them know that this song dates from the time when people had a Christmas holiday that lasted 12 days. In those days, all holidays were holy days. Christmas was such a special holy day that it was followed by 12 whole days of feasting, free from work. Even though we don’t celebrate Christmas in quite the same way, we can remember this old tradition by sharing the joy of the season with others.

Procedure: First you’ll need to decide how many gift baskets you want to make. You might include homebound members, friends or family in nursing homes, elderly members of your congregation, singles, teachers, the pastor and family, etc. Early in December, pass out the letter to your students’ families requesting gifts to be purchased. Another option for a few students would be to take them shopping as a group to decide on the gifts. Encourage them to put a little thought into it, but it doesn’t have to be anything expensive, even homemade gifts or crafts made in class would be appropriate. You may decide to wrap the gifts and arrange the baskets as a group project—or have the students bring in the presents already wrapped.

Another decision you’ll need to make is when you want to celebrate the “12 days.” Many consider it the 12 days leading up to Christmas, (December 14-25) and that is how the resource page is prepared, but historically the “12 days of Christmas” were the 12 days that separate Christmas Day from Epiphany, which is celebrated on January 6 and traditionally marks the day that the wise men visited the baby Jesus with their gifts. In the past, there was a tradition of giving gifts throughout the 12 days, rather than stacking them all up on the morning of December 25.

Close

Plan to gather together to deliver the baskets and be sure to include a time for caroling and some treats.

Go!



Angel craft

ARTS/CRAFTS

Materials: Paper plates (either dinner size or dessert size work well, depending on how large you want the angel), pattern from resource pages, scissors, hole punch or needle, yarn or thread, stapler, markers, glitter fabric paint (you can get this at any craft store or in the craft section of Wal-Mart, it comes in a variety of colors and you'll want the tubes that squeeze out like glue.)

Quest Connection

Our story today only talked about Zechariah's visit from Gabriel, but others received an angelic visit as Jesus' birth was foretold. This would be a good time to review Mary's experience in Luke 1:26-38 and Joseph's visit from an angel in his dream in Matthew 1:18-25.

This craft is a great one to do to take along to a nursing home visit or to give out while caroling to shut-ins, etc. It's easy to make multiples of and each one seems to have its own personality. From personal experience, kids of all ages enjoy making these angels.

Procedure: Have the students cut out the pattern from the resource page (it will need to be enlarged if using full size dinner plates). Trace the pattern onto the paper plate and cut out the angel into a cone shape (the angel will roll into a cone shape easier if you decorate the back side of the plate.) Decorate the angel using markers, crayons, or glitter paint. (If using glitter paint it will have to set to allow the paint to dry and students will have to be warned to not get the fabric paint on their clothes.) After decorated (and dried if necessary), wrap the skirt in a cone shape and staple in the back. If desired, make a hole in the top of the head and tie on yarn or string for hanging the angel.

Close

God chose to send the angel Gabriel to speak to Zechariah when he was working in the temple to tell him he was going to have a son and that son would have an important job to do – preparing the way for the Lord. Close by asking the students how they can pass on to others the important messages that God has given us. Encourage them to spread the news of the promises that God has given us – and the hope that we have of life in an eternal kingdom.

Promise Stars

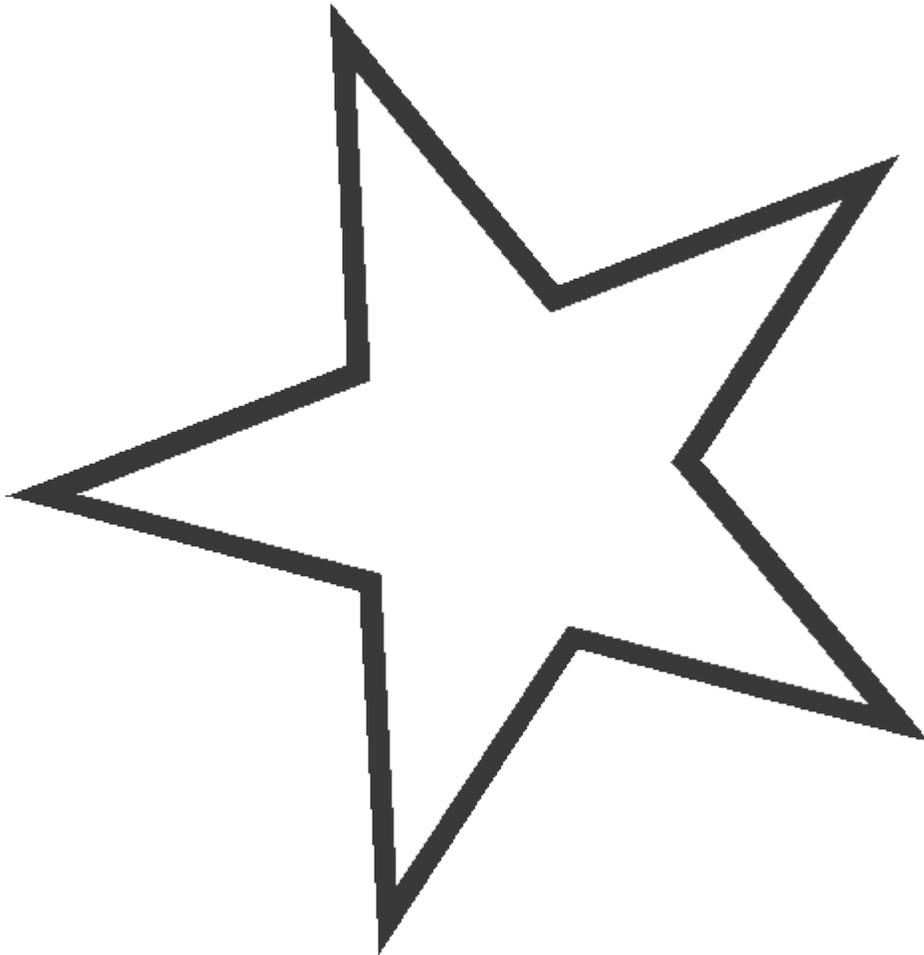
Copy this pattern to create several Promise Stars on heavyweight paper. Cut out stars and list verses with a promise from God and a few words about what the promise is. Hang it on your Promise Tree or to decorate your classroom. Listed below are several verses to look up and use for your promise stars. See if you can find some more – there are many!

Romans 8:28
John 6:35
Romans 4:20-21
John 14:2
Mark 11:24

Galatians 3:29
2 Corinthians 12:9
Luke 11:9
1 John 2:25
Isaiah 43:2

Revelation 21:4
Psalms 34:19
2 Peter 1:4
Matthew 6:33
Mark 9:23

John 1:12
1 Corinthians 10:13
Psalms 30:5
James 2:5
Luke 17:6



From Promise To Fulfillment

An Old Testament Promise

See, I will send you the prophet
_____ before that great and
dreadful day of the Lord comes.
Malachi 4:5

Therefore the Lord himself will give you
a sign: the _____ will be with
child and will give birth to a son, and
will call him Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14

But you, _____ Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of
Judah, out of you will come for me one
who will be ruler over Israel.
Micah 5:2

And all from Sheba will come, bearing
_____ and _____ and
proclaiming the praise of the Lord.
Isaiah 60:6b

I loved him, and out of _____
I called my son.
Hosea 11:1b

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord:
He said to me, "You are _____
today I have become your Father."
Psalm 2:7

A New Testament Fulfillment

And if you are willing to accept it, John
is the _____ who was to come.
Matthew 11:14

The _____ name was Mary.
Luke 1:27b

So Joseph also went up from the town of
Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to
_____, the town of David.
Today in the town of David a Savior has
been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:4,11

Then they opened their treasures and
presented him with gifts of _____ and
of _____ and of myrrh.
Matthew 2:11b

So he got up, took the child and his
mother during the night and left for
_____.
Matthew 2:14

And a voice from heaven said, "This is
_____, whom I love; with him
I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17

The Twelve Days of Christmas

The TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS are coming your way,
To bring joy and blessings to celebrate each day.

We've enjoyed surprising you with each special gift,
And hope it will bring you a spiritual uplift.

Our secret elves have been busy planning this for you,
Open one gift each day as listed and enjoy the scripture too.

Beginning December 14, one gift should be unveiled,
And on December 25 your secret elves will be revealed.

Open December 14: "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24, NIV).

Open December 15: ". . . But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15, NIV).

Open December 16: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders . . ." (Isaiah 9:6, NIV).

Open December 17: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21, NIV).

Open December 18: The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28, NIV).

Open December 19: "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus" (Luke 1:31, NIV).

Open December 20: The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35, NIV).

Open December 21: "For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37, NIV).

Open December 22: "For the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name" (Luke 1:49, NIV).

Open December 23: "And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7, NIV).

Open December 24: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11, NIV).

Open December 25: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14, NIV).

Resource Page

Sample letter:

Date: _____

Dear _____,

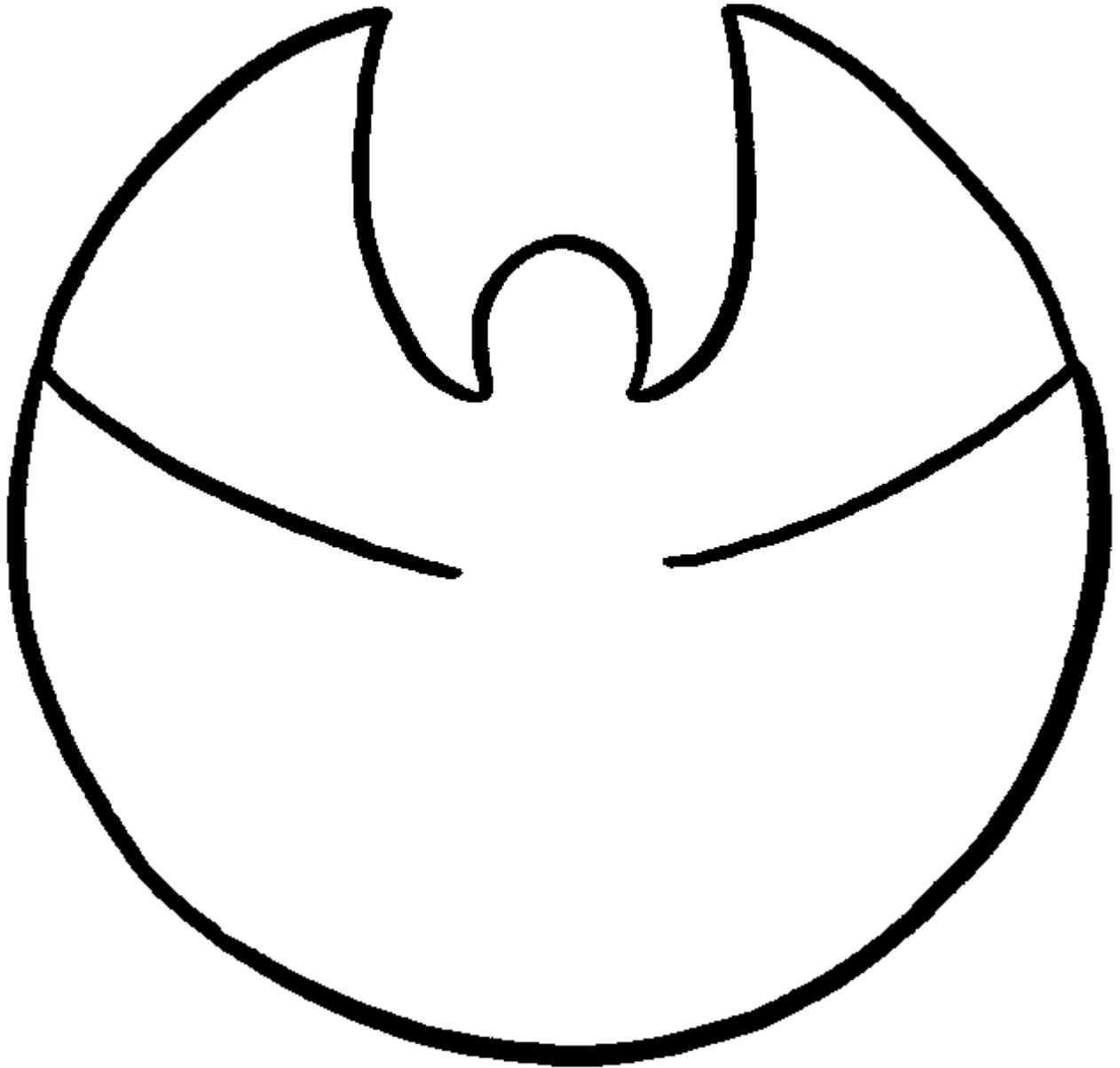
One of our goals is teaching our students to be loving and caring to all people. As a special project this year, we would like to give Christmas baskets to several of our older members to celebrate the "12 Days of Christmas." We want to make people happy and let them know we're thinking of them this Christmas. To be able to do this we need your help! We would like you to take your child shopping to buy (or make) four inexpensive gifts that could be given to an older adult. Please bring to class on or before December _____. There will be instructions in the baskets to open one gift daily with the dates printed on the gifts and on the last gift will include a card: WITH LOVE FROM . . . ALL YOUR FRIENDS IN JR. CHURCH . . . with each name then listed.

Thank you for your help in our Special Christmas Project!

Sincerely,

Your name _____

Resource Page



Angel Pattern

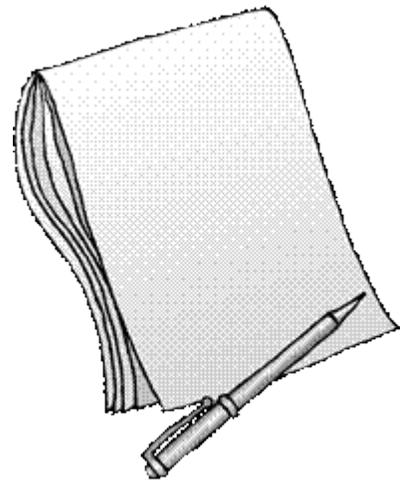
Cut out pattern on solid lines, trace on back of dessert size paper plate (enlarge for dinner size plate). Cut out, decorate, wrap skirt in cone shape and staple in back. If desired, poke hole in head and attach string for hanging.

Journal Page

Today you learned that God keeps His promises because He loves us. For this week's journal entry, write one promise you will make to God this week and the steps you'll take to keep that promise.

Dear God, this week, I promise to:





Journal Page

One way we can worship God is in prayer. God doesn't ask us to be perfect in our prayers – He just wants us to talk to him! Think about how you talk to your best friend, then finish this worship prayer.

Dear God,



You are wonderful! Only You always keep Your promises. Thank You for . . .

In Jesus' Name,
Amen

