

Church Together

Remaining Loyal To The Promises You Make

3rd March 2024



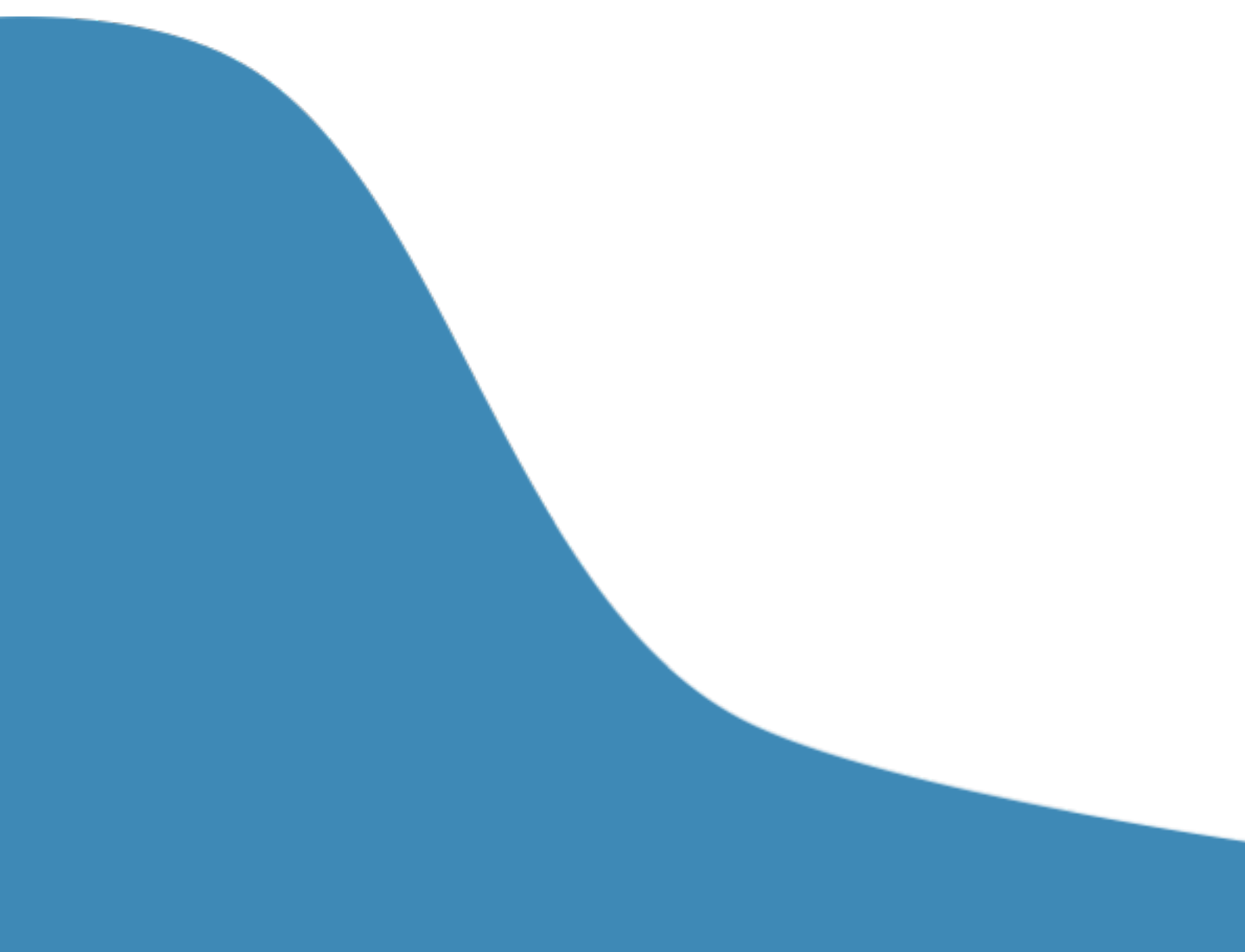
Welcome

Today's Service is our annual: **Promise Sunday & Gift Day Family Service**

The Bible Reading for today's service is: **Genesis 9 v. 13 - 17**

The theme for our service today is: **Remaining Loyal To The Promises You Make**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Understand How Loyalty Is Important For the Promises We Make.**



Promises & Loyalty

What is the definition of the word **PROMISE**?

The dictionary defines the word **PROMISE** as:

A **promise** is a statement which you make to a person in which you say that you will definitely do something or give them something.

If you **promise that** you will do something, you say to someone that you will definitely do it.

If you **promise** someone something, you tell them that you will definitely give it to them or make sure that they have it.

The Bible is all about the promises of God. What does that mean? In this family service we will be thinking through a lot of promises that we find in the Bible.

What is the definition of the word **LOYAL**?

The dictionary defines the word **LOYAL** as:

Being firm and not changing in your friendship with or support for a person or an organization, or in your belief in your principles.

The Promises Of God

We are told that The Bible is full of God's promises to us and that it reminds us that He is faithful to us through those promises. One of the best known promises in the Bible can be found in **Genesis 9 v. 13 - 17** which talks about Rainbows. This powerful promise from God teach us more about His incredible character and the things he says he will do for us. Let's reflect on this rich promise to help us in whatever we are facing today. Take encouragement from the truth that God is with you, no matter what the circumstances may be.

Opening Prayer

Lord, today we recall your faithfulness. Thank you that you walk with us every day, that you are with us always.

We proclaim that your promises are true and your goodness and love never fail. In this moment we come to you and lay our lives before you.

May we honour, worship and adore you with every fibre of our being. Father, we proclaim that you are the Holy One, the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.

Your beauty and majesty are beyond compare. On this day we join with all those who worship and confess you as Lord, from generations past and present, and with all who sing of your greatness and splendour.

Lord we adore you. Lord we love you. Lord we bow down and worship you.

Amen

Song Suggestion

All Over The World The Spirit Is
Moving



Bible Reading

Genesis 9 v. 13 – 17 NIV

13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. 16 Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.'

17 So God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.'

A landscape photograph of a beach at low tide. The foreground shows dark, wet sand with some small pools of water. The ocean is visible in the middle ground, with gentle waves washing onto the shore. In the background, a city skyline is visible on the horizon under a dramatic, cloudy sky. A vibrant rainbow arches across the sky, starting from the horizon and extending upwards. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

God,
I TRUST IN YOUR PROMISES.

Promise Prayer 1

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the promises that you give to us this day. We praise you for the gift of another day - for your mercies that are new every morning, for our eyes that are open and our hearts that are beating; each of those mean that you have a plan for us. This minute. This hour. This very day. We don't know every step of your plan for us this day, but we know it will be for our good. We are confident it will be for your glory. We pray that you will lead us, Jesus, because we need you. May your promises and love flow through us and may we embrace every opportunity to share your promises and love with others.

Amen

Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

If you feel that your are able to, then please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



Be Careful What You Promise

Aim of Short Talk: To encourage people to: Be careful what they promise others, and to follow through in keeping the promises that they make.

Main Theme: Promises

Props: A box / tin / packets of chocolate biscuits, a pile of scrap paper (or other rubbish) and a black sack to put the rubbish in.

Before the Service: Scatter the scrap paper (or other rubbish) behind where you will be standing to create a small mess that will take a minute to clear up. Brief a child / teenager before the service asking them to:

- stand up to offer their help when asked to do so.
- clear up the rubbish mess without much fuss.
- Ask you for the whole tin of biscuits

I was in a bit of a rush before the service today, so I haven't managed to clear up this mess behind me that I accidentally made while getting ready for the service. Some of you may have been wondering what all this rubbish is doing in the church.

Don't worry we will sort it out at the end of the service.

The briefed child / teenager stands up where they are and says: 'I'll come and clear it up for you'. You reply by saying: 'That's very kind of you. Come and join me at the front then'. You continue by saying: 'Here is a black sack to put the rubbish in, and I'll tell you what, I have a tin of

chocolate biscuits here that I was going to share with everyone after the service’.

You show everyone the tin / box / packets of chocolate biscuits and say to the helper: ‘But you can have 1st choice. I promise that when you have cleared up the rubbish you can have as many of these biscuits as you want. Is that OK with you’? So, let’s see how quickly you can clear up the rubbish’.

(The child / teenager clears up the rubbish into the black sack. When they have finished, they then join you, along with the black sack.)

You say to the helper: ‘Thank you very much for doing that for me. Now how many of these chocolate biscuits would you like’?

(The child / teenager replies and says: ‘All of them, please’!

You reply with shock and say: ‘All of them? There are quite a lot of biscuits here and I had hoped that we could share them out with everyone after the service. Are you sure that you really want all of them’?

The child / teenager goes on to say: ‘Yes please. You did promise that I could have as many of them as I want, and I want all of them’.

(You proceed to hand over the biscuits to the child who then goes and sits down again)

I made rather a silly promise then didn’t I? I didn’t really think before I made it and so I was caught out when (name of child / teenager volunteer) asked for all the biscuits.

Now that was a set up and I told our helper to ask for all of them. They are not greedy and will be sharing the biscuits after the service with us all. But I wonder how many of you

have made promises that you have later regretted making.

If you are a parent, you may have promised to take your children on a special holiday but later regretted it when you found out how expensive the trip would be. If you are a child, you may have promised to look after your pet every day, and then you have regretted making that promise because of the amount of time it takes you to do that.

Many of us have made promises to people that have been very hard to keep, and so, we need to be careful what promises we make because keeping our promises is really important.

In **Matthew 5 v. 37** Jesus said: 'Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No' In other words, be true to your word and keep your promises.

King Herod, who was the King in power when Jesus was around, made a silly promise to his niece on his birthday after she had danced for him. He promised to give her anything that she asked for. Perhaps the king thought that his niece would ask for jewels or fine clothes.

Unfortunately, the girl asked for the prophet John the Baptist to be killed and because King Herod didn't want to lose face in front of the people around him, he had John the Baptist killed.

King Herod should never have made that silly promise, should he? So today, let me encourage you to be really careful what promises you make to other people so that in keeping them, you do good to other people and not harm.

Promise Prayer 2

Thank you, Father God, that all Your good promises are fulfilled in Christ Jesus. Thank you that we are abundantly blessed, that You have provided for all of our needs.

Father God, help us to grasp the reality that every spiritual blessing is ours, to enable us to live in the fullness of Jesus' victory now and with hope for the future.

Amen

Song Suggestion

O Lord My God! When I In
Awesome Wonder



Scouting & Girl Guide Promises

The Promise is a simple way to help young people and adults celebrate their shared Scout or Girlguiding values. Every Scout or Girl Guide promises to stick by these values when they be- come a member.

It's important that every member has the chance to think about their Promise, and chat through its meaning, before they make their Promise.

Beaver Promise

I promise to do my best and to be kind and helpful and to love God **(Christian)**

I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful and to love our world **(Atheist / No Religion)**

I promise to do my best and to be kind and helpful and to love our world **(Humanist)**

Cubs Promise

I promise that I will do my best

To do my duty to God and to the King (To Uphold our Scout values, to do my duty to the King)

To help other people

And to keep the Cub Scout Law

Scout Promise / Explorer Promise (and all other adult members of the scout association)

On my honour

I promise that I will do my best

To do my duty to God and to the King (To Uphold our Scout values, to do my duty to the King)

To help other people

And to keep the Scout Law

Guide Promise

I promise that I will do my best

To be true to myself and develop my beliefs

To serve the King and my community

To help other people

And to keep the Brownie Guide Law

Who Are You Loyal To?

Aim of Short Talk: To challenge people to be totally loyal to Jesus even when they are given a hard time for their faith.

I wonder what you immediately think of when I say the word: '**loyal?**'

One of the things I immediately think of is dogs. Dogs have a reputation of being incredibly loyal to their owners, loving them wholeheartedly and being ready to do absolutely anything for them. Let me tell you two stories about dogs that were loyal to their owners.

The Mirror Newspaper a little while ago reported that in Brazil, when a homeless man had to go to hospital in an ambulance, his dog ran after the ambulance as it drove away. The dog ran and ran, following the ambulance through the busy streets. Finally, the crew realized that the dog would give up his life before being separated from his master, so they stopped and allowed the dog to get in. Once at the hospital, the dog would not leave his master's side.

There is another story about a blind man called Rivera who had a golden retriever called Dorado. Rivera worked on the 71st floor of the world trade centre and Dorado used to lie under his desk. On the day that the hijacked planes hit the twin towers, Rivera knew that it would take him a long time to get out of the building, so he unclipped

Dorado, ruffled his head and ordered him to go. He said that the heat and the noise were terrifying. The dog was swept down the stairs amongst a crowd of people, but then a few minutes later Rivera felt the dog nuzzling his legs. He had come back up the staircase and together with another man helped his master get down 70 flights of stairs, which took nearly an hour. Shortly after they reached the ground, the building collapsed. Rivera declares that he owes his life to his dog Dorado.

There are many other wonderful stories about dog's doing amazing things for their owners, showing their loyalty to them, even when it cost them their lives.

We, as Christians have a master too. His name is Jesus. I wonder how loyal we are to our mas- ter. I wonder if we are loyal when the heat is turned up on our lives; when other people make fun of us for being Christians, or deliberately make our life difficult for being Christians, or even when members of our own family give us a hard time for being Christians.

When the heat turns up, are we tempted to turn away from Jesus and say that we don't really know Him? Are we tempted to say that we don't really take our faith too seriously?

Listen to what Jesus said to His disciples in **Matthew 10 v. 32 – 33**, which says: 'If you tell others that you belong to me, I will tell my Father in heaven that you are my followers. But if you reject me, I will tell my Father in heaven that you don't belong to me'.

It matters to Jesus whether we are loyal to Him or not. If we are loyal to Him now, then when we stand before Him face to face one day, He will tell our Father in heaven that He knows us. Can I encourage you today to be loyal to

Jesus our Master, Saviour and Lord.

Loyalty Prayer 1

Dear Jesus, we praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of Loyalty that is seen in your life. We remember how you were Loyal to the Father, even as you were dying. Remind us to serve our family and each other and encourage others in hard times. May we learn, with your help, to point out the good in others. Guide us to not mock authorities and to honour others. Please help us to act in all things in harmony because of who you are.

Amen

Song Suggestion

O Jesus I Have Promised



Gift Day Offering



No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

Today is not only our Promise Sunday but is also our Gift Day Sunday. It is a time when we can sacrificially give financially to the work of the Lord here at Salendine Nook Baptist Church.

If you feel that your are able to, then please giving generously with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.

Loyalty to God
is really all about . . .
trusting always in Him
without having doubt!

on the sea of

faith

A small sailboat with a red sail is visible on the horizon of a blue sea under a blue sky. The word "faith" is written in large, white, stylized letters across the bottom of the image.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

Prayers About Our Promises & Loyalty

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pencil.

Invite them to divide the paper into two sections by folding it in half. In one section, they should write a Promise Prayer that they will make to God and then in the other half they need to write a Loyalty Prayer that they will make to themselves.

Give everyone a chance to share with those sitting close to them and explain what they have written. Remind the congregation that the God of the Bible is our God as well, and he will be with us to guide us and help us through all the Promises they have described, because he is loyal to us.

Say this prayer, with short silences in the places indicated during which everyone can think of each Promise that they have written in turn:

Lord God, be close to us to guide us at this time, both today and tomorrow . . .

Lord God, be close to us to share our joy in the things we look forward to and the Promises that we have made . . .

Lord God, be close to us to make us strong in the things

about which we are anxious . . .

And may we be aware of your presence in many ways
through many days.

Amen

Loyalty Prayer 2

Dear Lord, thank you for your never - ending loyalty to me. Thank you that I can always count on you to be with me and to always be for me. I pray that I would be just as loyal to you as all those who I read about in the Bible. Jesus, You have shown us an example of that loyalty when Peter denied You at the critical hour prior to Your crucifixion. It is so encouraging to know that Peter was forgiven, reinstated, and entrusted to be a great messenger of the Gospel. Enable us today, through following Your example and by the power of Your Spirit, to be forgiving, loyal, and dependable in the midst of difficult circumstances. Help us to do to others as we would have them do to us, and that I would get excited as I look for all that you are going to do in and through my life as I offer my loyalty to you.

Amen

Song Suggestion

I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky



Blessing

We go from here, Lord, with you to guide us; may friends and visitors enrich us, May what you have revealed to us teach us, May the Bible and our prayers direct us, And so may every step of our journey please you.

Amen