

The Promises of Prayer



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Know God Deeply™ Studies

The Promises of Prayer

A Collection on Prayer, Volume Two

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Lesson One: Introduction



Welcome to Volume Two of our Collection on Prayer. Our goal is to explore all aspects of prayer: *What* is prayer? *Why* do we pray? and *How*?

In Volume One, we studied the purpose of prayer. We searched Scripture to uncover the reason we pray and found the invitation to grow in a loving relationship with God our Father through prayer.

In this volume, we will turn to God's Word to discover His promises surrounding prayer. We will explore God's faithful, promise-keeping nature and His pledge to hear and answer us when we turn to Him in prayer.

As we begin, we invite you to bring your questions, doubts, preconceptions, and experiences. Come as you are, knowing that God is ready and willing to meet you here as you discover what His Word teaches about prayer.

Our prayer for you is that throughout your time of study, you will encounter the heart of the Father and grow to trust His promises. We also pray you find ways to commune with Him, growing in a loving relationship with God through His Son each day.



PAUSE AND REFLECT

What characteristics do you most value in a relationship? What comes to mind?

One of the most essential qualities of a strong and healthy relationship is **trust**. But it can also be difficult to come by.

We humans are not perfect at keeping promises. Far from it. Even with the best of intentions, we often let each other down. Building trust with one another takes time and intentionality, but breaking trust can happen in a moment.

Trust also matters in our relationship with God. It affects the way we approach Him in prayer. And it impacts our ability to lay down our lives at His feet in full surrender. But confidence in God can be difficult when we have experienced significant misplaced trust in our lives.

The good news?

We have a Father who always keeps His word, whose promises are always true, and who is eternally worthy of our trust.

Before we begin Bible study, let's start by reflecting on your current thoughts and feelings surrounding prayer, God, and His promises.

Take some time to consider the statements on the next pages and circle the phrase that most closely describes your belief about that statement. Remember, we are not looking for a "correct" answer but an honest and authentic one. Take your time to pause, reflect, ponder any questions you might have, and pray through each statement. Note your reflections in the space provided or in your own journal.

1 // God hears my prayers.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Reflection:

2 // God answers my prayers.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Reflection:

3 // God keeps His promises.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Reflection:

4 // God keeps His promises to me.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Reflection:

5 // How does your day-to-day life reflect (or not reflect) the beliefs you considered above?

PRAY

Bring your reflections to God in prayer. Be honest with Him about your thoughts and feelings, remembering that He knows you intimately and loves you unconditionally. Share with Him what you are struggling with and the things you are grateful for. Bring your questions, doubts, and hopes to Him as you begin your time in this study.

We encourage you to write out your prayers to keep your mind focused on God and to be able to look back and see all that God has done. You can use the space provided below or your own journal.

When you are finished, try to leave time for silence to allow God to speak to your heart, remembering that prayer is a two-way conversation.

OPENING GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

While studying God's Word is personal and individual, we have seen that life change and personal growth often involve other people. We encourage you to study alongside a group of believers. This study provides discussion questions along the way. As you begin your group this week, discuss your reflections from the "Pause and Reflect" section on pages 15–16 of your study.

Opening Questions: What are your hopes as you begin this study? What questions do you have for God regarding His promises for you?

- 1 //** Do you believe God hears your prayers? Why or why not?
- 2 //** Do you believe God answers your prayers? Why or why not?
- 3 //** Do you believe God keeps His promises? Why or why not?
- 4 //** Do you believe God keeps His promises to *you*? Why or why not?
- 5 //** How does your day-to-day life reflect (or not reflect) the beliefs you considered above?

Closing: End your time together by asking each member of your group to share their personal prayer requests. Then, spend time praying for one another. Commit to praying for each other throughout the week.



LEADING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Scan the QR code to learn more about facilitating group discussions during your time in this Bible study.

Lesson Two: Our Promise-Keeping God



2 CHRONICLES 6

We begin our exploration of the promises of prayer in 2 Chronicles. We all have probably experienced a broken promise at one point or another. When this has been our experience, it can be hard to imagine someone who always keeps their word and whose promises are always true—but this is who God is! Let's dive in and discover more about our promise-keeping God.

Context

One of King David's greatest desires during his reign was to build a temple for the Lord—a place where He could dwell among His people. However, God told David that it would be his son, Solomon, who would build the temple. 2 Chronicles opens with Solomon on the throne as king of Israel. As we enter the story in chapter 6, the building of the temple has reached its completion. Let's read Solomon's words as he dedicates the temple to God and blesses the people of Israel.

Read 2 Chronicles 6.

In the Appendix, you will find an Observation Sheet with the text of 2 Chronicles 6.

As you read, mark each of the following:

- 1 //** references to God (including the word *Lord* and pronouns such as *he*, *you*, and *your*) with a purple triangle
- 2 //** the words *promise/promised* with an orange circle
- 3 //** the word *fulfilled* with a pink box
- 4 //** the words *pray/prays/prayer/plea/pleas/plead* with a blue arrow pointing up
- 5 //** the phrase *hear from heaven* with a black underline

It may help to read through the passage multiple times, marking each reference or word one at a time. Or, if you prefer, you can mark them all during a single readthrough. Do what works best for you.



CONTEXT OF 2 CHRONICLES

Scan the QR code to learn more about the context of the book of 2 Chronicles.



Let's take a closer look.

1 // What promise did the Lord make to David?

2 // What does Solomon testify about the Lord's response to His promises? What has God done?

3 // What does Solomon ask of God on behalf of the people of Israel in verse 21?

4 // Look at where you marked the phrase *hear from heaven* in this passage. What did Solomon believe about God?

5 // What does this passage reveal to you about God's character and heart?

6 // How does Solomon respond to God's faithfulness?

Let's read some passages that give us a bigger picture of God's promises and faithfulness toward David, Solomon, and the people of Israel. In your own Bible, read 2 Samuel 7 and 1 Chronicles 22. When you are finished, answer the questions below.

7 // What is in David's heart to do for the Lord? What plan and promise does God share with him instead?

8 // How does David respond to God's plan and promise in 2 Samuel 7?

9 // What do David's preparations in 1 Chronicles 22 reveal about his belief in God's promises?

10 // In the passages you have read, what have you observed about the importance and role of prayer in the lives of David and Solomon?



11 // Take a moment to recall and reflect on God's promises throughout Scripture. List some that come to mind. Feel free to use your Bible or other resources if needed.

12 // Do you truly believe that God keeps all His promises? Why or why not? How does the way you live reflect your belief in this area?

We encourage you to take your time to prayerfully reflect on this question and answer honestly, knowing that God is not surprised by anything.

13 // How have you experienced God's faithfulness in keeping His promises?

14 // In light of Solomon's example in 2 Chronicles 6, how would fully trusting in God's faithfulness and promise-keeping nature impact the way you pray and relate to Him? Reflecting on David's actions in 1 Chronicles 22, how might this affect your actions?

PRAY

Give praise and glory to God for His great faithfulness to you. Thank Him for keeping every promise He makes and finishing every story He begins. Ask Him to heal any part of you struggling to take Him at His Word. Ask God to increase your trust in a way that transforms your prayer life and relationship with Him. Write your prayer to Him in the space provided or in your own journal.