

## Week Six – God is committed to his people – Overview

Passage	Big Idea
SS) Genesis 15	God is committed to his people
FBT1) Gal 3:10ff	Jesus is committed to his people
FBT2) Isaiah 54	God’s commitment to his people assures us of his forgiveness
FBT3) Romans 8	God’s commitment to his people gives us courage
FBT4) Psalm 37:23-26	God’s commitment to his people allows us to be generous
FBT5) Psalm 71, 59, 117	God’s commitment to his people leads to praise

### Family Bible Time (Day 1) – Galatians 3:6-14

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	Jesus is committed to his people
<b>Bible Passage</b>	Galatians 3:6-14
<b>Getting Started</b>	Ask what rules the children have at school. What if someone breaks one of the rules (use the examples they gave). What would happen? Would they deserve this punishment? Imagine if you were being punished for breaking a school rule, but then your friend stepped in and said “I will take this punishment for you”. How would that make you feel? Jesus does something like that for us, only much, much better.
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. God has been faithful to his covenant  2. We have broken the covenant (Genesis 17:1)	<p>In Sunday School, we learnt about a special promise that God made to Abraham. He promised to always be with him, to look after him, and to give him many children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What did God do to show that he was serious about keeping his promise?</i> God performed a special ceremony. Abraham cut some animals in half, and then God passed between them. This was to show that he would rather die (just like the animals) than not keep his promise to Abraham.</li> <li>• <i>Q: Do you think God kept his promise to Abraham?</i> God did exactly what he said he would do. He kept his promise to Abraham, and to Abraham’s children.</li> </ul> <p>But Abraham and his children had a part to play in the promise as well</p> <p><b>Read Genesis 17:1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What did Abraham and his children need to do as part of the covenant agreement with God?</i> Abraham’s children needed to “be blameless” which means they needed to keep God’s law and obey his commandments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Galatians 3:7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: Who does this verse say are children of Abraham?</i> The bible tells us that everyone who believes in Jesus are Abraham’s children. Which means we are part of the promise that God gave to Abraham. Remember that our part in the promise is to “be blameless”. To obey God and follow him.</li> <li>• <i>Q: Have we obeyed God perfectly all of the time?</i></li> </ul>

<p>3. Jesus takes our curse (Gal 3:13)</p>	<p>No, we have not obeyed God, which means we have not kept our part of the covenant promise. Remember the ceremony that God performed with Abraham? There were animals cut in half that he passed between. This meant that anyone breaking the covenant promise deserved death.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: So what does that mean we deserve for breaking the covenant promise?</i></li> </ul> <p>God did not break his covenant promise, so he does not deserve death. But we have broken the covenant. We have disobeyed God, so we deserve the curse of the covenant, we deserve death. But God is so committed to us that, not only was he willing to die if HE broke his promise, he was also willing to die even when WE break the covenant promise.</p> <p><b>Read Galatians 3:13</b></p> <p>Jesus was willing to take our place. Jesus had not broken the promise, but he was punished as if he had. He died instead of us, so that we don't have to.</p>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<p>God is so committed to his people that he was willing to send his Son to die in our place. What does that tell you about how God feels about his people?</p>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><b>PSALM 145:2</b> <i>Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.</i></p>

### Family Bible Time (Day 2) – Isaiah 54:5-8

<p><b>BIG IDEA</b></p>	<p>God's commitment to his people assures us of his forgiveness</p>
<p><b>Bible Passage</b></p>	<p>Isaiah 54:5-8</p>
<p><b>Getting Started</b></p>	<p>Have you ever had a fight with your brothers or sisters, or friends at school? <i>Talk about a time when they have felt hurt by something they have said or done.</i> Have you ever had someone say sorry to you, but you haven't really wanted to forgive them? Maybe your mum or dad or a teacher makes you say sorry, but you just mumble the words, and in your heart you are thinking "I don't really forgive them!" Do you think God ever doesn't want to forgive us when we mess up? Let's find out...</p>
<p><b>Finding Out</b> 1. God's anger is for a moment</p>	<p>Isaiah was a prophet who gave messages from God to his people. In one of these messages, God told his people how he felt about them.</p> <p><b>Read Isaiah 54:5a</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: God says he is our Maker. What else does he call himself?</i></li> </ul> <p>God says he is like a husband to us. When a husband marries his wife, he promises that he will be completely committed to her. That means he will stay with her forever, or at least until one of them dies. He will never leave her and is committed to doing her good. That's why God says he is like a husband to us. He is completely committed to his people, just like a good husband is to his wife. Remember we learnt last time that even though God is completely committed to us, we have not been faithful to him. We do not always love him or obey him as we should.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What do we deserve as a consequence of disobeying God?</i></li> </ul> <p>We deserve death. But as we learnt last time, Jesus died in our place if we are trusting in him. But that does not mean that we don't have any consequences for our sin.</p> <p><b>Read Isaiah 54:8a</b></p>

<p>2. Because of his commitment to us, his kindness is forever</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How does God feel about our sin?</i></li> </ul> <p>If we are trusting in Jesus and belong to him, we don't ever need to fear death, but there are still consequences to sin. God is still angry with sin.</p> <p>The good news is, when we are trusting in Jesus, we can be sure he will always forgive us when we say sorry.</p> <p><b>Read Isaiah 54:8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How long does it say God's anger lasts for?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: How long does his kindness last for?</i></li> </ul> <p>God is committed to his people, which means he has promised to always forgive us and take us back when we are sorry. There will never be a day when you say sorry to God and he refuses to forgive you. And he always means it! He never mumbles the words, but in his heart doesn't really want to forgive us, like we sometimes do. He always forgives completely and wholly. And one day, he will take us to heaven, where he will love us forever and we will never need to say sorry again!</p>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<p>Even when we mess up, we can be sure God will forgive us if we are trusting in Jesus, because he has promised he will. You never need to worry that God might decide he doesn't like you anymore and give up on you. He will always forgive his children.</p>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><b>PSALM 145:2</b>  <i>Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.</i></p>

### Family Bible Time (Day 3) – Romans 8:31-32

<p><b>BIG IDEA</b></p>	<p>God's commitment to his people gives us courage</p>
<p><b>Bible Passage</b></p>	<p>Romans 8:31-37</p>
<p><b>Getting Started</b></p>	<p><i>Find pictures of a lion, a rabbit, and butterfly. Talk about a situation where you are facing something scary (like a bear chasing you). Show the pictures of the different animals – If you could choose one of these animals to be on your side – which animal would you choose? That's just a made up situation. You couldn't really get a lion to be on your side! But in real life, we have something even better than a lion!</i></p>
<p><b>Finding Out</b>  1. This life involves suffering (Rom 8:22)</p>	<p><b>Read Romans 8:22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What does this verse say that the whole of creation is doing?</i></li> </ul> <p>New babies are very cute, but when they are being born, it is very painful for the mother (just ask you mum!). The bible says the whole world is groaning in pain, just like when a baby is being born. The reason there is pain in the world, is because there is sin. Remember last time we found out that there are consequences to sin. God always forgives his children, but that doesn't mean there are no consequences for sin. All the pain and suffering that happens in the world is because we all sin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What sorts of things happen that are not very nice?</i></li> </ul> <p>Sometimes people are mean to us, and we get hurt, and sick, and sometimes people we love die. Bad things happen all the time. And the bible says bad things will keep happening, until Jesus comes back again.</p> <p>But even though bad things happen, we don't need to be afraid.</p>

<p>2. God is for us, so we will conquer (Rom 8:31-32,37)</p>	<p><b>Read Romans 8:31</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q: <i>Who does this verse say is “for us”?</i></li> </ul> <p>God is for us! That means he is always on our side. No matter what happens, God is always on our side. He has promised he will always be on our side.</p> <p><b>Read Romans 8:32</b></p> <p>This verse says God has given us proof that he is on our side and always will be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q: <i>What proof has God given us that he is on our side?</i></li> </ul> <p>God has already given us his own Son! You can be sure God is on our side because he has already given us the thing that is most precious to him. If God is on our side, then we can be sure that something will happen in the end...</p> <p><b>Read Romans 8:37</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q: <i>What does God say will happen to those who are on his side?</i></li> </ul> <p>God says that we will be conquerors. We will win! Even though bad things happen, if God is on your side, you can be sure you will win in the end. That means we can be brave, even when bad things are happening. Just as if you had a lion by your side!</p>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<p>God is the best possible person to have on your side. Even better than a lion! Bad things will always happen, but if you are trusting in Jesus, you have God himself on your side. Put your faith in Jesus, and God promises to always be on your side.</p>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><b>PSALM 145:2</b></p> <p><i>Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.</i></p>

### Family Bible Time (Day 4) – Psalm 37:23-26

<p><b>BIG IDEA</b></p>	<p>God’s commitment to his people allows us to be generous</p>
<p><b>Bible Passage</b></p>	<p>Psalm 37:23-26</p>
<p><b>Getting Started</b></p>	<p><i>Find pictures of a desert with no water, and a large river surrounded by green foliage (or alternately just describe the 2 places). Get a cup of water. Imagine you lived in desert. You have this cup of water, but you don’t know when you’ll find more water. This is all you have. Would you find it easy to share it with others? What about if you lived somewhere where there is lots and lots of water. Now would you find it easy to share this cup of water with someone? What makes the difference to your attitude?</i></p>
<p><b>Finding Out</b></p> <p>1. God always provides for his children (Ps 37:25)</p>	<p>David was a king in Israel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q: <i>Can you remember some of the things that happened to David during his life?</i></li> </ul> <p>David had been a shepherd as a boy. He had fought off wild animals like lions and bears, to protect his sheep. He had defeated the giant Goliath. Then he was made king and he ruled Israel for forty years. Towards the end of his life, he wrote Psalm 37.</p> <p><b>Read Psalm 37:25</b></p> <p>These are the words that David spoke when he was an old man. He had seen so much happen, both good and bad, during his life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q: <i>What did he say that he had never seen happen?</i></li> </ul> <p>He said that he had never seen the righteous forsaken. “The righteous” means God’s people. David says that throughout his whole life he had never seen God abandon his people. That doesn’t mean bad things didn’t happen to God’s people, but through</p>

2. This frees us from worry and allows us to be generous (Ps 37:26)	<p>everything, God had always been with his people. And he had always provided for them. He had always given them everything that they needed.</p> <p><b>Read Psalm 37:26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q: <i>What does this verse say that God's people do?</i></li> </ul> <p>Because God's people are sure that God will give them everything that they need, it means they can be generous and give to others. It's like living by a big river, where we know we can always get water - so it is easy to give water to others. God is like that river. He is always there with us, and has promised to give us everything we need. That means we don't need to hold tightly onto the things we have, we can be generous and share them with others.</p>
<b>So What?</b>	Do you believe that God will always look after you and give you everything you need? What does that mean about the things that you own? How can you be generous with the things you have?
<b>Memory Verse</b>	<b>PSALM 145:2</b> <i>Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.</i>

### Family Bible Time (Day 5) – Psalm 89:1-2

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God's commitment to his people leads to praise
<b>Bible Passage</b>	Psalm 89:1-2
<b>Getting Started</b>	<p>Get the children to name some people that they don't get to talk to very often (maybe overseas relatives). What do you like to tell them about when you get to talk to them? Maybe things you have done at school, or how many teeth you have lost, or places you have visited. The people we are going to read about liked to talk to their friends as well. They liked to tell their friends about God and what he had done for them.</p>
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. God's faithfulness is sure (Psalm 89:2)  2. Tell everyone about it! (Psalm 89:1-2)	<p>Psalm 89 is a song that God's people, the Israelites, used to sing in praise to God.</p> <p><b>Read Psalm 89:1-2</b></p> <p>God's people are praising him for his love and faithfulness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q: <i>How long does this Psalm say that God's love will stand firm?</i></li> </ul> <p>God's love lasts forever. His faithfulness to his people is completely sure. He will never leave his people, or give up on them. He will always stick by them. Just like he promised Abraham he would, and just like he promised King David he would. And he makes the same promises to his people today. God is still keeping his promise that he made all those years ago to Abraham.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q: <i>What does the Psalmist say he will do because God has been faithful?</i></li> </ul> <p>He says he will sing about God's faithfulness. A man called Thomas Chisholm once wrote a song about God's faithfulness. It goes like this:</p> <p><i>Great is your faithfulness, Great is your faithfulness.  Morning by morning new mercies I see.  All I have needed your hand has provided.  Great is your faithfulness, Lord unto me.  God's faithfulness is worth singing about! And it is worth telling others about.</i></p>

<b>So What?</b>	Can you think of some ways that God has looked after and provided for you? Maybe you can come up with a song about what God has done for you!
<b>Memory Verse</b>	<b>PSALM 145:2</b> <i>Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.</i>

## Recap Week 6

How do we know that God will always keep his promises to his people? We know that God is committed to his people, so we can be sure he will always forgive us. God's commitment to his people also helps us to be brave, and to be generous to others. God is only committed to those who trust in Jesus, however. If you want these promises to be true for you, then trust in Jesus! If you are already trusting in Jesus, have you thanked God lately for his commitment to you?