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LESSON TIME

God's Promise

Isaiah 9:6, 7; 11:1-5; Luke 1:5-7

Key Verse: Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."

Key Thought: God is faithful to keep His promises.

Has someone ever promised you something? *Let club members share promises.* Did the person who made the promise keep it? *Wait for member responses.* Things may happen to hinder people from keeping promises. I know someone who ALWAYS keeps His promises. God always does what He says He will do.

Where do we learn of God's promises? Hold your Bible before the children as a hint. God's promises are in His book, the Bible.

Many years before His birth, God promised Jesus.

Read Isaiah 9:6.

For hundreds of years people looked for the child. They believed God's promise. They looked for their Redeemer to come as God said He would.

One day an angel came to a man named Zacharias. He had another promise from God.

"Your wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."

The angel promised Zacharias the baby boy would grow up to be a preacher. He would prepare people for the coming of God's Son.

Zacharias and Elisabeth were both very old. Zacharias had asked God for a son. The angel told him God would answer his prayer. They were to name their baby John.

The baby would be special. He would be great in the sight of the Lord. God would use him to turn the hearts of the people of Israel back to the Lord their God. He would call people to repent of sin.

God kept His promise. Zacharias and Elisabeth were very happy to have their baby John. Others were happy with them. They knew their special baby boy would grow up to prepare the hearts of people for the coming of God's Son.

In God's time, He would send His own Son to earth as a baby. God would keep that promise He made many years earlier.

GAME TIME

Smiles Break

Supplies: None

Directions: *Explain how to play before starting. Members run around the room until they hear your whistle or a bell. Call out "Stop and smile." Each child finds a partner and stands*

face-to-face smiling. Quickly begin movement again and let children run until you sound the signal and tell them to "Stop and smile." Members find a different partner to smile at. Repeat so they have lots of different partners and the smiles turn to giggles.

What's the Point? We have something to smile about when we think of God's promises. God always keeps His promises.

LESSON TIME

God's Promise

Isaiah 9:6, 7; 11:1-5; Luke 1:5-7

Key Verse: Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."

Key Thought: God is faithful to keep His promises.

Give each club member a piece of paper and pencil.

On your paper write a promise that someone has made to you. Wait for members to write. If the person kept that promise, draw a happy face on your paper. If it turned out to be a broken promise, mark X over the promise. People at times forget to do what they say. Other times there may be a change in situations so the person cannot keep the promise. Sickness, weather or accidents may keep people from doing what they say they will do. We have to understand that people are human, and humans make mistakes.

"He is faithful that promised"; God never breaks His promises (Heb. 10:23). Someone has said there are more than thirty-seven thousand promises in the Word of God. We can depend on God's promises happening. Some of them are yet to happen. The promise of Jesus' second coming is mentioned over three hun-

dred times in the New Testament. It has not happened yet, but we can be sure it will.

Hundreds of years before Jesus came, His birth was promised. God spoke through His prophets to tell His people of the coming Redeemer. Find Isaiah 9:6,7 for one of those promises. Let volunteers read the verses aloud. Did God keep that promise? Yes. God's promise happened when Jesus came.

When God's time for sending His Son had almost come, God sent an angel with a promise to Zacharias, the priest in God's house. He had asked God for a son. The angel told Zacharias God would answer his prayer and give him and his wife Elisabeth a son. They were to call his name John.

Their little boy would grow up to be a preacher. He would prepare people for the coming of God's Son. Many would rejoice at his birth. God's promise happened as God said.

GAME TIME

New or Old?

Supplies: Bible

Directions: *Assign one side of the room or playing area to represent "old" and the opposite side to represent "new." Call out a book of the Bible. Children run to the side of the room representing the Old or New Testament where they think the book is found. Have a child check the*

Bible's contents list to see who located the book correctly.

What's the Point? God's promises are in both the Old and New Testament. Which promises did God keep? All of them are right! God has never made a promise He did not keep or that He will not cause to happen in the future. All of God's book has promises that happened or will happen as God said they would.