**God Always Keeps His Promises**

Acts 13:16–41

**Third- and fourth-graders at Wheaton (Illinois) Christian Grammar School were asked to complete the following sentence: “By faith, I know that God is…” Here are some of the things they wrote:**

**1. “By faith, I know that God is forgiving, because he forgave in the Bible, and he forgave me when I went in the road on my bike without one of my parents.”**

**2. “By faith, I know that God is caring, because he made the blind man see, and he made me catch a very fast line drive that could have hurt me. He probably sent an angel down.”**

**3. “By faith, I know that God is merciful, because my brother has been nice to me for a year.”**

**4. “By faith, I know that God is faithful, because the school bill came, and my mom didn’t know how we were going to pay it. Two minutes later, my dad called, and he just got a bonus check. My mom was in tears.”**

**SLIDES WITH PASSAGES:**

**Sometimes we question the faithfulness of God and fail to claim the promises he has made to us. God has promised that he will…**

**1. Never stop loving us – Romans 8:38–39.**

**2. Work all things together for good – Romans 8:28.**

**3. Give us true rest – Matthew 11:28–29.**

**4. Protect our hearts/minds – Philippians 4:6–7.**

**5. Never abandon us – Hebrews 13:5.**

**6. Give us eternal life – 1 John 2:25.**

**7. Remove all sources of evil in heaven – Revelation 21:4.**

**Do we believe that God will keep these promises?**

**Introduction**

A. One of the constant themes of the Old and New Testaments is the faithfulness of God. This means that he will always keep his word – Hebrews 10:23.

B. We know that God is faithful because of Jesus Christ. He is the “Yes” to all of the promises of God – Romans 15:8–9; 2 Corinthians 1:20.

**Hope is not blind optimism. Optimism is when someone puts her shoes back on when the minister says, “In conclusion….” No, hope is not blind optimism; it is assurance, based on the faithfulness of God.**

C. The apostle Paul was given the opportunity to preach to a group of Jews that the promises of the Old Testament had been realized in Jesus and that they needed to respond in faith – Acts 13:14–15.

**A Brief History of Israel**

A. Paul begins with a brief history of Israel. He focuses on the promises that were made to the Patriarchs, driving toward King David – Acts 13:16–22.

B. As God had promised, Israel became a nation and received the land of Canaan, being delivered and protected by God – Hebrews 6:13–18.

C. Yet after David was crowned king, God assured him that his house (kingdom) would be established eternally in his descendent – 2 Samuel 7:8–16; see Psalm 89:1–4, 59–51.

**The Good News of Jesus**

A. Jesus is the fulfillment of the divine promises of the Old Testament. He is the Savior of Israel and the Son and Holy One of God – Acts 13:23, 33, 35.

B. The testimonies of John, of the eyewitnesses, and of Scripture confirm that Jesus is the only way to salvation (forgiveness) – Acts 13:23–37; see 4:12.

**Paul quotes Psalm 2:7, then Isaiah 55:3, and finally Psalm 16:10 (see Romans 1:4).**

C. Because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, believers can receive the promised blessing of divine mercy – 13:34, 38; see Isaiah 55:3.

**A Word of Exhortation**

A. That God is faithful means he acts consistently, that is, in accordance with his word—forgiving the faithful and judging the rebellious – Deuteronomy 7:9–10.

B. God offers forgiveness and justification to Jews and Gentiles. To reject his offer will, however, result in condemnation – Acts 13:38–41; see Habakkuk 1:5.

**The word translated “freed” in Acts 13:39 is the Greek word typically translated “to justify.” The Law could not provide full and final forgiveness and justification, but the gospel is able to add believers to the covenant people of God. Forgiveness and justification are available only in Jesus Christ because he took on himself the curse of the Law by hanging on a tree (see Acts 13:29; Deuteronomy 21:22; Galatians 3:13).**

C. The exhortation is clear: God wants to save us, but he will not force himself on us; we must choose to follow him – Acts 13:46; Deuteronomy 30:19–20.

**Acceptance or Rejection?**

A. While many in Pisidian Antioch were intrigued by the good news of Jesus, only some—mostly Gentiles—received the message – Acts 13:42–52.

B. What about us? God has made wonderful promises to us. Will we follow Christ, accept his forgiveness, and receive the promise of God?

**“God never made a promise that was too good to be true” (Dwight L. Moody).**

C. God is faithful. He will keep his promises. They are “Yes” in Jesus. Are you in Christ? –
2 Corinthians 1:20; Galatians 3:26–27.

**“I believe the promises of God enough to venture an eternity on them” (Isaac Watts).**