

Promises

by Bill Aumack

Good morning, children. We're glad that you joined us this morning. You know, Christmas is over. It was yesterday. And today, we kind of start thinking about the new year, what's going to happen in the new year, will the New Year be different than the old year. And 2020 was kind of a hard year for most of us with all the COVID stuff going on. And we hope that 2021 will be better.

And sometimes you hear adults talking about New Year's resolutions, and want to make some new year's resolutions and then do things differently. And what a resolution is, is it's a way to kind of promise to improve. So maybe adults would promise that they're going to, you know, exercise more or they're going to be kinder or whatever, not lose their temper so much, or we try to promise to do things to be better. And as kids, we could do that too, right? Like, we could promise maybe to watch less TV and get some more exercise, go outside and play a little more or to be kinder to our brothers or sisters or to put our toys away without being told or to do our chores without mom having to remind us 27 times, right. So there's things we could promise to do. And sometimes, you know, going from the old year to a new year is kind of like if you had a coloring book, or a puzzle book, right. And when you first get your book, you've got all these choices of pictures, you can color or the puzzles you could do with the word searches, or whatever they are. And it's fun. And you go through and you pick and you do the ones you like. And you do and you do and pretty soon, there's not many choices left, there's only a couple left. And maybe you don't even want to do those ones, you don't like those ones. And you're kind of out of choices. But then mom or dad gets you a new coloring book or puzzle book. And all the opportunities that gives you now to start over again. And then New Years kind of like that when you get a new book and it's fresh and it's clean. It gives us a fresh new start. And so we make these promises to help ourselves improve and get better. And some people don't take them very seriously. You know, some adults, they say the number one resolution that they make or promise that they make is to lose weight. Well, if we all lost the weight, we wouldn't have to make that resolution every year would we? So sometimes we don't take it very important. But it is important when you make a promise. It's important. The Bible tells us about some promises that God made to his people, and they were important promises and he kept them. And one of them in the Bible we learned about is a man named Simeon. And Simeon was a very old man. He was a prophet and he had waited his whole life to see God. And God promised him that he would get to see the Messiah. Before he died, it's man was an old man. And he was like, wait, I'm wondering if God's really gonna keep this promise or not. But Simeon was faithful. And a few days after Mary and Joseph had baby Jesus, they took him to the temple. And Simeon was in the temple as usual. And as soon as Simeon saw baby Jesus, he knew he was a Messiah, God told him that that was the Messiah. And he was so happy! He ran over, and he held the baby. And he was praising God. And he said, Lord, now let your servant dying in peace as you have promised, I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all the people. And Anna was a prophet who was also in the temple, and she was always there worshiping and praising God. And when she heard what Simeon said, she came over and was praising God and told everybody that the Savior that God had promised had been born.

And God keeps his promise. And it's important for us to keep our promises. So this year is you get started in a new year, if you make a resolution, it's important to keep that resolution that promise to try and be better. And when we're not perfect, we'll make mistakes sometimes, that's okay. But it's important to keep that promise and to try and be better. And to do those things to be kinder to your brothers and sister or to help mom and dad more to get more exercise and less TV, whatever it is. Try and keep those promises. Okay? Let's pray. Heavenly Father, thank you so much for these children, Lord, we asked you to be with them in this upcoming year 2021 help them to be the kind of children you would have them to be, to be kind, to be loving, to be merciful, forgiving Lord. That's what we want to be is more like you be with us now. And bring us back again in Jesus name. Amen. Thank you. Have a great week.