



13 Very Awesome Promises

#6- God's Promise to Zechariah and Elizabeth

God does what he promises. (Luke 1:5-20, 57-64)

Note to Families: This is the sixth of a thirteen week series we will be doing on the awesome promises we find throughout The Big God Story (the Bible). Come back each week to learn and grow in His promises for you!

Step 1: Watch Video (located on website)

Step 2: Choose an activity or two to do (you can do these throughout the week!!)

Activity #1: CALL IT COIN TOSS

Time: about 10 minutes

Supplies: wastebasket, coins (3 per child)

Place a wastebasket on the floor. Form a circle, shoulder to shoulder, around it. Give everyone three coins.

Ask: How many of you predict (that is, say ahead of time) that you can toss your three coins into the basket without missing?

Have everyone predict, then toss, and then retrieve their coins. Form the circle again, but have everyone turn so they're facing away from the wastebasket. Repeat the "predict, toss, and retrieve" process, having kids toss their coins *over* their shoulders. Do the activity again from two steps away, and then five. Everyone's ability to predict accurately will fade the farther they get from the wastebasket.

Gather coins and sit together. Discuss:

- What happened to your predictions as we played the game? Why?
- What made it easy or hard to make predictions that were on target?

Say: We all make predictions about what we think will happen. And we also make promises about what we are *sure* will happen. Maybe you've promised a parent you'll clean your room or turn in a homework assignment on time. We're sure we'll come through, but sometimes we don't. I'll bet we've all made a promise that we didn't keep. For me it was ...

(Briefly share a promise you made that you didn't keep.)

Then say:

Now it's your turn. Tell about a promise you didn't keep. What was the promise, and why didn't you keep it?

After everyone shares, say: Today we heard about an awesome promise that God made to a married couple. And the promise was hard to believe. We can trust all of God's promises. God always does what he promises to do.

Activity #2: HEADS OR TAILS

Time: about 10 minutes Supplies: coins (3 per child)

Give each person in your family three coins. Form group(s) of three. In your group(s), each flip a coin at the same time (tossing the coins in the air and catching them will work for kids who can't flip coins). After you flip coins you will compare your coins. If two of the coins are the same (heads or tails) and one coin is different, whoever has the different coin will take the other two coins. In this game, being unusual actually pays!

Continue to play. The game in each group ends when one person runs out of coins. Then the people with coins count how many coins they have, and the one with the most is crowned Coin King (or Queen).

Play for a few minutes, then gather together and discuss:

- When you started this game, did you expect to win? Why?
- How do you feel about starting things when you don't know how they'll turn out?
- If you could know for sure how one thing in your life is going to turn out, what would you choose to know about? Why did you choose that?

Say: Zechariah and Elizabeth didn't know what their future would hold. Then they were given a promise by God. We can trust all of God's promises. God always does what he promises to do.

Activity #3: BLESSINGS

Time: about 10 minutes Supplies: none

Have everyone in your family gather together.

Say: I don't know what's coming in your future, but I know God has given you gifts and talents he'll use as you move into your future.

Move from child to child. When you reach each child, take the child's hand (or place your hand on his or her shoulder), look into the child's eyes, and briefly bless the child. Using the child's name, say something like: (Child's name), God loves you very much and has given you the gift of a great sense of humor (or whatever attribute you wish to affirm). I know God will use you and your gift in the future if you give your future to him.

CALL IT COIN TOSS

Time: about 10 minutes

Supplies: wastebasket, coins (3 per child)

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Have them predict, then toss, and then retrieve their coins. Form the circle again, but have kids turn so they're facing away from the wastebasket. Repeat the "predict, toss, and retrieve" process, having kids toss their coins *over* their shoulders. Do the activity again from two steps away, and then five. Kids' ability to predict accurately will fade the farther they get from the wastebasket.

Gather coins and have kids sit together. Discuss:

- What happened to your predictions as we played the game? Why?
- What made it easy or hard to make predictions that were on target?

Say: We all make predictions about what we think will happen. And we also make promises about what we are *sure* will happen. Maybe you've promised a parent you'll clean your room or turn in a homework assignment on time. We're sure we'll come through, but sometimes we don't.

I'll bet we've all made a promise that we didn't keep. For me it was ...

(Briefly share a promise you made that you didn't keep. You'll model the sort of response you hope to hear from kids.)

Then say:

- Now it's your turn. Tell about a promise you didn't keep.

What was the promise, and why didn't you keep it?

After kids share, thank them and say: Today we'll talk about an awesome promise that God made to a married couple. And the promise was hard to believe. But first, let's see what sort of predictions and promises you have about yourself!