

Take-home sheet for Unit 5 – Session one:

our promises

We want you to find ways to share the boundlessness of God with your friends, family and congregation. What happened here today should be shared, and we hope that the lesson doesn't end here, that it continues in conversations on the car ride home, with families around the dinner table, at school tomorrow... that this multiplies and becomes boundless!

Today, we focused on the promises we make to others. After Lazarus has died but before he is raised from the dead, Martha and Jesus talk about promises. Martha's promise to believe in the resurrection of the dead is one based on her trust in who God is and what God will do for God's people in the future. Jesus promises that her brother will be raised to new life immediately than Martha expected. God keeps promises and makes them new all at the same time.



Share what you remember. Try to retell our story from today, John 11:17-27, or look it up in your Bible app (we were using the CEV: Common English Version).

Lazarus, Mary, Martha and Jesus were best friends — they would definitely have been his top three best friends on Snapchat (Jesus would find a way to have more than eight). Who are your Lazarus, Mary and Martha? Do you keep your promises to them more often than your promises to other people?

Wondering questions (discuss these questions with someone at home):

- How did this passage help you understand God's boundless promise?
- Are you, or is someone you know, baptized? Do you remember your baptism? Who were your sponsors/godparents?
- What might your baptism be like if you were to plan it now?
- Is your community holding up its end of the promises made to you at your baptism?
- Why are the promises made at baptisms so important?



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Figure out what part of the “Remembrance of Baptism” you would like to participate in. Would you like to speak the promises? Pour the water? Sprinkle the congregation with water? Write a brief prayer? Maybe you can help teach the congregation the sending blessing from the “Getting Ready” lessons. This is living into your baptismal promise, “to live among God’s faithful people.”

Prayer:

God of promise, thank you for keeping every promise you make. May we remember that the promises we make to others are holy and important. And now, I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. May we trust in the promise that God’s power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.

Dismissal/blessing – Call and response:

- God’s love is (place hand over heart) boundless.
- God’s creation is (open arms wide) boundless.
- God’s forgiveness is (cross wrists) boundless.
- God’s invitation is (uncross wrists, cradle open palms outstretched) boundless.
- God’s promise is (make the sign of the cross on another’s forehead or hand) boundless.

Share a picture of yourself with your best friends (bonus points if you’re holding some Gathering gear or something with the boundless logo.) Make sure to use the hashtags **#ELCAYG2022** and **#boundlesspromise**.



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Take-home sheet for Unit 5 – Session two: **God's promises to us**

We want you to find ways to share the boundlessness of God with your friends, family and congregation. What happened here today should be shared, and we hope that the lesson doesn't end here, that it continues in conversations on the car ride home, with families around the dinner table, at school tomorrow... that this multiplies and becomes boundless!

Our boundless God has been making promises to God's people since the beginning in promising life, descendants, identity, forgiveness and more. These promises are often referred to as covenants. Some of these promises will mean different things to participants depending on their life experiences. In our baptisms, we become receivers of all of God's promises.

Share what you remember. Try to retell our story from today, John 11:17-27, or look it up in your Bible app (we were using the CEV: Common English Version). Here is some additional Scripture to support these themes:



- **Genesis 9:8-13:**

Again, God said to Noah and his sons: ⁹I am going to make a solemn promise to you and to everyone who will live after you. ¹⁰This includes the birds and the animals that came out of the boat. ¹¹I promise every living creature that the earth and those living on it will never again be destroyed by a flood. ¹²⁻¹³The rainbow that I have put in the sky will be my sign to you and to every living creature on earth. It will remind you that I will keep this promise forever.

- **Luke 23:39-43:**

One of the criminals hanging there also insulted Jesus by saying, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and save us!" ⁴⁰But the other criminal told the first one off, "Don't you fear God? Aren't you getting the same punishment as this man? ⁴¹We got what was coming to us, but he didn't do anything wrong." ⁴²Then he said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into power!" ⁴³Jesus replied, "I promise that today you will be with me in paradise."

- **Exodus 19:3-8:**

Moses went up the mountain to meet with the Lord God, who told him to say to the people: ⁴You saw what I did in Egypt, and you know how I brought you here to me, just as a mighty eagle carries its young. ⁵Now if you will faithfully obey me, you will be my very own people. The whole world is mine, ⁶but you will be my holy nation and serve me as priests. Moses, that is what you must tell the Israelites. ⁷After Moses went back, he reported to the leaders what the Lord had said, ⁸and they promised, "We will do everything the Lord has commanded." So Moses told the Lord about this.



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Wondering questions

(discuss these questions with someone at home):

- How did this passage help you understand God's boundless forgiveness?
- What does it mean that God's promises have no limits or boundaries?
- Are all of God's promises high-level promises, or are some more simple?
- Imagine being on the receiving end of one of God's promises (think about Moses receiving the 10 commandments).
- Wonder about what promises God has made ...

congregation connection

Congregation connection

Find a way to connect with your congregational prayer partner. Send them a message or write them a note. Share with them some of the things you are most excited by, most concerned about and most intrigued about experiencing. Pray for them while you prepare and attend the Gathering.

With their consent, take a picture with your prayer partner (bonus points if you're holding the boundless logo) and post it to social media. Make sure to use the hashtags **#ELCAYG2022** and **#boundlesspromise**.



Prayer (from session):

God of boundless promise, thank you for all of your promises. As we continue to uphold our promises to one another, help us to remember your promises to love, claim, forgive and keep us. I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. May we trust in the promise that God's power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.

Dismissal/blessing — Call and response:

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