

The Perfect Day

By Margaret N. Freeman

Jessica made a promise to God. At bedtime she told her mom about it.

"For one whole day, I'm going to be perfect. Tomorrow is that special day! I'm not going to do one wrong thing all day."

As Jessica's mom kissed her good night, she smiled and said, "That's a good promise. But I'm not sure you'll be able to keep it. Only God is perfect."

Jessica sat up. "Of course I can keep my promise! Trust me. All I have to do is try very hard to be good."

Mom shook her head and said good night. Jessica snuggled down in bed and thought about how great tomorrow would be.

When Jessica's alarm went off in the morning, she jumped out of bed immediately and started getting dressed. As she pulled on her socks, she remembered that this was going to be her perfect day.

"Breakfast is ready," Mom called. Jessica needed to hurry!

"Oh," she said, "I don't have time to talk to God this morning. But that's okay. I prayed last night."

Everything went well at breakfast. Mom made Jessica's favorite pancakes and gave her a big glass of orange juice. "Remember what today is?" Jessica asked Mom.

"I remember," said Mom with a small smile.

A little while later, Jessica's brother Andrew couldn't find his shoes. So she found them for him. She also cleared the dishes off the table to help her mom. By the time she was ready to leave for school, Jessica was very pleased with herself for her good behavior.



"Bye, Mom!" she called. Today was library day, and she had to take her books back to school.

"Be careful of pride on your perfect day," Mom warned her.

On the bus, Jessica had time to think about what her mom said. "But I'm not full of pride! I'm a Christian," she told herself.

The bus pulled up in front of the school. Jessica reached for her books. One was missing.

"Give me back my book Joey Winters!" she shouted to a boy getting off the bus.

"I don't have your book!" Joey shouted back.

"Yes, you do. You stole it!" But Joey kept on walking.

"Is this your book?" a voice said behind her. Jessica jumped. One of the fourth-grade boys held up a book.

"It was on the floor under your seat," he said.

"Um, thanks," Jessica stammered. Suddenly she felt

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Word Scramble

Unscramble the word segments in each row of eggs to form a word from Sunday's lesson that describes God. Then match the colors to unscramble the bold, colored letters to make a word that finishes the sentence below.

God is . . .

● _____

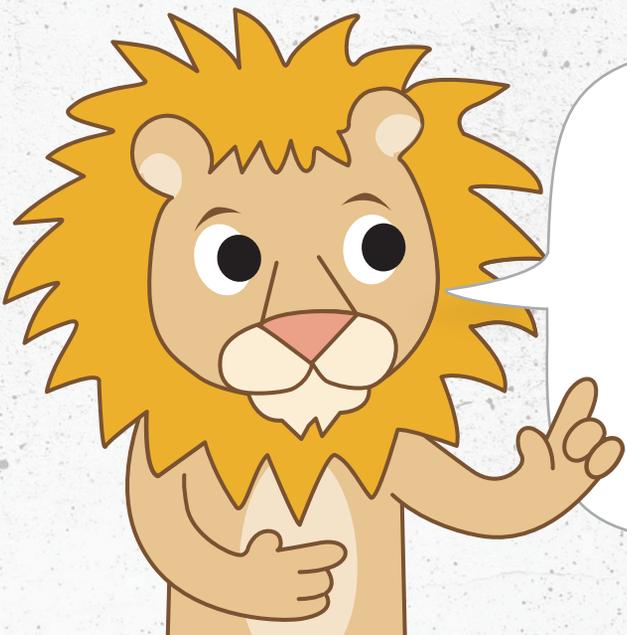
● _____

● _____

● _____



He always keeps His



MEMORY VERSE

"His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness"
(Lamentations 3:22b, 23).

Mini Bread Loaves

The widow made bread for Elijah with some flour and oil. God provided for Elijah through the widow, and God provided for the widow by giving her plenty of flour and oil. This easy bread recipe uses more than just flour and oil, but it still makes enough to share! Enjoy one mini loaf of bread yourself and give the second loaf as a gift to a friend!

Materials

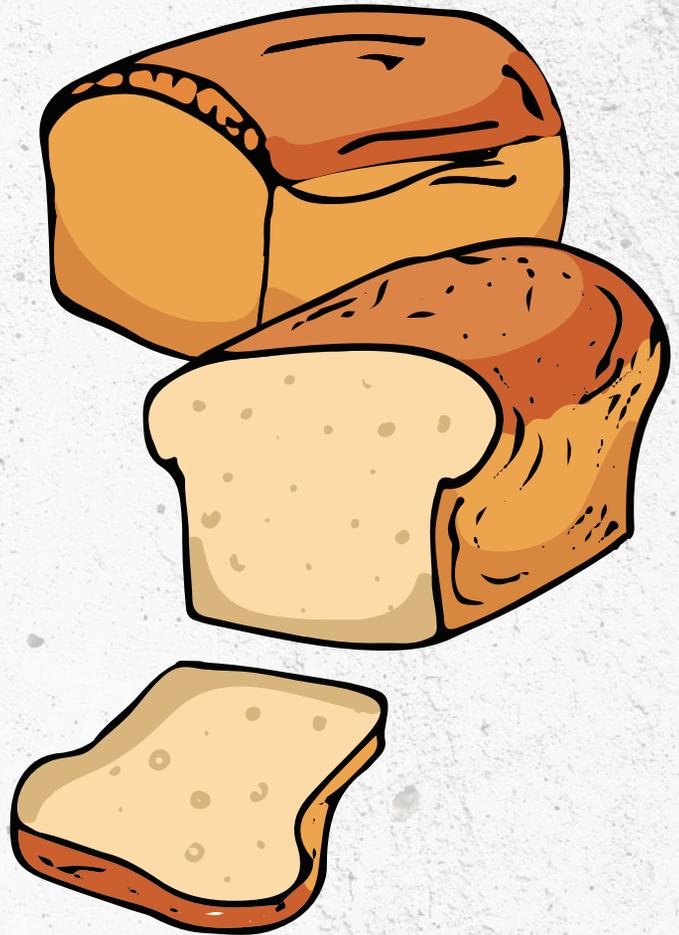
- Cooking spray.
- Mini loaf pans.
- Measuring cups and spoons.
- Gallon-size ziplock bag.
- Kitchen towel.

Ingredients

- 3 c. all-purpose flour, plus extra to flour the table surface
- ¼ c. sugar
- 1 pkg. rapid rise yeast (2 ¼ t.)
- 1 c. warm water
- 3 T. vegetable or olive oil
- 2 t. salt

Steps

1. In the ziplock bag, place sugar, yeast, and 1 cup of flour. Add warm water.
2. Release air from the bag and seal. Squish the mixture in the bag together to mix ingredients, then let it rest at room temperature for 10 minutes.
3. Add oil, salt, and 1 cup of flour to the bag. Seal the bag, and squish to combine.
4. Add remaining 1 cup of flour, seal the bag, and squish together until combined.
5. Sprinkle some flour over a clean table surface. Remove dough from the bag and knead on the floured surface for 5–10 minutes until smooth. Divide the dough in half.
6. Spray two mini loaf pans with cooking spray. Place half the dough in each pan. Cover the pans with a kitchen towel and let the dough rise for 30 minutes.
7. While the dough is rising, ask an adult to preheat oven to 375°. Then, with the adult's help, bake mini loaves until golden brown, 25–30 minutes.



Measuring Growth

The Primary lesson for this week emphasized the trustworthiness of God based on the fact that He keeps His promises. Each time God promised to provide for the prophet Elijah, He followed through exactly how He said. Elijah trusted God, and God never let him down. This is an important truth for your child to understand as he grows in his faith. You can confidently assure your child that God is perfectly trustworthy no matter what he encounters in life.

Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child believes God is trustworthy and keeps His promises.

1. My child prays about his needs and worries.
2. My child is not anxious or worried about his present or future.
3. My child is confident that God loves him and will take care of him.



The Perfect Day (continued)

ashamed. She hadn't acted nicely by accusing John of stealing her book.

Then she remembered. The day was just beginning, and she had sinned already! She had called Joey a thief. She had gotten angry. She had been proud because she thought she was so good!

Tears filled her eyes. "The day is ruined now," she moaned as she walked into the school.

"God, please forgive me for breaking my promise and sinning against You. Help me do what's right," Jessica prayed.

Then she wiped her eyes and began to smile. "Today doesn't have to be ruined," she thought. "I just started it wrong by not asking God to help me. I can't be good or keep promises by myself!"

Jessica rushed to catch up with Joey. The first thing she would do would be to tell Joey she was sorry. Maybe she couldn't keep her promise perfectly, but she could still do what was right. ■

Answer the story questions.

1. What did Jessica promise?
2. Was Jessica able to keep her promise?
3. Who is the only One Who can always keep a promise perfectly?



God's Unlikely Providers

1 King 16:28—17:16



Elijah, God's prophet, had a message for wicked King Ahab. "There will be a drought in the land for several years," said Elijah. "No rain will fall."

Then God told Elijah to go hide by a brook. "You will have water from the brook, and I will send ravens to bring you food." And every day, God did just as He had told Elijah. Ravens brought Elijah bread and meat.

God spoke to Elijah again and told him to go to the city. A widow would give Elijah some food to eat.

Elijah found the woman gathering sticks. "Please bring me a drink of water and some bread," he said to the widow.

"My son and I have enough flour and oil to make one more small loaf," she replied. "Then we will have no food and die." Grain could not grow because of the drought, so people were running out of food.

"Don't be afraid," Elijah said. "God has said He will provide oil and flour for you until the drought is over."

The widow went home to do as Elijah said. And just as God said, she never ran out of flour or oil, and her family had plenty to eat.

But soon, the widow's son became sick and died. She was upset and blamed Elijah for his death. So Elijah went and prayed to God. "Lord, give this boy life again," he said.

God heard Elijah's prayer and did as he asked. The boy was alive again! The widow was so happy. "Now I know that God's words are true!" she said. She knew she could trust God. ■