Lesson 1

Time to Keep a Promise

Promises. Children often have lots of experience with them. They know what it feels like when promises are broken. Today's lesson is good news: God always keeps his promises. Enjoy discovering this truth with your TimeQuest reporters today!

Students will discover that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>News Flash 1</th>
<th>God made promises (recorded in the Old Testament) to send a Savior-King.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>News Flash 2</td>
<td>God kept his promises by sending Jesus, his own Son, to show his love to the people of earth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Flash 3</td>
<td>God promises to save all people from their sin if they believe in Jesus.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students will be invited to respond by …

- **Seeker (Unbelieving) Students**: Trusting God’s promise to forgive their sin and receive Christ as their Savior.
- **Believing Students**: Trusting in God’s promises to help them in their everyday lives.

**BIBLE VERSE:**

And this is what he promised us – even eternal life.

1 John 2:25 NIV

Lesson Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TimeQuest News Room - Opening</th>
<th>Opening (15-30 minutes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration (before opening)</td>
<td>Register and Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome &amp; Singing</td>
<td>Announcements &amp; Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object Lesson</td>
<td>Bicycle Tire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skit (optional)</td>
<td>Time Warp &amp; Time Woof</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching Segments</th>
<th>(15-20 minutes each)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological Dig (optional)</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Scroll (Bible Verse &amp; Game)</td>
<td>1 John 2:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical Clocks</td>
<td>Bible Verse written on paper or chalkboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyewitness Video &amp; Discussion</td>
<td>Birth of Christ to Catch of Fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headline Story (Optional Bible Story)</td>
<td>Simeon Meets Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Department (Game)</td>
<td>Fish Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TimeQuest News Room - Closing</td>
<td>Closing (10-15 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Game</td>
<td>‘Round the Clock Trivia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing</td>
<td>Announcements/Music</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BIBLE VERSE:**

And this is what he promised us – even eternal life.

1 John 2:25 NIV
**Registration**

**MATERIALS:** nametags, pens, markers, registration forms (if available)

- Warmly welcome students, receive their registrations and direct them to the seating area.
- Assign students to News Crews (teams) as they register.

**Welcome & Singing**

**MATERIALS:** telephone, desk, news props

- Welcome students. Introduce yourself and the teachers.
- Cover basic rules for your setting. Let kids know about the fun things you will be doing.
- Explain that your students will pretend to travel back in time to check out the story of Jesus. As reporters, their job will be to get the facts!

**SONGS:** Sing several fun songs that celebrate Jesus.

**Object Lesson: Bicycle Tire**

**MATERIALS:** bicycle tire, stick, timer (with seconds indicator)

**PURPOSE:** To show how difficult it is to make accurate predictions

Ask a student volunteer to demonstrate how to roll the tire with the stick. Ask another student to guess how long the other student can roll the tire around the room without stopping. Write down the time guess secretly. Begin rolling. Watch the time. Enjoy the process. When finished, compare the real time to the prediction. **Do they match? No. Why not?**

Guide kids to discover that people cannot often make accurate predictions about the future, and especially about what others will do. God, on the other hand, made predictions hundreds of years before Jesus came. Then he caused every promise to come true. He has made other promises to us, too. **Can he keep them?** We will investigate the promises of God today.

**PRAYER:** Thank God for his power to keep all the promises he makes. Ask him to help your students learn the facts about his promise-keeping today.

**Skit Option**

Time Warp and Time Woof Skits are found in the appendix. Present one here if you have staff. *(Pre-teens may enjoy being the actors!)*

**Send Off to the Time of Christ**

**MATERIALS:** News Flashes (page 25)

Pretend to receive a phone call with today’s hot News Flashes. Tell students you need them to check out the facts. Read the News Flashes to students. **Are you ready to go back in time? Are you ready to check out the facts? Are you ready to learn about God’s promises?** Students enthusiastically answer, “Yes!” Students stand and turn around 3-4 times to simulate a change in time. Each turn equals 500 years. Leader counts as they turn. Enjoy.
Welcome students to The Ancient Scroll. Here, kid reporters will be discovering facts from an ANCIENT BIBLE VERSE related to today’s NEWS FLASHES (read these before beginning).

What does it mean? (Discussion of verse)
MATERIALS: Bible Verse (write out on large paper or chalkboard)
News Flashes (page 25)

(Discuss the verse one phrase at a time. Repeat the verse several times. After each repetition, cover or erase one more phrase until all words are covered or erased and children repeat the verse from memory.)

And this is what he promised us – When God makes promises, he can keep them. Why? Because he is all powerful, perfect and holy. To whom has God made promises? He made many promises to the people of Israel – and he kept them all. He has made promises to us, too. The best promises have to do with eternal life. Why can God keep promises? He is the Creator of the universe. He has all power. He can see everything. He is always truthful. He cannot lie. He is perfect. The Bible word for this is “holy.” Are people holy? Can anyone be perfect? What is the Bible word for breaking God’s laws? Sin. It keeps us separated from God. It keeps us from living forever with God in heaven. It keeps us from knowing God as our Lord and Savior now.

Even eternal life – God has promised to give eternal life to all those who believe in Jesus. What is eternal life? God’s kind of life. It never ends. What did Jesus do that was so different? He came to earth from heaven. He is God’s Son. He came to pay the price for our sin to be forgiven. When we believe in Jesus, our sin is forgiven and we can have a relationship with God now and forever. When did God think up this plan to give us eternal life? Before the beginning of time. He did not think of it after it was too late. He planned to send Jesus to save the people of earth. He knew they could not save themselves. They could not earn eternal life on their own.

Review Activity: Musical Clocks
MATERIALS: Two sets of Bible Verse Cards, Lesson 1 (page 27)
Musical instruments and/or CD player

Mix the two Bible Verse card sets. Choose two groups of 6-10 students each to form two circles (clocks). Place the Bible Verse cards in one stack between the circles. Start the music. One circle of students rotates clockwise, the other counter-clockwise. When the music stops, the student from each “clock” closest to the stack tries to be the first to grab a card. Only one team gets a card on each round. Begin the music and rotate clocks again. Continue until all the cards are gone. Challenge each team to try to then put the verse words in order. Does anyone have a full set? Can anyone do it? Trade cards until both teams put together a full verse. Repeat the verse one last time.

Before moving on to the next activity, review today’s NEWS FLASHES. What FACTS did students learn?
Introduction
MATERIALS: The Story of Jesus for Children® DVD
DVD player and screen
Bible, Lesson 1 News Flashes (page 25)
Greatest Promise booklets (if available)

- Many people do not realize that God made some huge promises about Jesus. Most of these promises were made hundreds of years before Jesus’ time:
  - Read Micah 5:2 (Messiah to be born in Bethlehem)
  - Read Isaiah 7:14 (Messiah to be born of a virgin)
  - Read Isaiah 9:6 (Messiah to be a Savior)
- As students watch the video, challenge them to use eyes, ears and brains to notice facts that tell whether any of these came true.

Show the Video
The Birth of Christ to the Catch of Fish (13 min)
START: At the very beginning of the video
STOP: After Benjamin goes home to his father and his father says, “We are not going to discuss this anymore.”

Discussion

- Who was waiting for the Messiah or Promised One?
  - Mary, Simeon, shepherds
- Did you see the old man, Simeon? What had God promised him? Did God keep his promise?
  - To see the Promised One before he died. Yes, God kept his promise.
- What did angels predict or promise?
  - That Mary would have a son; a baby found in a stable
- Did their predictions or promises come true? Why?
  - Yes. God told the angels what to say and made it come true.

Application
- SEEKER STUDENTS: Had you heard the truth about Jesus before today? Have you ever asked him to forgive your sin and be your Savior? Do you want to do it today? (Use The Greatest Promise booklet or other tool to talk and pray with any students who are interested in receiving Christ as their Savior.)
- BELIEVING STUDENTS: God kept ALL the promises he made about sending the Messiah. What promises has he made to us? (Read Hebrews 13:5b or Proverbs 3:5-6). Will God keep his promises? How can this change the way we pray? Do we need to worry so much? Why not?
Headline Story

Bible Story

NOTE: This story section may be skipped if you are using the video. This outline becomes the lesson if a DVD player is not available.


MATERIALS:
- a Bible, Kid’s Page for Lesson 1 (page 26)
- Lesson 1 News Flashes (page 25)
- Lesson notes
- Greatest Promise booklets (if available)

Do you know any old men? Are they wise? In Jesus’ day, an old man came often to the temple. His name was Simeon. He was wise because he loved and honored God. God had promised him that he would see the Messiah, God’s chosen one, before he died. Did God keep his promise?

1. Simeon was a devout man.
   a. He loved God a lot.
   b. He was righteous. This means his heart was good. His actions were right, too. He obeyed God’s laws.
   c. Some people had grown tired of waiting for God’s promises to come true, but not Simeon. He eagerly waited for the Messiah to save Israel.

2. One day, God led Simeon to the temple.
   a. The temple in Jerusalem was the most important place of worship. It was the church in the capital city.
   b. Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple.
   c. They met Simeon. When he saw Jesus, he had some important words to say. (Read Luke 2:29-32)

3. Mary and Joseph were amazed. Why?
   a. They were learning that Jesus was different from anyone else ever born.
   b. He was the one God promised to send.
   c. God sent his Son to be the long-awaited Savior (Read John 3:16)

4. What other promises has God made?
   a. God made many other promises related to a coming Messiah. They ALL came true in Jesus. (Use today’s Kid’s Page to look up two promises and their fulfillments.)
   b. God has promised to save all those who believe in Jesus and to forgive their sin. (Read 1 John 2:25, this lesson’s Bible Verse.)
   c. God also promises to be with us and to help us when we trust in him.

Application

- SEEKER STUDENTS: Had you heard the truth about Jesus before today? Have you ever asked him to forgive your sin and be your Savior? Do you want to do it today? (Use The Greatest Promise booklet or other tool to talk and pray with any students who are interested in receiving Christ as their Savior.)

- BELIEVING STUDENTS: What promises has he made to you? Where do we find his promises? (Read Hebrews 13:5b and Proverbs 3:5-6). God promises to always be with us and to direct us when we don’t know what to do. Will he help you if you ask him?
**Sports Department**

**Games**  
15-20 minutes

**Game: Fish Net**  

**MATERIALS:** No materials needed

This is an outdoor running or tag type game. Children take turns being the fish net or the fish. One group of four students joins at the wrists forming a line (a net). The rest of the students (the fish) run and dodge in an effort not to be caught in the trap. Fishermen forming the “net” may not grab, hit or trip the fish. A catch is made when the two ends of the net meet with one or more fish inside. At this point, the fish give up without any attempt to break out. Once a fish is caught, he or she joins the fish net line. When the net becomes longer, it becomes more difficult to catch a fish. Play until all the fish are caught – or until the net is so large you must begin again. Enjoy!

**LESSON NOTE:** One day, Peter, the fisherman, caught nothing. Jesus told him to put his nets in one more time. He did. **What happened?**  
His nets were filled with fish. How did Jesus know? How is he different?

---

**TimeQuest News Room**

**Closing**  
10-15 minutes

**Welcome Back to Now!**

Students (with groups) return to the opening area. Invite children to stand. Turn around 3-4 times to simulate a change in time. Each turn equals 500 years. Leader counts as they turn. Enjoy. Welcome students back to the present time.

**What was life like back in Jesus’ day?**
**What did reporters learn about Jesus?**

**Closing Announcements**

- Remind students to invite friends for next time.
- Remind students to bring back their completed Kid’s Pages for a prize next time (if you offer this option). Worksheets must have parent initials.
- Send home a Parent Letter (page 105) with each child.
- Thank each student for coming. Remind them how special they are to you and to God. See you tomorrow!

**Review Game: ‘Round-the-Clock Trivia**

**MATERIALS:** colored paper plate or very large cardboard clock (see page 106 for a pattern)  
a large, colorful push pin for each team  
‘Round-the-Clock Trivia Questions (pages 107-108)

Place the circle on the floor in the center of a small group, or mount it on a wall or easel with a large group. Use bright push pins as place markers to indicate which “hour” each team is on. Give each team a turn to answer review questions related to today’s lesson. Compete boys against girls, if you wish. Focus on facts related to the NEWS FLASHES. Each time a player gets a correct answer, the team’s clock position
advances one hour. Play until one team answers 12 questions correctly. Play again.

Lesson 1: News Flashes
Copy these onto bright cards or paper.

Lesson 1: Time to Keep a Promise

News Flash 1:

God made promises (recorded in the Old Testament) to send a Savior-King.

News Flash 2:

God kept his promises by sending Jesus, his own Son, to show his love to the people of earth.
News Flash 3:

God promises to save all people from their sin if they believe in Jesus.
TimeQuest

Kid's Page Lesson 1

Time to Keep a Promise

1. God made many, many promises to send a Messiah to Israel. Read each Old Testament “Promise Given,” then read the New Testament “Promise Kept.” Did God keep his promise? Circle YES or NO for each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Promise Given</th>
<th>Promise Kept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Micah 5:2</td>
<td>Matthew 2:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>But you, Bethlehem ... out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from ... ancient times.</td>
<td>Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did God keep his promise? **YES or NO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Promise Given</th>
<th>Promise Kept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 7:14</td>
<td>Luke 1:34, 2:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.</td>
<td>“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” ... and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did God keep his promise? **YES or NO**

2. Memorize the Bible Verse (above). Repeat it to your parents (they can help you, if you need it).

Bible Verse

And this is what he promised us - even eternal life.
1 John 2:25 NIV

3. Read the story of Simeon from a real Bible. Or ask someone to read it to you. (Let us know if you need a Bible.)

Simeon: Luke 2:25–33

Return this paper next time (with parent initials) for a trip to the prize box!

YOUR NAME __________________________

DATE __________________________
Lesson 1: Bible Verse Flash Cards
Copy two sets. Cut apart along lines, or write these words on slips of paper by hand. Use with “Ancient Scroll” Bible verse games and activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>And</th>
<th>this</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>is</td>
<td>what</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he</td>
<td>promised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>us</td>
<td>even</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eternal</td>
<td>life</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 John 2:25
NIV