

Talk About It:

- What is it like when someone makes a promise to you? Does it matter if they keep it?
 - Have you ever made a promise to someone else? Did you keep your promise?
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Read About It:

This story comes from Isaiah 7:14; 9:2-7; and Micah 5:2*

From the beginning of time, God gave the world promises. God gave Noah a promise not to flood the whole world again. God promised Moses he'd help the people God loved. God promised Abraham he'd have a son. And God kept every promise that he gave.

God also made the most special promise of all—God promised to give the world someone who would love us and bring peace and forgiveness. God said, "I will give you a sign; a young woman will give birth to a baby boy. She will give birth to the baby in a town called Bethlehem. The baby will be given the name Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.' And the baby will give joy and light to the world." That baby was Jesus.

God's people were excited about his promise. They wanted God to give them a Savior. For hundreds of years, the people were ruled by cruel kings. The kings made God's people slaves. They made war against God's people. They wouldn't let God's people worship or pray. The people tried hard to remember God's promise. They waited for God to give them a Savior and a King to bring peace.

God's people kept praying and asking God to give them a Savior. And they waited and watched. But the people thought God would give them a king born in a rich palace. They never thought the Savior would be born in a stable! People waited many years for God to keep his promise. Sometimes it's hard to wait for promises to come true.

- Would it be easy to believe God's promise to send a Savior?
- How would it feel to wait hundreds of years for a promise to be kept?

**from Hands-On Bible Curriculum, Group Publishing, Inc.*

Sing About It:

O Little Town of Bethlehem is a favorite Christmas carol. Part of the song says, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight." This means that Jesus, God's promised Savior is the answer to all of our hopes and fears. Find this song on YouTube:

[O Little Town of Bethlehem](#) (Lifetree Kids, More Songs of the Christmas Story, Group Publishing)

Think About It:

- God always keeps His promises. In the Bible, God proves over and over that He will do what He says He will do. We can always trust God to keep His promises.
 - How does it feel to know that God always keeps His promises?
 - Why is it important for you to keep the promises you make to others?
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Make It:

Advent is a time of waiting. Just like God's people waited, and waited, and waited for the promised Savior, we are waiting many days until Christmas Day, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Make an Advent Chain to help you count down the days while you wait for Christmas Day. Cut 25 1" strips of construction paper (or if you're starting Advent a bit earlier, be sure to look at a calendar to count out how many strips you'll need to have one for each day). Staple or tape the first strip of paper into a loop. Next, loop another strip through the first circle and staple it so they are connected in a chain. Keep going until all of your strips form one long chain. Hang up your Christmas Countdown Chain and remove a strip of paper each day from now until Christmas Day.

Do It:

God made a promise to send a Savior, and He kept His promise. Here are some ways you can put promises into action this week:

- Draw a picture or write a note to remind your family that God keeps His promises.
 - Write a "Promise Card" making a promise to do something special for someone. Give them the card, then keep your promise.
 - While you're waiting for Christmas Day, find ways to tell others about the wonderful gift of Jesus – the answer to God's amazing promise.
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Pray About It:

Thank God for always keeping His promises, and for giving us Jesus, the best gift of all.

Memorize It:

She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.
Matthew 1:23