

# Keeping His Promise

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Church Magazines  
(Based on a true story)

“Only six days until my baptism!” Happiness said. The day was almost here!

“Are you ready?” asked Dad.

“I think so,” said Happiness.

“When you are baptized, you make a covenant,” Dad said.

“Do you remember what that means?”

“It’s a promise, right?”

Dad nodded. “Yes! You promise to follow Jesus Christ and keep the commandments. Heavenly Father promises to bless and help you.”

Happiness smiled. He knew it was an important promise. He was excited to make it!

At last the day of his baptism came.



Happiness changed into white clothes. Two other kids were getting baptized too. They all watched as the water filled the baptism font.

When it was his turn, Happiness and Dad stepped into the font. Dad said the baptism prayer. Then Happiness plugged his nose, and Dad lowered him all the way under the water.

When he came back up, Happiness felt so good inside! He wanted to keep his promise to follow Jesus. He wanted to feel this clean and happy forever. He never wanted to make a wrong choice again.

A few days later, Happiness woke up and turned on the water heater so he could take a bath. It took a long time for the water to heat up. So Happiness turned on the TV. He wanted to watch cartoons while he waited.

Happiness laughed as he watched the talking animals on the screen. This show was so funny!

Soon he forgot all about the water heater.

An hour later, Dad walked into the room. “How long has the water heater been on?” he asked.

Happiness looked up. He had watched TV much longer than he meant to!

“Not very long,” Happiness said. “Just a few minutes.” He turned off the TV and ran to take his bath.

But for the rest of the day, Happiness felt bad inside. After his baptism he wanted to never make a wrong choice. But he had just lied to Dad!

Happiness sighed. He knew what he had to do.



“Hey, Dad,” Happiness said. “I told a lie. I left the water heater on for a long time, but I didn’t mean to. I’m sorry.”

“It’s OK. Thanks for telling me,” said Dad.

“I feel really bad because I broke my baptism promise,” Happiness said.

Dad sat down with Happiness on the couch. “When you were baptized, you didn’t promise to be perfect. You promised to try hard to follow Jesus.”

Happiness nodded. That made him feel a little better.

“And do you know what you can do when you make a wrong choice?” Dad asked.

“Repent?” said Happiness.

“That’s right! When we repent, Heavenly Father forgives us. Then we can be just as clean as we were the day we were baptized. Repenting is *part* of keeping your baptism promise.”

Happiness grinned. “I’m going to pray and ask Heavenly Father to forgive me.” He was glad he could keep his baptism promise. ●

*This story took place in Ghana.*

