

# God Keeps His Promises

Joshua 21 & Mat 17.20

## Key Points:

- In Chapter 21 there are two significant events. The first is the gift of land from the tribes of Israel (out of their inheritance) to the Levites - God fulfils His promise through the generosity of the people of God. The second (v.45) is the summary of the book of Joshua thus far - that God has fulfilled all of His promises to His people.
- God keeps His promises because of who He is. Because God is perfect, He cannot lie - so He keeps His promises. Because God is eternal, He cannot forget - so He keeps His promises. Because God is faithful, He never changes - so He keeps His promises. Because God is powerful, He's always able - so He keeps His promises. Because God is loving, He wants what's best for you in your life - so He keeps His promises.
- Jesus made a promise to his followers in Matthew 17 involving mountains and mustard seeds. We all have immovable objects/people/circumstances/habits/fears (aka mountains) in our lives, and Jesus says that there are two key things to do when facing a mountain. 1. Think big - *what's the biggest mountain that God might start to move in my life*, 2. Start small - *a little bit of faith and a great big God is more than enough*.
- Living a life of faith means leaning on God's promises.

## Questions:

1. What evidence is there in the Bible (start with Joshua, but expand if you wish!) to support this idea that God keeps His promises?
2. What promises does God make to *you* in the Bible? Why not go around the group and ask each person to share their favourite promise. [if you need some inspiration, try here <https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/gods-promises-verses-in-the-bible/>]
3. Jesus' promise to us in Matthew 17.20 concerns how we face up to mountains in our lives. What are the mountains in your life? (e.g. Immovable people, Impossible tasks, Unsolvable problems). Spend some time thinking, praying and listening - *what's the biggest mountain that God might start to move in my life?*
4. '*Nothing would be impossible*', said Jesus. Do you find it easy or hard to think and dream big? Why do you think that is? [Often it can be our fear of disappointment or past failures that get in the way of thinking big.]
5. Moving mountains is not dependent on how big our faith is, but rather how big our God is. Jesus calls us to focus not on the mountain, but on God - even if our faith is tiny (like a mustard seed). Do you struggle to take your eyes off the mountain? Have you grappled with '*not having enough faith*'? Maybe spend some time praying with one another to move our focus from the mountain, or how much faith we have, to God.
6. How does God fulfil His promise of land to the Levites in Joshua 21? Put yourself in the Israelite's shoes (or sandals) - how would you have felt if God asked you to give away some of what He had just given you (and taken 40years in the process!)?
7. Just like the Israelites, we must be prepared for God to use us to fulfil His promises to others. This might include the promise of salvation (sharing Jesus with others), the promise of blessing (blessing others with our time, our talents, our money), the promise of love (serving and loving others) etc. How might God use you to fulfil His promises in others?