God's Plan
GOD'S PROMISES
& GOD'S PEOPLE
SMALL GROUP STUDY

Session 1: Promises Made, Believed, and Kept

Our lives are defined by promises made, promises believed, and promises kept. We make promises to our spouses, workplaces, and children, and we rely on the promises of others to live in a functioning society. So, why would we treat God's promises any differently? God offers a doorway to His very best plans for our lives through His promises in Scripture. But learning to accept God's promises means fostering faith and patience in our daily lives. There is a God-designed future waiting for each of us, but we need to choose to accept it.

Scriptures

John 16:7 (NIV®)
"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

John 7:37 (NIV®)
On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink."

Matthew 6:14 (NIV®)
"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

John 14:3 (NIV®)
"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

James 2:26 (NIV®)
As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Hebrews 6:12 (NIV®)
We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

2 Timothy 3:10 (NIV®)
You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance....

Discussion Questions

1. Knowing something as a fact is not the same thing as experiencing it yourself. When have you seen this to be true in your own life? How does it apply to faith?

2. Actions in our lives release God's promises in our lives. What do you think holds you back from moving forward to experience God more fully?

3. Faith and patience are required to receive God's promises. How are you fostering both faith and patience in your life? How can you encourage someone who may be struggling with faith or patience?

4. Are there parts of your life that you've been reluctant to invite God into because they seem too small or insignificant to "bother" God about? How might this affect your ability to respond to and receive God's promises?

5. What does it mean to you that God has a future and a plan for your life? How can God's promises give you hope when you are uncertain about the future?

6. How does God's forgiveness toward you challenge you to forgive others, even when you may not feel like forgiving them?

Going Deeper

Cultivating the faith and patience we need to see God's promises fulfilled in our lives is an ongoing, continual commitment to obedience and growing in spiritual maturity. What is one thing you can do this week to demonstrate your faith and patience in seeing God's promises fulfilled in your life?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that You are the Author and Completer of our stories, and that You have designed a plan for our lives. Thank You for the promises You have made that will enable us to live out that plan and for making them known in Your Word. Help us to understand our role in your plan and to live in obedience, faith, and patience, that we may see Your promises fulfilled and Your will done, in us and in the world around us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer of Salvation

The first step to receiving the promises of God is to confess your faith in Jesus and accept Him as Lord of your life. Here is a simple prayer you can say aloud to do that:
Almighty God, I am a sinner and I need a Savior. I believe Jesus is Your Son and He died on a cross for my sins. I believe You raised Him to life again for my justification. Forgive me of my sins. I forgive everyone who has sinned against me. Jesus, be Lord of my life. I want to serve You as Lord and King. I thank You that I now belong to the family of God. In Jesus' name, amen.

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