

How to use *The Promises of God*

The Promises of God uses the grand story of the Bible to help people understand the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is not a typical “gospel tract.” This booklet is specially designed. Rather than highlight a few doctrines and principles, *The Promises of God* helps people understand how the entire Bible fits together to reveal God’s character and works in history. After all, the truth of the gospel is “according to the Scriptures” (Rom 1:1–2; 1 Cor 15:3–4).

The gospel changes the way people see the world. It tells a story, not a philosophy. As a result, we have to rethink the way we present the gospel.

Who is this guide for?

This guide was designed with two people in mind. On the one hand, *The Promises of God* is an introduction to the gospel for **non-Christians**. For many non-believers, the gospel seems otherworldly or too philosophical. They do not see how God is relevant to their lives.

On the other hand, this gospel guide can be used as a tool to **train Christians** to communicate the gospel more clearly and confidently. Many believers don’t share the gospel because they don’t sufficiently understand the Bible. Although they can answer basic questions about Christ’s identity and his ministry, their knowledge is narrow and shallow.

what’s different

Think about how people use traditional gospel tracts. Frequently, people will distribute gospel tracts to strangers but without any added explanation. The problem is compounded by common feature in many gospel tracts. In order to simplify the message, tracts often focus on a few key doctrines. They rarely stress the Old Testament.

Non-Christians don’t have enough background knowledge to make sense of the presentation. As a result, the gospel can sound too abstract.

The Promises of God takes a different approach. It focuses on **the big picture** so that people can better see that gospel proclaims a big God! In Christ, God entered our world and revealed himself in history. Our God is not distant or abstract.



When people understand the gospel as a story (and not merely a series of propositions), they better grasp the fact that the gospel presents an entirely different view of the world. They see that this gospel is relevant to their lives.

Don't memorize. Do internalize.

The Promises of God is a gospel guide.

People don't need to memorize it. If someone were to ask us about our family or to share our family background, we would not need to memorize a set presentation. The gospel retells a story. Naturally, some aspects of the gospel never change; however, we have flexibility in the way we tell the story. As a "gospel guide", *The Promises of God* helps people to internalize the Story.

We are primarily supposed to *share* the gospel, not distribute booklets about it.

One small booklet by itself is insufficient. People need a personal explanation. We need to answer people's questions. This means that those who share the gospel also need to know the story well.

Remember the gospel

How does this guide help people remember the Story? *The Promises of God* has a few features that make it easier for people to share the gospel story.

SIMPLE PICTURES

For example, each section has a corresponding picture to help people remember key aspects of the story. Ultimately, the various smaller pictures come together to form a single picture that depicts the main points in the gospel story.

Accordingly, people could choose simply to remember a single image in their mind. That picture contains everything they need to **remind** them of the Bible's grand story. These simple pictures can be drawn in the sand or sketched on a piece of paper. The pictures consist of simple shapes, like circles and triangles. You don't even have to be an artist.

(Below, you will find a simple explanation about the symbolism and significance of the shapes.)

BASIC OUTLINE

The Promises of God uses a basic outline to retell the gospel story. The plot is streamlined. The number of characters is minimized. Each section naturally flows into the section that follows. The presentation tries to limit the number of turning points in order to minimize complexity yet without compromising the Bible's fundamental storyline.

REPEATING THEMES

A few key themes are interwoven through the various sections. They form a common thread that conveys the meaning and unity of the Bible's grand story.

Accordingly, those who use *The Promises of God* have a great deal of **flexibility** in how they share the gospel. One part of the story naturally reminds people of other parts. In addition, people have the freedom to emphasize one another theme as needed. With one person, they may highlight the fact that God is a Father and we are his children. With other people, we might choose to stress other metaphors, like honor or purity.

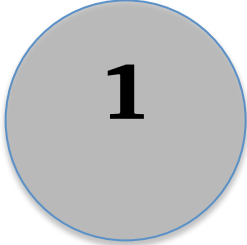
When sharing the gospel, people often are afraid that they must communicate the message in a very precise manner. If they forget one small detail or logical sequence, they will mess up the entire presentation.

The Promises of God allows people to tell *one story* in a way that is suitable for *all people*.

PICTORAL BOOKMARK

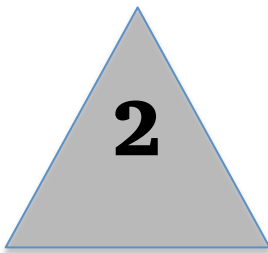
You can use the *The Promises of God* bookmark to guide other people through the story. By carrying the bookmark wherever you go, you will be reminded to share the gospel. Not only does it equip the Christian, it can spur conversation with non-believers.

Three ways to use *The Creator King*



1. Train Christians

First of all, *The Promises of God* can be used to train Christians to share the gospel effectively. As people understand the message, they will more naturally and boldly tell others.



2. Gospel Introduction

The Promises of God has two formats—a shorter presentation and longer, more thorough presentation. The shorter version of *The Promises of God* introduces the broad storyline and raises curiosity. If people want to hear more about this message, we can use the longer presentation.



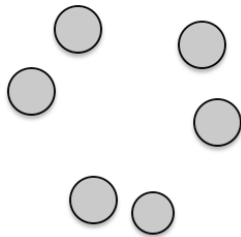
3. Evangelistic Study

Finally, the full version of *The Promises of God* contains more details about the gospel story. Also, it contains a number of questions to guide further discussion. Believers can use *The Promises of God* to lead an evangelistic study. Perhaps, you could meet with unbelievers 4–6 times. Each time, your study time could focus on one major aspect of the story.

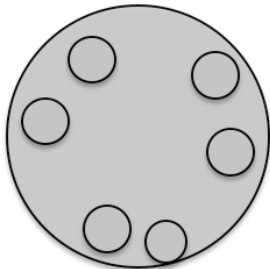
Key Symbols

The pictures give a basic outline of the gospel story. They are merely symbols and reminders. People should not feel restricted by them. Rather, they provide people with a lot of flexibility. Your presentations may be as complex or as simple as needed.

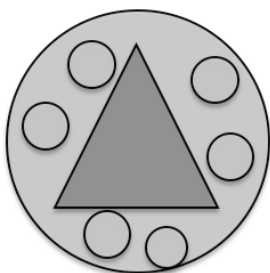
The first set of pictures summarizes the Old Testament. Not only does it identify the problems of the world, the pictures highlight the saving promises of God.



The circles represent the various multiple groups in the world. The human family is divided in various ways, e.g. ethnicity, nationality, economics, gender, language, etc.



The larger circle foretells the Abrahamic covenant. God promises to unite the world by blessing all nations through Abraham's offspring.



The triangle represents the Mosaic covenant. Specifically, the triangle resembles a Temple, the place where God dwells with his people. Accordingly, this picture signifies the fact that God makes a distinct sort of people.



The crown represents the Davidic covenant. God will establish his kingdom forever. God's king will purify his people (i.e. His Temple).

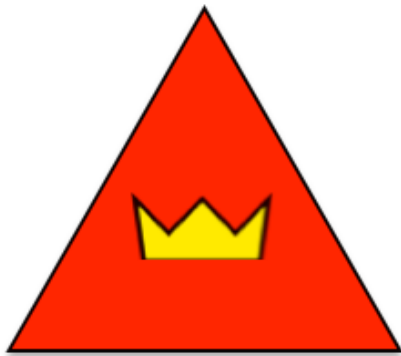
The smaller circles remain because God has not yet fulfilled his promises.

The second set of picture express how God keeps his promises in the New Testament. The Old Testament symbols are redrawn to signify God's fulfillment of each respective promise.

Notice the overall sequence is reversed. This has two purposes. First, the order depicts the way God accomplishes his covenants, beginning with Jesus and culminating in a new heaven and new earth. Second, the resurrection of Christ becomes the key tool for interpreting God's promises in the Old Testament



The crown represents the fulfillment of God's covenant with David. This part of the story recounts the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus as God's king.



With Christ's resurrection, God's Spirit dwells in God's people, who are compared to a Temple. The Moses covenant foreshadowed the fact that God would make a holy kingdom of priests, who would represent God in the world.



Ultimately, the Father keeps his promise to Abraham. He blesses all nations through Abraham's offspring, namely Christ and his followers. In this way, He restores the human family and creates a new heaven and new earth.