

=BIBLE PROMISES=

Lesson 2

Bible Promises About Getting to Heaven

Scripture: John 5:24; John chapter 5

Objects to have:

A small blanket  
An empty medicine bottle  
Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

Have you children thought about promises during this past week? Have you made any promises since last Sunday? I hope that if you made any promises, you remembered to keep them. God has made hundreds and hundreds of promises. Every promise that God has ever made has been kept by Him and will be kept by Him. Remember the promise that we talked about last week? I'll give you a clue—This promise had to do with always having summer and winter, always having times when food could grow, and times when food could be brought into houses and barns. Remember Genesis 8:22? (Teachers, it might be a good idea to make a “promise poster.” This poster could be designed so that a new promise could be added each week for these eleven weeks of studies about Bible promises.) Let's say Genesis 8:22 together. (Repeat this verse with the class.)

Look what I have brought with me today. (Hold up the empty medicine bottle.) This bottle had some medicine in it. The medicine helped someone get well from a bad cold (or whatever its use). Doctors have learned enough to be able to help us get well from many diseases. Of course, they could not know these things if Jesus did not want them to know them. Jesus is the Great Physician; He is the wisest Doctor.

Before Jesus came to earth from Heaven, doctors did not know as much as doctors know now. That was many, many hundreds of years ago. While Jesus was on earth, doctors still did not know as much as doctors know now. One day Jesus showed that He was wisest of any doctor who has ever lived. At the same time He gave us another promise. Listen to the story and I'll tell you how Jesus showed that He knows everything and, also, I'll tell you what promise He gave to us.

Telling the story:

(Spread your blanket on the floor, or on a table, in the shape of a sleeping bag.) There was a man who was lying on a blanket, or a bed, as he called it. This man was lying on his blanket-bed by the side of a pool of water. The reason this man was lying there was because he could not walk. He was too sick to walk. He had something terribly wrong with him.

I wonder why he was there lying by the pool of water, near the temple in Jerusalem. I wonder why the man was not at home lying on his bed. The Bible tells us that there was something special that God had one of His angels do at this pool of water which was near the temple in Jerusalem. One of God's angels would come to the Pool of Bethesda every now and then to stir up the waters. Whenever the angel would stir up the waters, any sick or crippled people who were around the pool became very excited. They knew that the first person who could get into the Pool of Bethesda after the angel had stirred the waters would be cured of his disease or his crippled condition.

There was something built around the pool. The Bible says that there were five porches around the Pool of Bethesda. Many, many sick or crippled people were lying on their little beds on the porches around the pool. There were other people there, too. Some of the sick and crippled people had friends or family with them who could help get them into the pool after the angel had stirred the waters.

The man that we are talking about today did not have anyone to help him into the pool, however. This poor man had been here on the porch for a long time. Jesus was walking through Jerusalem one day. He knew before He got to the Pool of Bethesda that this poor man needed to be healed. Jesus came to the porch where the man was lying on his bed. The man saw Jesus, but he did not know Him. Jesus walked right up to the man. He said, "Would you like to be made well?"

The man said, "Oh, yes, I would like to be made well. But, everytime I try to get to the pool, somebody gets there before I do. I have no one to help me get into the waters after the angel has stirred them."

Jesus said to the man, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk."

Do you think that the man said, "But, I cannot walk. Can't you see that that is why I am here?" No, the man did not say that. He recognized that Jesus' voice had some power in it. He believed that just because Jesus said it, it would be so. The man got up! He picked up his bed as he had been commanded. He walked!

Immediately Jesus walked away from the man so that the man could not see Him in the crowd. That day was the day which we call Saturday. They called it the Sabbath Day. The man carried his bed with him and left the porch that was beside the Pool of Bethesda. He was so happy that he wanted to thank God for the miracle which had been done for him.

Immediately, however, he was roughly stopped by some important men. These men said, "It is against our religious laws for you to carry anything on the Sabbath Day—on this seventh day of the week. You are carrying your bed. You are doing wrong."

The man answered, "The Man Who made me well told me to carry my bed."

The religious leaders asked, "Who told you to carry your bed?" Boys and girls, they should have been happy to think that now this man who had been sick for such a long time that he had not been able to walk was now well, and well enough to walk and to carry his bed with him; don't you think so?

The man said, "I do not know His name." He then went on his way into the temple. There in the temple he saw the Man Who had made him well! He saw Jesus. Jesus came up to him. He said to the man, "Be sure that you do not do the same wrong things that you had been doing. If you continue in that sin, you will get sick again; only, this time you will be more sick than you were before I made you well."

After the man left the temple, I think that he started to go home with his bed. The same religious leaders stopped him. He then told them that it was Jesus Who had made him well, and that He had told him to carry his bed.

These men stopped Jesus. They said to Jesus, "Who do You think You are that You can tell a man to do something on the Sabbath Day that we have told him he cannot do?"

Jesus said, "Listen to Me. I am the Son of God. I can do anything. I love people and want the best for them. It was much more important that this poor man be healed than that he keep a rule which you made. Besides, he trusted Me. Now he is saved; he can go to Heaven." This man could be saved; he could go to Heaven. Yes, he could. Listen to the promise which Jesus told these leaders: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Boys and girls, you and I are hearing Jesus' words. Jesus' words are right here in the Bible. Jesus said that if we hear His words and believe that Jesus died to save us from our sins, then we can have everlasting life, too. That means that we can go to Heaven when we die! Isn't that wonderful? I want to go to Heaven when I die. I know that I am going to Heaven when I die. I asked Jesus one day to be my Saviour. Now I know that I am going to Heaven.

Let's practice saying John 5:24 together. "Verily, verily" means that "it is really so; it will really happen." Jesus' promise will really come true. Hear Jesus' words, boys and girls. Believe that God sent Jesus to die for our sins. Believe, also, that Jesus has risen from the dead. If you will, you will go to Heaven when you die.