

The Heritage of Christmas

Week Two: The Promise Woven Through Generations

Connect Group Guide - 12.7.25

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

Question: Share about a time when someone kept an important promise to you, or when you worked hard to keep a promise you made. How did that feel?

Key Takeaways

1. God Makes His Best Promises in Broken Places

- The first Christmas promise came in Genesis 3, after sin entered the world
- God does His best work in the places we feel most broken
- Our mess doesn't disqualify us from God's promises

2. God's Promises Outlast Generations

- From Genesis to Bethlehem: thousands of years passed
- 400 years of silence between Malachi and Matthew
- Silence doesn't mean absence—God is still working

3. God's Timing is Perfect

- "In the fullness of time" God sent His Son
- Delay is not denial; waiting is not wasting time
- God's timing is strategic, not slow

4. Promises Require a Willing Heart

- Mary's "yes" cost her reputation and comfort
- God fulfills promises through people who say "yes"
- Your "yes" affects people you may never meet

5. All Promises Find Their "Yes" in Jesus

- Jesus is the fulfillment of every promise God made
- Whatever you need (hope, peace, forgiveness, restoration) is found in Him
- Christmas is a person, not just an event

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Promises in Broken Places

1. **Read Genesis 3:14-15 together.** Why is it significant that God made the first promise of a Savior in the middle of humanity's greatest failure?
2. Pastor Mike said, "God does his best promise making in the places you feel most broken." Where in your life right now do you feel broken or in need of God's promise?
3. How does knowing that God speaks promises over our brokenness change the way you view your current struggles?

Section 2: Protected Through Generations

4. **Read Isaiah 7:14 and Galatians 4:4.** Between these promises, thousands of years and countless failures occurred. What does this teach us about God's faithfulness?
5. Have you ever experienced a season of silence from God? How did you navigate that time? Looking back, can you see how God was still working?
6. The message mentioned that "just because God is silent doesn't mean He's absent." How can we encourage each other when we're in seasons of waiting?

Section 3: The Power of "Yes"

7. **Read Luke 1:26-38 (Mary's encounter with the angel).** What did Mary's "yes" cost her? What did it accomplish?
8. Pastor Mike shared his own story of saying "yes" to God's call, which changed his entire life trajectory. Has there been a time when saying "yes" to God significantly changed your path?
9. What is God asking you to say "yes" to right now? What fears or obstacles are holding you back?

Section 4: All Promises in Jesus

10. **Read 2 Corinthians 1:20.** What does it mean that "all the promises of God find their yes in Christ"?

11. The message listed several needs: hope, forgiveness, peace, restoration, salvation. Which of these do you most need Jesus to be for you right now?
12. How does understanding Christmas as "the arrival of every promise wrapped in flesh" change the way you celebrate or think about this season?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE area where God is calling you deeper and take one concrete step:

Option 1: Promise Keeper Box

- Create your own "Promise Keeper" box or journal
- Write down specific promises from Scripture that speak to your current situation
- Review them daily, thanking God for His faithfulness

Option 2: Say "Yes" to One Thing

- Identify one specific thing God has been asking you to do
- Take one concrete step toward saying "yes" this week
- Share your decision with one trusted person for accountability

Option 3: Encourage Someone Waiting

- Think of someone you know who is waiting on God for something
- Reach out to them this week with encouragement
- Share a promise from Scripture that might give them hope

Option 4: Family Legacy

- Write a letter to your children, grandchildren, or future generations
- Share your testimony and God's faithfulness in your life
- Include promises from Scripture you're claiming for them.

Prayer Requests & Closing