

LESSON: MAKING PROMISES

BIBLE VERSE

"All you need to say is simply 'yes' or 'no'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

Matthew 5:37 NIV

Have the children repeat this verse several times aloud with you. Have them stand up when they say the word "Yes" and sit back down when they say the word "No."

Explain how Jesus is telling us that when we tell someone that we will do something, or not do something, we should be speaking truthfully. We should do what we say. We should not make up excuses for not doing what we promised. When we do, it is the same as lying.

Introduction:

Would you like to be a person known never to lie, or a person known always to lie? I'm sure that most of you would like to be known as a godly person, who is honest, truthful, and always keeps promises. Perhaps you have heard someone make a promise or an oath by saying, "I swear on a stack of Bibles" or "I swear to God," or even, "If I am lying, let me be struck by lightning." We should not say these things. As Jesus said in Mathew 5:37, we should not add anything more to saying either "yes" or "no." Let's read from the Bible to learn what else Jesus teaches about oaths and making promises.

Read Matthew 5:33-37 (Making Promises)

Discussion Questions:

1. Are you supposed to break an oath or a promise?
2. What are some promises that children might break?
3. Should you swear by Heaven that you would do something? Why or why not?
4. Should you swear by the earth that you would do something? Why or why not?
5. Should you swear by Jerusalem that you would do something? Why or why not?
6. What about swearing on your own head, is that okay?
7. Why do you think Jesus wants you to keep your promises? *(Allow for answers.)*

FUN TIME - Yes or No? (Coloring Activity) -Attached

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Have the children color the YES sign green and the NO sign red. (Each child should have one of each.)

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

I am going to ask some questions. I want you to hold up either your YES sign or your NO sign to show me how you would answer each question. We will start with some easy ones.

Questions:

1. Do you love God?
2. Do you love chocolate?
3. Do you eat worms?
4. Do you clean your room after you tell your mom or dad that you will?
5. Do you eat your fruit and vegetables after you tell your mom or your dad that you will?
6. If you say you will help someone do something, should you always do it?
7. If you tell your parents that you are going to brush your teeth and you don't, did you break your promise?
8. Does God like it when we lie or break our promises?

PRAYER/SNACK

Start by thanking God for the treats and for giving us His Son to teach us how to be honest and truthful. Thank God for always keeping His promises. Give each child a graham cracker. Let the children decide if they want to break the cracker or eat it whole. While enjoying the treats, have a casual discussion about keeping promises and telling the truth by asking the following questions:

1. Why is telling the truth so important?
2. Have you ever broken a promise? How did it feel?
3. What happens when we don't keep our promises?
4. What are excuses?