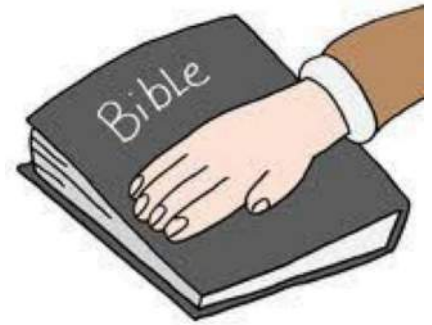


HONOR YOUR PROMISES

Theme: Honoring our promises

Object: A calendar for the New Year

Scripture: Luke 2:25-26 (RSV) ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.



It is the beginning of a New Year. We begin a brand new calendar with a fresh start on life. Most people start the New Year by making a New Year Resolution. Making a resolution is like making a promise to ourselves that we are going to do certain things. Usually it is a promise to do something better next year than we did the year before. Here is a list of resolutions that might be good for children to make:

- I will watch less TV and get more exercise.
- I will be nice to other kids, including my brothers and sisters!
- I will put away my toys when I am through playing with them.

Can you think of some more resolutions you could make?

Some people don't take New Year's resolutions very seriously. After all, they are just promises to yourself, and if *you* don't **honor your** promise to yourself, it's no big deal. Well, it IS a big deal! A promise is a promise - and it is important to **honor** and keep all of your promises, even if it is just a promise to yourself.

God is always faithful in **honoring** His promises. In the Bible, there is a story about a man names Simeon. Simeon was a very old man who had faithfully served God all of his life. Simeon was looking forward to the coming of the Messiah. God had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Christ, the promised Messiah.

A few days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took him to the temple to dedicate him to God. Simeon was in the temple as he usually was. As soon as Simeon saw the baby, he knew that Jesus was the Christ and that God had kept His promise that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

Simeon took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, "Lord, now let your servant die in peace. As you have promised, I have seen your salvation, which You have prepared for all people."

Anna, a prophet, was also in the Temple. She was always at the Temple worshipping and praying. She came along just as Simeon was talking to Mary and Joseph. When she heard what Simeon was saying, she began praising God and telling everyone that this child was the Savior that God had promised. Both Simeon and Anna knew that God had **honored** His promise just as He will **honor** His promises to you and me.

Today, as we begin a new year, let's remember that just as God is **honorable** in keeping His promises, we should be **honorable** in keeping our promises. It doesn't matter whether it is a promise to ourselves, a promise to a friend, or a promise to God . . . *a promise is a promise!*