



Notes for Adult discussion groups at  
On-Line @9 Worship Service  
on 8 March 2009

## Promises, Promises

### Our Promises

Can you think of a promise you've made that means a lot to you?

### God's Promises

What are they?

Here are some that Jesus makes as recorded in John's Gospel.  
Look them up and talk about the nature of the promises.

Note that Jesus doesn't use the word "promise" in these statements. What has to happen before each statement becomes a promise?

3, 16	4, 14	6, 35	6, 51 & 54
8, 12	8, 31-32	8, 51	10, 9-10
11, 25-26	14, 16-17	14, 27	15, 5

### Covenant People

It is the response of faith that brings each promise to fruition.  
Each becomes a two-way agreement (a covenant) between God and us: an on-going commitment on both sides.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul describes the covenant relationship between God and Abraham in this way (see the reading over the page).

If Abraham can base his life on a promise, so can we depend on God's promises.

Spend some time looking at the promises again, taking in their full meaning for your life.

Romans, 4, 13-25: **13** When God promised Abraham and his descendants that the world would belong to him, he did so, not because Abraham obeyed the Law, but because he believed and was accepted as righteous by God. **14** For if what God promises is to be given to those who obey the Law, then faith means nothing and God's promise is worthless. **15** The Law brings down God's anger; but where there is no law, there is no disobeying of the law.

**16** And so the promise was based on faith, in order that the promise should be guaranteed as God's free gift to all of Abraham's descendants — not just to those who obey the Law, but also to those who believe as Abraham did. For Abraham is the spiritual father of us all; **17** as the scripture says, "I have made you father of many nations." So the promise is good in the sight of God, in whom Abraham believed — the God who brings the dead to life and whose command brings into being what did not exist. **18** Abraham believed and hoped, even when there was no reason for hoping, and so became "the father of many nations." Just as the scripture says, "Your descendants will be as many as the stars." **19** He was then almost one hundred years old; but his faith did not weaken when he thought of his body, which was already practically dead, or of the fact that Sarah could not have children. **20** His faith did not leave him, and he did not doubt God's promise; his faith filled him with power, and he gave praise to God. **21** He was absolutely sure that God would be able to do what he had promised. **22** That is why Abraham, through faith, "was accepted as righteous by God". **23** The words "he was accepted as righteous" were not written for him alone. **24** They were written also for us who are to be accepted as righteous, who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from death. **25** Because of our sins he was handed over to die, and he was raised to life in order to put us right with God.

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