

MAIN POINT

Through God's promises that have been fulfilled in Christ, we are made His children.

INTRODUCTION

What is the most significant promise you have ever made to another person? Were you able to keep it?

How does the person making the promise determine our ability to believe his or her promise?

All of us have broken promises. However, God is not like a man that He should lie (Num. 23:19). God is incapable of breaking His promises because He is utterly faithful and has the ability to accomplish all He purposes. Before time began, God made an everlasting promise to redeem the world through Jesus. We see echoes of this promise in the earliest chapters of Scripture (Gen. 3:15). In His nature, God exerts complete control over time and upholds His promises. We can hold fast to His promises because God is able and faithful (Heb. 10:23).

DISCUSSION

> **READ EPHESIANS 1:1-14.**

How do these verses show that Jesus was always God's "plan A" to redeem a people to Himself? How are all the people of God a part of this redemption story?

What does it mean for God to have adopted us into His family? What do we receive as God's children?

According to verse 6, why has God chosen to redeem people at all? What makes God's promise praiseworthy?

What benefits of salvation do we experience right now? What does the fact we need to be redeemed tell you about us?

What did Paul mean when he wrote about the mystery of God's will (v. 7)?

How is Christ the primary means through which God brings His promises into effect?

How do we enter into the future promises of God?

How is the Holy Spirit a down payment on a promise that will be fully realized later?

Why should the promise of Christ give us unwavering hope?

APPLICATION

What needs to change in your life based on the reminder that if you are in Christ, you have been made God's child?