

#7. Be True to Your Husband or Wife

(Exodus 20:14)

Introduction

Has anyone ever made a promise to you and then didn't keep it? How did that make you feel?

Have you ever broken a promise to someone? Have you ever told someone that you were going to come over and play but then changed your mind and didn't go to their house? Can you share about a time you made a commitment and didn't want to keep it?

Today we're going to learn that God wants us to keep our promises. After all, He never breaks His promises to us.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, You are true to us. You keep all of Your promises. Please help us to keep all of our promises, too. When we grow up and get married, help us to always be true to our husbands or wives. Help us understand what that truly means. You are a good and loving God. You stick by us no matter what. Help us learn to become people who always keep our promises. We want You to be proud of us. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

You must not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first six without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.

2. *Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don't let anyone or anything steal God's place in your life.
3. *Keep God's Name Holy* – God doesn't want us to ever think anything, say anything or do anything that would bring dishonor to His name.
4. *Set aside a special day for God* – God wants us to dedicate one day a week to Him. It shows others how important God is to us, plus it refreshes our spirits.
5. *Honor your father and mother* – God promises us that if we respect and obey our parents, we will live a long and happy life.
6. *Do not murder* – God wants us to honor and respect life by choosing to say *no* to violence.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we're going to learn the seventh commandment.

Exodus 20:14

You must not commit adultery.

Adultery is when a married man or woman doesn't stay faithful to their wife or husband. When someone doesn't keep their promise to be faithful to their marriage partner we call that person an *adulterer*. This commandment shows how God looks at marriage. God planned the first marriage. He created Eve especially for Adam and planned that they should stay together. When we make a promise to someone, God asks us to keep our promises faithfully.

Jesus said...

Matthew 19:4-6

"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.' (5) And he said 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his

wife, and the two are united into one.’ (6) Since they are no longer two but, one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

After you are married, you should be true to your own husband or wife. People joined together in marriage must be careful not to “fall in love” with anyone else. When two people get married, they stand before the pastor and a group of people and vow to God that they will be loyal and true to their husband or wife. The bride and groom say something like, “*I take you to be my wedded wife (or husband) to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part...*” The bride and groom promise to stay faithful for the rest of their lives no matter what circumstances they find themselves in. They say, “*Till death do us part*” or “*As long as we both shall live.*” Committing adultery is breaking those vows by doing something with someone else’s husband or wife that only a married couple should do.

Disobeying this command causes great unhappiness. It makes God so sad when He sees people hurting. The Bible tells us that God hates divorce.

Malachi 2:16

“For I hate divorce!” says the Lord, the God of Israel. “To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.”

God’s plan has always been one woman for one man for life! God hates divorce. He wants husbands and wives to stay true to each other. That’s God perfect plan for families. He wants all children to grow up in a loving home with a Mom and a Dad.

When you grow up, your husband or wife will ask you to love only him or her for the rest of your life! So, while you are still young, begin praying that, at the right time, God will bring into your life the right person for you to marry. And, make a promise right now that you will obey God’s 7th Commandment.

But, don’t be in a big hurry to get married; it’s worth waiting for the right person. You want God’s perfect will for your life.

In the meantime, how many of you have been baptized? Your baptism was like a marriage ceremony with Jesus. At that time you stood before the pastor and a group of people and vowed to God that you would be loyal and true to Jesus. You made a promise to be faithful to Him all the days of your life. In a sense you told the Lord, “*I take you to be my Lord to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death...*” No matter what!

- Has it ever been hard for you to keep this promise?

There are other relationships that we need to guard with our lives, as well. God wants us to be faithful and loyal to our parents, to our brothers and sisters, and to our friends no matter how we feel.

God is very serious about a husband being true to his wife and a wife being true to her husband. And we need to be serious about being true to our relationships, too! You need to practice being a promise-keeper now so that when you do get married you can be true to your husband or wife when you grow up.

[Teacher, hold a pretzel stick.] When two people marry, the bride and groom make a vow and say, “*I promise to be true to you until death.*” And, they mean it. But sometimes things don’t work out the way God would want them to. Life can be hard and there are times when people don’t keep their promises to their partners.

If one of them breaks his or her promise, their relationship is broken. [Break the pretzel.] In the same way, we promise to keep God’s commandments. But when we break a commandment [break a pretzel], we have broken our friendship with God.

Isaiah 59:2 [Teacher, read...]

It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.

But there are two pieces of wood that remind us of how our friendship with God can be restored. [Form two pretzels into a cross.] Jesus came to die for our sins. His body was broken on two pieces of wood

because of our broken promise. When you say you are sorry for your sins and can thank Jesus for what He did for you on the cross, you come back into a loving friendship with God.

If your mom and dad have been divorced, they have broken God's 7th Commandment and deserve to be punished. But remember, there is forgiveness with God. That's why He came down out of heaven and died on the cross; so that He could pay for our sins.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for coming to die for us. Thank You for paying for our sins with Your life. Thank You for wanting to be our friend. You are amazing and wonderful. Please teach us how we can keep our promises. Because we love You we want to please You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

I Promise

After the great flood, God promised that He would never destroy the earth by another flood. Then He displayed the very first rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise. Now every time we see a rainbow it reminds us of God's faithfulness. How cool is it that every time a rainbow appears you can remember that God always keeps His promises! We're going to make something to help us remember to keep our promises:

1. Cut a paper plate in half. Color or paint a rainbow on the plate half.
2. Cut raindrops from heavy paper. On each raindrop, write a promise to God.

3. Tape lengths of yarn to the raindrops, then tape the yarn to the back of the rainbow.
4. Hang your rainbow in a window where you'll see it every day and remind you to keep your promises, just like God remembers to keep His.

As the children work, discuss the following questions:

- Which of the promises is going to be easy to keep? Hard to keep?
- How can we encourage each other to keep our promises to God?
- Why is it important for each of us to keep our promises?
- How can we thank God for keeping all of His promises?

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What promise does God ask husbands and wives to keep?
2. What is *adultery*? (When a married man or woman doesn't stay faithful to their wife or husband.)
3. When two people get married, they stand before the pastor and a group of people and do what? (Make a vow to be faithful.)
4. How long do they promise to be faithful? (For the rest of their lives.)
5. Why is baptism much like a marriage ceremony? (In both, you are making a promise to be loyal and true for the rest of your life.)
6. Tell about a time it was hard for you to keep a promise.

7. What other relationships do we need to guard with our lives? (God wants us to be loyal and faithful to our parents, to our brothers and sisters, and to our friends, no matter what!)
8. What happens to your relationship with God when you break one of His commandments? (It gets broken.)
9. How do you restore your broken relationship with God after breaking one of His commandments? (Ask forgiveness)
10. How did Jesus pay for our sins? (He died on the cross.)

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