

Time with children/ Learning Together

- You will need a large paper heart shape, and, if desired, small paper heart shapes for each participant. You will also need something to write with (just one or enough for all).

Today we are talking about covenants, which is another way of saying promises. One of the important parts of a promise is about trust. If I make a promise to you, you have to trust me that I will do the thing I promised. If you make a promise to me, I need to trust that you will do the thing you promised.

What's an example of a promise that is silly or that you might not trust will happen?

What's an example of a promise that is serious or that you can trust will happen?

In the Bible, we hear a story about God telling Jeremiah that a promise or a covenant will be made that will be written on the hearts of the people who believed. That promise was that God would always be with them and it is written on their hearts so that the people would always remember it. The people Jeremiah was telling the story to needed to trust that God would always be with them and that promise is something that was so important, they could feel it in their hearts.

Today is a special day in the world. It's called the International Day for the Elimination of Racism. This means that people around the world are working hard to create a place where people are treated kindly and fairly no matter what their race is. This might be an example of a promise that people could make to other people that would need a lot of trust.

Let's think together about some promises that other people have made to us that we would want to always remember (write these on the large heart). Now let's think about some promises that we would want to make to someone else that we always remember (write on the other side of the heart, or have people write on their individual hearts).

Let's pray together: God, we know from the story in Jeremiah that you will always be with us. Help us to keep the promises that we make. Help us create a world that is more fair and kind to all people. And help us remember the promise you made because it is written on our hearts. Amen.