**THE PROMISES OF GOD**

 **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this study is to:

1. Show how the promise of God relates to you
2. To deepen your conviction that God will multiply your life
3. **THE OLD TESTAMENT**
	1. Read Genesis 12-22. Trace God’s promise first given to Abraham.
		1. What was God’s promise to Abraham?
		2. What did it require from Abraham? (Genesis 12:1-3)
	2. Study Genesis 22:17-18; Define the following terms:
		1. Bless
		2. Multiply
		3. Descendants (offspring, seed)
	3. What do you observe as you trace His promise through the generations from Abraham through Joseph in Genesis?

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| Isaac | Genesis 26:2-5Genesis 26:23-24 |  |
| Jacob | Genesis 28:3-4Genesis 28:13-15Genesis 35:9-12 |  |
| Joseph | Genesis 48:15-16Genesis 49:25-26 |  |
| Joseph’s brothers | Genesis 50:24 |  |

* 1. Read 2 Samuel 7:8-17 and Psalm 89:3,4
		1. What did God promise David?
	2. Read Daniel 9:2 Read Daniel 9:2, 3 along with the following two quotes by J. Oswald Sanders. What is the difference between “pleading God’s promise” and “claiming God’s promise”?

*“A promise by God is a pledge by God. It provides the warrant and forms the basis of the prayer of faith. The stability of a promise rests upon the character and resources of the One who makes it, even as the value of a cheque depends on the probity and resources of the one who signs it. The character and fidelity of God vouch for the credibility of the promises He makes.”* (J. Oswald Sanders)

*“But promises must be distinguished from facts. We accept a stated fact of God’s Word, but we plead a promise. When God proclaims a fact, faith accepts and acts upon it. When God makes a promise, we comply with its conditions, claim its fulfillment and receive the promised favour. The function of the prayer of faith is to turn God’s promises into facts of experience. The patriarchs through faith obtained the fulfillment of God’s promises (Hebrews 11:33), and turned them into personal experience.”* (J. Oswald Sanders)

1. **THE NEW TESTAMENT**
	1. Read 2 Corinthians 1:20. Acts 3:22-26 and Galatians 3:9,16
		1. How did Christ fit into Abraham’s promise?
	2. Read Romans 4:13-25 and Galatians 3:6-9
		1. How does faith relate to receiving the promise?
	3. Read Galatians 3:14,29 and Ephesians 2:11-3:6
		1. How does your position in Christ affect your relationship to the promise?
2. **SUMMARY**
	1. What is the main teaching of the Bible on the promise of God?
	2. Where does the authority to apply Old Testament promise to New Testament people come from?
	3. What is our relationship to God’s promise to Abraham? How does it impact us?
	4. What is our responsibility in regard to the promise to Abraham?
	5. What principles do you see in how God gives His promise to men?
	6. What difficulties do you experience in claiming the promise?
	7. What conclusions do you draw about how we should claim the promise of God?
3. **PERSONAL APPLICATION OF CHRIST THE CENTER**

*What has God revealed, clarified or affirmed regarding my:*

CALLING (Who I am in Christ, Who we are as Navigators…)

CONVICTIONS (What I know and believe)

CHARACTER (Who I’m becoming as I follow and imitate Christ)

COMPETENCIES (What skills I already have and/or need to develop)

CONTRIBUTION (How I minister and serve – now and/or in the future)

What additional step(s) is God prompting me to take as a result of this study in any of these 5 areas?

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

*Claiming the Promise* by Doug Sparks

*Praying Over God’s Promises* by Tom Yeakley

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