



CommunityGroups

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Promise Maker / Promise Keeper
Series Outline - Spring 2018**

God created man in His own image for relationship with Him. Unfortunately, the fall (sin) entered into the world by man’s choice which resulted in a broken relationship with God. But God, in His grace and mercy made covenants (promises) with man to restore the brokenness. In this series, we’ll walk through the Bible to see why and how God made these promises. Furthermore, we’ll see what they mean for us as followers of Jesus Christ.

Each week, you’ll have a community group discussion guide that corresponds to the weekend sermon. Encourage your group to read through the discussion guides ahead of time and view the resources attached. These discussion guides will be available in the Welcome Center every weekend and be available to download from the church website at www.emmanuelbaptist.net. We’re looking forward to learning and growing together through this series.

Series Schedule:

Sermon Dates:	Theme & Topic	Community Group Meeting Dates
3/3/18 & 3/4/18	Purpose (Creation & Redemption)	3/4/18 - 3/9/18
3/10/18 & 3/11/18	Blessing (Abraham)	3/11/18 - 3/16/18
3/17/18 & 3/18/18	Obedience (Moses)	3/18/18 - 3/23/18
3/24/18 & 3/25/18	Faith (David) - Palm Sunday	3/25/18 - 3/30/18
3/31/18 - 4/1/18*	Resurrection Life (Christ) - Easter Sunday*	4/2/18 - 4/6/18*
4/7/18 - 4/8/18	Power (The Holy Spirit)	4/8/18 - 4/13/18
4/14/18 - 4/15/18	Adoption (Lord of All)	4/15/18 - 4/20/18
4/21/18 - 4/22/18	Hope (Kingdom Come)	4/21/18 - 4/27/18

*Your Community Group may or may not meet this week due to Easter week. This will be decided by the Community Group leader & participants.



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Promise Maker / Promise Keeper - Week 1

FELLOWSHIP & REFRESHMENTS (approx 10-15 minutes)

THE GOAL: During the weekend service, you heard that in the beginning God created man for relationship. However, that relationship was broken because of man's fall (sin). God then made a covenant (promise) to redeem this relationship with man (Genesis 3:15). During your CG this week, we'll see how God fulfilled his redemption promise through Jesus Christ and the incredible blessings found in a relationship with Him.

LOVING GOD (approx. 10 minutes)

- **Memory Verse:** (Have a volunteer read out loud.)
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. (Revelation 21:3)
- 2 minutes of silence:
- **Devotional:**
There simply is no panic in heaven. So God is not discouraged in the face of our weakness and wondering. His plan is not thwarted by our spiritual vacillation. He doesn't look at us and ask whether it's worth it. No, in the face of our ongoing struggles, his plan marches on. Why? It marches on because it is not based on our character, but on his. Redemption does not rest on our resolve, but on his. Salvation doesn't hang on our strength, but on his. We have hope because it all comes from him and rest on him. It is humbling to admit, but it is the only place of hope. Nothing of our salvation depends on us. It all rests on his sovereign grace. Here is the bottom line: he is able, he is willing, and he is faithful. Grace supplies everything we need. – Paul David Tripp
- **Question to consider:**
Have you ever been discouraged by your faithlessness? If so, use this time of silence to let God speak encouragement of His love to you.
- 2 minutes of silence:

BUILDING COMMUNITY (approx. 20-25 minutes)

- Growing Connected:
Question: Name a gift that you will never forget....
- Discussion: How did last week's message encourage, challenge, or convict you?

MAKING DISCIPLES (approx. 30-35 minutes)

- Bible Study: Ephesians 1:1-14 (Have a volunteer read the passage out loud.)

1. In this passage, what spiritual blessings does Paul say we have as a result of our relationship with God?

2. Without the right tools, a mechanic cannot do his job properly. Similarly, without understanding the truths of Scripture, we will not fully be able to experience the abundant life in relationships as believers.

For the believer in Christ, what does it mean that we are...

- Redeemed? (to buy out)* v.7
 - More specifically, how does this make you feel knowing that you no longer have to live as a slave (orphan) but are now adopted into God's family through Jesus?
- Forgiven? (past, present and future) v.7
 - More specifically, how can you live freely knowing you are forgiven through Jesus Christ? And, if we're forgiven, why should we aim to live without sinning?***
- Sealed? (with the promised Holy Spirit)*** v.13-14
 - More specifically, how does it feel to know that the Holy Spirit seals the believer guaranteeing our heavenly inheritance?
- Application:
 - Which of the blessings discussed above stands out to you the most?
 - What is God saying to me through this week's Bible discussion?
 - How will you respond to what God is showing you?
- Going Deeper Resources:
 - <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/covenants/> - This is a great 5 minute video that gives an overview of God's main covenants (promises) to humanity and how through Jesus, God keeps His promises. Great to watch by yourself or together in your group.
 - <https://bible.org/illustration/covenant-not-contract> - The difference between a contract & Covenant. This was discussed in the sermon this past weekend.
 - <https://www.gotquestions.org/predestination.html> - The Bible Study passage (Ephesians 1:1-14) talks about being chosen before the foundations of the earth. It is also referred to as being predestined. This is a great article understand how predestination and free will to choose Christ as Savior go hand in hand.
 - *A great article explaining the biblical meaning of redemption.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/redemption.html>

- **If we're forgiven when we're saved, do we need to ask forgiveness for things we do wrong? <https://www.gotquestions.org/confession-forgiveness.html>
- ***A resource further explaining being sealed with the Holy Spirit. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Spirit-seal.html>

PRAYER REQUESTS / TIME OF PRAYER

NOTES: