

### Getting Started

Have you ever been on the receiving end of an empty promise? What happened? How did it feel?

Have you ever made a promise you know you’re probably not going to keep? Why did you make it?

### Into the Bible

Take a look at John 5:1-9. Most modern translations do not include verse 4, so make sure to check the footnotes in your Bible and read that verse, too.

What was the promise of pool at Bethesda?

How long had the lame man waited for his chance?

What do you suppose his reaction was to Jesus’ question in verse 6?

What does Paul say about hope in Romans 5:5?

Do you agree?

When does hope seem to disappoint?

Read about the Roman centurion in Matthew 8:5-13. When he went home, did he know his servant was healed?

How do you think he felt on the way home, with just Jesus’ promise in his pocket?

Read Romans 8:31-32 and 2 Corinthians 1:20. What’s the promise that God has already kept that assures us that He will keep all His promises?

According to 1 Peter 1:20, when did God make that promise?

### Digging Deeper

Why is it so hard to live on a promise? What, if anything, makes it easier?