

This quarter is all about God's promises (covenants) to His people. God keeps His word and desires to bless us. If we want to receive His blessings, we must follow His instructions. Many times people forget that they have a responsibility as part of the covenant, as well.

What if your parents or caregivers told you that you would get a new toy or be taken somewhere special... *if* you kept your room clean for the month? You would only get the promise if you did as you were told—kept your room clean. Likewise, God's promises require actions on our parts.

Read the Scriptures below. Write down what the promise is on the line. Then write what the condition, or action, is you have to take in order to receive that promise.

I. Psalm 37:4
Promise:
Condition:
2. Matthew 6:25–33
Promise:
Condition:
3. John 3:16
Promise:
Condition:
ł. 1 John 1:9
Promise:
Condition:

If you have failed to do your part in order to ensure that you receive God's promises, write a prayer asking for His forgiveness and that He help you in the areas where you need to take action.

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HIGH FIVE

This quarter's High Five goes to...Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993). The grandson of a slave, Marshall strived to achieve educational success. Though denied admission into the University of Maryland Law School because he was Black, Marshall did not quit pursuing his goal to further his education. Instead, he attended Howard University School of Law.

As a lawyer, Marshall fought for the constitutional rights of all people. During his time, Blacks and Whites were not allowed to attend school together. One of Marshall's first successful cases was when he sued the University of Maryland, the law school that had denied him access, when the school would not admit another young African American male.



Winning the case against the University of Maryland opened other doors for Thurgood Marshall. He worked for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), as well as helped people who were oppressed (not being treated fairly) in other countries, such as Ghana. His dedication, hard work, and ability to win cases and write documents ultimately led Thurgood Marshall to being appointed as a judge and later as a Supreme Court Justice.

As noted, Thurgood Marshall did not give up when the University of Maryland denied him entrance into the law school. He showed perseverance, which is an inner drive to keep trying at something and not give up. He had to work hard in law school and throughout his career.

The word "endurance" is similar to perseverance. It means the ability to withstand or go through something without giving up. Sometimes achieving our goals in life will not come easy. We must persevere and endure during the hard times.

Below, write a goal that you want to achieve that might not be easy. Then, write a prayer asking God to help you persevere, endure, and work hard to do any and everything that He would have you to do.





God Can Be Trusted

What's It All About?

"I just want to go home!" Kim cried.

"We are home, Kim," Mom said. "Seattle is our new home."

"I don't like it here—I hate it here! I don't know anyone. I don't want to go to a new school. I don't want to play on a new volleyball team—I don't even know if I'll make this team. I still don't get why we had to move so far away from our family and friends. We moved all the way across the United States!"

Mom hugged Kim. "We talked about this before

moving, honey. My company offered me a new position here in Seattle, and I took it."

"Why? How do you know you made the right decision? What if you made a mistake?"

"I don't believe I made a mistake, Kim. I prayed to God and asked for guidance. I believe God has blessed me with this new opportunity, which will allow me to better provide for us. I trust God, and I encourage you to trust God, too."

What do you think? Should Kim trust God and believe that something good will come from her move to Seattle? Why or why not? Why is Kim having a hard time adjusting to the move? Would you feel the same way as Kim? Why or why not? Do you think that Kim needs to have faith? Can God reward your faith? Explain.



Learning From God

In this lesson you will learn that God is faithful to His people and it is important to have faith in God. The quarter begins with the story of Abram. Abram owned livestock and was a wealthy man. He and his family lived in Ur. One day, God gave Abram an order—get up and go! God told Abram to leave his country, his people, and his family and go where He directed.

Genesis 12:1, NIV—The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. **2** "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and

whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

What would you have done? Abram took his wife, his nephew, and his possessions and moved just as the Lord told him to do. When Abram arrived at the place God led him to, God had another promise for him. Abram responded by worshiping God.

Verses 4–9—So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. **5** He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. **6** Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that

time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. 9 Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Do you think that having faith in and obeying God gave Abram and his wife, Sarai, joy? Explain.

What I Have Learned

Look again at Genesis 12:2–3 and write down the seven blessings that God promised to Abram.

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

Write down how God has blessed you through Abram:

Choosing What's Best

Abram showed His faith in God's promises by obeying God. He listened to God's instruction. Do you listen to God's instruction? Do you regularly read the Bible? Do you know some of the promises that the Bible contains? Three Scripture references are given below. Only one of them contains a promise from God. Which is it? Circle your answer.

Mark 6:1 1 John 1:9 Acts 9:39

Doing My Part

Are you willing to sacrifice to claim the promises of God? Are you willing to move, like Abram and Kim's mom (from "What's It All About?")? Are you willing to give up something you value? Your challenge this week is to decide what you are willing to sacrifice and write it below.

Keep In Mind

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2, NIV).



Commandments for Survival

What's It All About?

Aiden and Mia were picked to go to the Survival Day outing as representatives of their school. They had never been in the woods before and wanted to learn all they could.

Ben, the leader of Survival Day, welcomed them and shared the Ten Survival Commandments that each of them needed to learn and obey. One of the commandments was to "Respect nature and the God who made it."

Aiden asked, "How do we do this?"

Ben replied, "These woods are filled with animals and plants that could be dangerous to you. So, don't pull up plants or chase the animals, for both their and your protection and safety. As you look at God's creations, thank Him for making them."

Mia asked, "Can we get copies of the Ten Survival Commandments to share with our schools?"

"Yes," Ben said. "They are for you to memorize, obey, and share."

"Great!" chimed Mia. "I want my classmates to be safe in the woods, too."

"Very good," replied Ben. "Now let's go over all of the Ten Survival Commandments and repeat them after me." Ben read each commandment and explained why they should obey them.

He then led them into the woods and taught them various survival tips, showing them how each commandment would help them in different situations.

At the end of the day, Aiden asked Ben if these Survival Commandments were like the Ten Commandments God gave Moses.

"In a way," Ben explained. "The Ten Commandments were to teach the people how to live the life God had for them. The Survival Commandments are to teach you how to behave in the woods. But, God's commandments also taught the people to honor and respect Him and each other. In a similar way, the Survival Commandments teach you to respect nature as God's creation and honor Him for making things for us to enjoy."

How can obeying God's commandments teach you to honor and respect God and others? Will they be hard for you to follow?



Learning From God

In Exodus 20, God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, which became part of God's Laws. They were given so His people would know what He required of them and how they were to behave. The Israelites were still at the bottom of Mount Sinai and they heard thunderings, noises, and a trumpet sounding and saw lightning while the mountain smoked. It made them afraid, and they respected and honored God because they knew He was meeting with Moses on the mountain.

Exodus 20:18–26, NIV—When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance **19** and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself

and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." **20** Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

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21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was. 22 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites this: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: 23 Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold. 24 Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. 25 If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it. 26 And do not go up to my altar on steps, or your private parts may be exposed.""

[Moses told the people not to be afraid because God had come to test them and their obedience to Him. God is holy and all-powerful and we, like the Children of Israel, must learn to respect and honor Him for who He is. When God tells us to do something, we should obey Him. When we disobey God, it is called sinning and this displeases Him. He wants us to live the best life possible and His commandments help us to do so.]

What I Have Learned

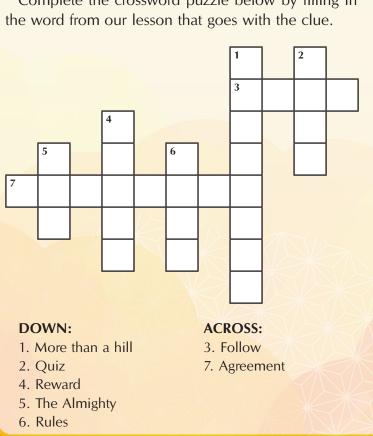
Complete the crossword puzzle below by filling in



"Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you" (Exodus 20:24, NIV).

Choosing What's Best

God gave the Children of Israel commandments in order to teach them how to live in a way that pleased Him, help them to obey Him, and protect them. He still wants us to live by His commandments with the help of the Holy Spirit. What can you do to remember God? Write it below. What can you do to make sure He is most important in your life? Write this below, too.



Doing My Part

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The fifth commandment in the Ten Commandments says to honor your parents so that you can live a long life. This week, do something to show your parents or guardians how much you love and appreciate them. You might want to serve them in some way or make a gift for them. Whatever you choose to do to show your appreciation and respect for them, tell them that you love them and that you thank God for them.