

## Essential: God's Promises

Study Guide for Small Group Discussion and Personal Application  
Lynn Haven UMC – July 12, 2020 – Pastor Craig Carter

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In recent weeks, we've been looking at what is Essential in our relationship with the Lord. So far, we've seen that God and His perspective, presence, power, and freedom are truly necessary in life. Today we add to that list, **God's Promises**.

You and I cannot live without God's promises nor should we want to. God's promises keep us going and on track. Listen to what the Apostle Peter says about them in his second New Testament letter:

*And because of his glory and excellence, [God] has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. (2 Peter 1:4 NLT)*

Famed Bible teacher Herbert Lockyer notes that there are 7,487 promises from God to humankind in Scripture (*All the Promises of the Bible*, Herbert Lockyer). Of those 7,487, here are four worthy of holding on to today and every day:

*The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them...and give them my salvation." (Psalm 91:14-16 NLT)*

*Long ago the Lord said to Israel: "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself." (Jeremiah 31:3 NLT)*

*If any of you needs wisdom to know what you should do, you should ask God, and he will give it to you. (James 1:5a GWT)*

*For God has said, "I will never leave you; I will never abandon you." (Hebrews 13:5b GNT)*

### Discussion Starters:

⇒ In the promises above, God commits to rescue us, love us, give us wisdom, and be present with us. Which of these four promises give you the most comfort, strength and hope?

⇒ What other promises does God make that you find necessary to keep going in life?

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### **1) Promise to Rescue (Psalm 91:14-16 NLT)**

⇒ God's promise to rescue or save can certainly be considered true for those of us who are alive and breathing. But are there times when God doesn't come through and folks aren't rescued and saved? What does God literally mean by these words?

⇒ What are we required to do in order to claim this promise?

### **2) Promise to Love Us (Jeremiah 31:3 NLT)**

⇒ God promises to love us. How can we be sure that He does? What examples can we see in our daily lives that help us experience His love?

⇒ In Deuteronomy 26:18 we read that not only does God love us, He even likes us. How can you stand on the promise that God loves and likes you as "his own special treasure"?

⇒ What are we called upon to do in order to claim this promise?

### **3) Promise to Give Us Wisdom (James 1:5a GWT)**

⇒ Do you spend a lot of time trying to figure out what to do? In what ways are you turning to God for the wisdom to know what is the right move to make?

⇒ What must we do in order to claim this promise?

### **4) Promise to Be Present With Us (Hebrews 13:5b GNT)**

⇒ One of the ways we experience God's presence is through the presence of God's people. In this COVID-19 world we live in, how are you staying connected to other believers? What comfort and strength do you gain from being with other followers of Christ, even if virtually?

Are there other promises of God which enable you to stand firm in the Christian faith? Why don't you encourage our congregation by sharing one or more of them with us, by emailing [church@mylhumc.net](mailto:church@mylhumc.net)?