


# THE PROMISES OF GOD

 COLLEGIATE STAFF-IN-TRAINING BIBLE STUDY

## **SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES**

Trace the old and new covenants through the scriptures. **(6-10 hrs)**

Get to know God as a promise making God by studying, learning from those who have trusted him with those promises. **(1-2 hrs)**

## **REFLECT AND RESPOND**

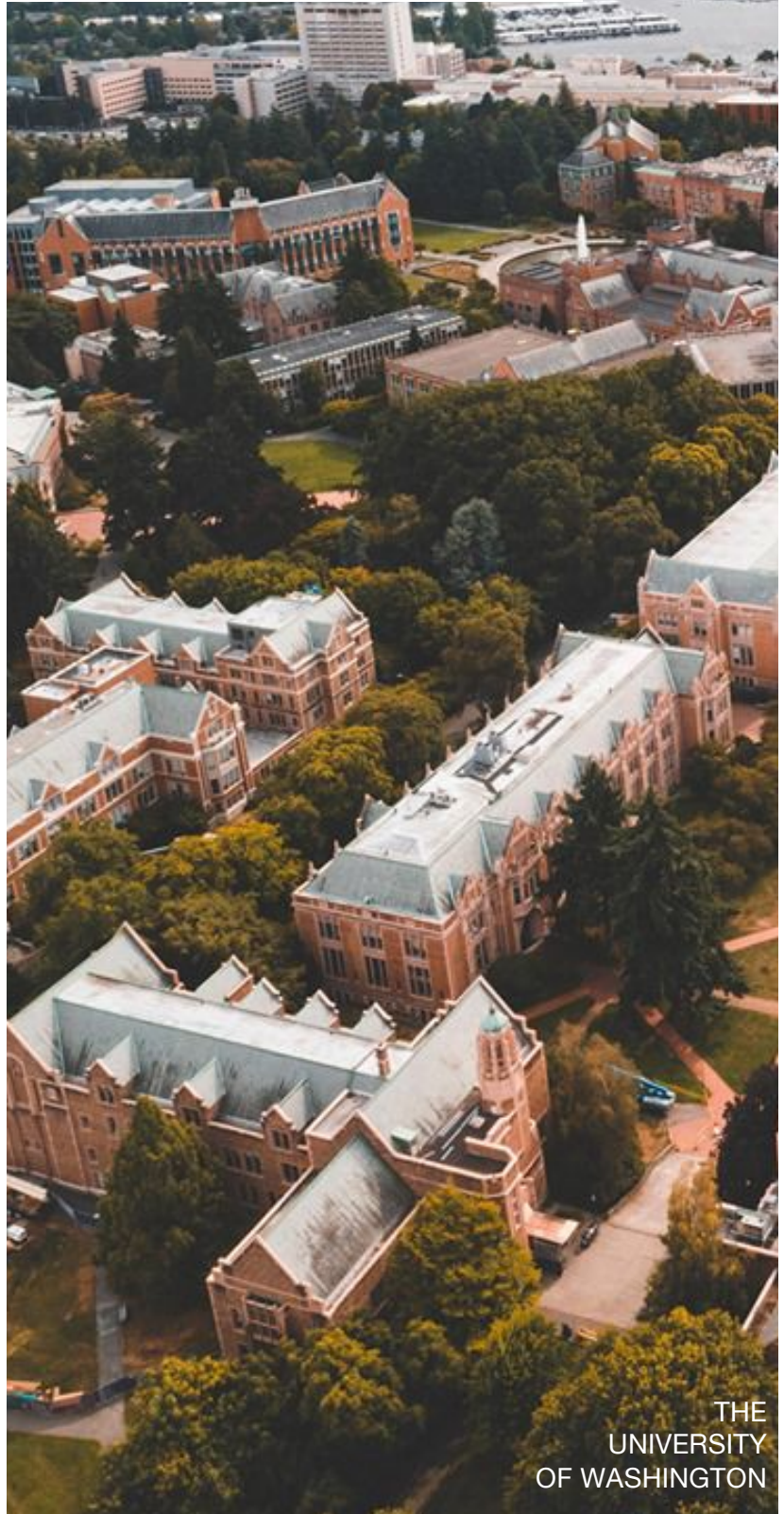
Dive deeper into the promises of God and the hold they have on your life. **(1-2 hrs)**

## **SOMETHING TO SHARE**

Create an action plan for incorporating the consistent practice of praying God's promises into your work on campus.

## **CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION**

Talk with your campus trainer about your experience with this study.



THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF WASHINGTON

# The Promises of God

## Collegiate Staff-in-Training Bible Study

Faith in the promises of God is one of our core values as Navigators. We are to be known as people of “expectant faith and persevering prayer rooted in the promises of God.” God enters the promises he makes with his people, therefore the invitation to walk with him is an invitation to trust his promises wholeheartedly. For generations, God has called his people upward into his plans and purposes through his promises. Today, this same promise-keeping God frees us from chasing our own life agendas and emboldens us to walk in-step with him as he unfolds each moment of his redemption story. Will you have the audacity to make decisions and anchor your expectations to the faithfulness of God to bless the nations?

### **SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES:**

1) In four key moments of the Old Testament story, God enters a covenant, *berit* (ber-eeth – H1285). We will focus our attention on the covenant God made with Abraham. This covenant is like a comet that flames through the whole Bible. The other promises and blessings comprise the tail of that comet. The Abrahamic covenant defines for all God’s people for all time what He intends to accomplish in and for the world.

With the passages below, trace God’s promise to Abraham throughout the Bible. Spend 15-30 minutes on each. What is promised? What are the conditions of the promise? How does the promise unfold over time? Why is the promise significant for believers today? (4-6 hrs)

Genesis 12:1-7	Genesis 17	Genesis 26:1-5, 23-24	Exodus 2:23-25	Romans 4:13-25
Genesis 13:14-18	Genesis 21:1-7	Genesis 28:3-4, 13-15	Matthew 3:9-10	Galatians 3:6-8, 26-29
Genesis 15:1-7	Genesis 22:15-19	Genesis 35:9-12	Romans 2:28-29	Hebrews 11:8-12

2) When Jesus inaugurated a “New Covenant,” he both fulfilled the Jewish Law and raised the standards of this centuries-old covenant. It is nearly impossible to describe the complex range of emotions this would have evoked for the Jews, whose identity and way of life were closely intertwined with keeping the Old Covenant. Yet the Law itself hinted that a New Covenant would someday redefine the way that God related not simply to the Jews, but also to the nations. This way, all those who would relate to God by faith in Jesus would now live together under this new promise. From the references below, what do you observe about the new terms of this covenant? In what ways does the new covenant satisfy ancient promises? (2-4 hrs)

Jeremiah 31:31-33	1 Corinthians 11:23-25	Hebrews 9:15
Luke 22:19-20	2 Corinthians 3:4-6	Hebrews 10:19-25
Hebrews 6:13-20		

3) Below, look to the examples set by God’s people to find takeaways for relating with God on the basis of his promises. Next, reflect upon the promises that became foundational for the Navigators. Review the final set of passages to determine principles for a life lived clinging to the promises of God. (1 - 2 hrs)

<b>Verses on the Promises</b>	<b>Example of Pleading &amp; Praying Promises</b>	<b>Promises Prayed by Navigators</b>
Psalms 119:140	Exodus 33:12-34:7 – Moses	Isaiah 49:6
2 Corinthians 7:1	1 Samuel 1:1-2:11 – Hannah	Isaiah 54:2-3
2 Peter 1:3-4	Daniel 9:1-19 – Daniel	Isaiah 58
Psalms 25:14	Acts 13:46-48 – Paul and Barnabas	Isaiah 60:22

## **REFLECT AND RESPOND:**

\*\*Write two to three paragraphs for each of the following three prompts. Draw from your study above. (15-30 mins each)

- 1) What has it looked like for you to journey from an awareness of God's promises at large to personally turning to him on the basis of his promises?
- 2) Why is it important to consider the context surrounding a promise? In reading Habakkuk 1:5, practice using the framework: Who was the promise made to? What did it mean to them? What is its relevance for today?
- 3) Is there a promise that grips your heart? What is it? Why is it so meaningful to you? In what ways are you challenged to trust God with this promise?
- 4) How do the promises of God energize your work with students?

## **SOMETHING TO SHARE:**

Reflect over your study and take note of the promise(s) that you sense God is stirring up in you to pray over your campus. When you consider what your campus strategy is for the year, what might it look like to incorporate God's promises into your work on campus? Who could you invite to join you in this experience? Create an action plan for how you hope to infuse a season of consistently praying God's promises into the places you are already bringing leadership. Pay attention to how God may change you and your thinking as you plead these promises.

## **CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION:**

Take a minute to reach out to your campus trainer. When you meet, share some of your major takeaways from this study, as well as your action plan for praying God's promises. Feel free to bring up barriers to engaging with the promises of God.

For further reading, check out *Praying Over God's Promises: The Lost Art of Taking Him at His Word* by Thomas R. Yeakley.