

A script from



"I Promise"

by
Bill Price

- What** Julie and Joe have a problem keeping promises.
Themes: Commitment, Vows, Marriage, Family, Husbands, Wives
- Who** Julie
Joe
- When** Present
- Wear
(Props)** Remote control
Chair or couch (living room setting)
- Why** Psalm 89:34
- How** Keep the dialogue conversational and light. Be careful not to be too harsh to one another.
- Time** Approximately 4 minutes

Joe is sitting on couch watching TV, obviously channel surfing. He finds something and settles in. Julie enters and looks disgustedly at him.

Julie: What are you doing?

Joe: I'm working on a cure for cancer. What does it look like I'm doing?

Julie: I thought you said you were going to clean out the garage.

Joe: Well, yeah, but I forgot about this great ballgame they're playing today.

Julie: Great ballgame?

Joe: Shhh, honey. C'mon...

Julie: Fine. Who's "they"?

Joe: Ummm, the guys in the red jerseys against the guys in the blue jerseys. Hey, what difference does it make? This is Saturday. A guy's entitled to relax a little on his day off.

Julie: That's not the point. The point is you promised me you'd clean out the garage.

Joe: Ok, fine. I promise I'll do it as soon as the game is over.

Julie: That's exactly what I'm getting at! I mean, why should I believe that this promise will be any different than your last promise? In fact, since you didn't follow through on the last promise, how can I be sure that this one will be any different from that one? So, if that's the case, I can't help but think that you may not follow through on the next one or even the next. Don't you see this awful thing you're doing? *(Beginning to cry)* I guess I'll just never be able to ask you to promise me anything, ever again!

Joe: You promise?

Julie: That's not funny!

Joe: Look, I'm sorry honey. I guess I just missed the part where not cleaning out the garage turned into a major relationship crises. I'll get to the garage, really I will.

Julie: This is bigger than the garage, Joe. Promises are important to me. And they should be important to you. They are a meaningful part of basic communication between a man and a woman. Kept promises are a daily

reflection of a deeper commitment to the entire relationship. Don't you understand that?

Joe is quiet for a moment, looking confused. He slowly begins nodding his head 'yes' but says...

Joe: No. Not really.

Julie: Oh, you're hopeless. *(starts to exit)*

Joe: *(Stopping her)* Now wait just a minute. I didn't mean it that way, I promise. I'm really trying to understand. I just think you're making way too big a deal out of this.

Julie: I am not! *(Pause)* Think with me for a moment. Think back to our wedding ceremony.

Joe: Ok.

Julie: Now, what is the main purpose of the wedding ceremony?

Joe: To fill all that time before the wedding night?

Julie: No. It's that special time when we committed ourselves completely to each other. It's when we exchanged our vows!

Joe: Oh, yeah, that too.

Julie: Don't you remember how beautiful our vows were? A bride never forgets that day. You promised to love me...to cherish me...forever. And I loved you for it. That's why it hurts me when you take even everyday promises so lightly. Do you understand now?

Joe: So what you're telling me is, no matter how unimportant a promise may seem, keeping that promise shows that when I make an important promise, you can count on me to keep it, because I've proved it to you by keeping the little promises.

Julie: Yes! Exactly!

Joe: Like when you promised me you wouldn't buy anything else at the department store this month.

Julie: *(Pause)* That's different.

Joe: Different? How?

Julie: It's completely different! There was a sale. That dress was never going to be that low again. I actually did you a favor. I saved you money!

Joe: Then how about the time you promised you wouldn't throw away my lucky basketball socks?

Julie: You're kidding, right?

Joe: You did promise.

Julie: But they qualified as toxic waste!

Joe: *(Sarcastically)* To love me...to cherish me...can I ever really be sure?

Julie: Alright, alright, you made your point.

Joe: Ok, so we both take our promises too lightly. What do we do now?

They both sit and think. Finally...

Julie: I've got it. We'll both say to each other that we promise that from now on, we promise that we'll take our promises more seriously. Ok?

Joe: Fine.

Both: I promise.

They nod at each other and give pleased expressions toward the audience. Slowly, their pleased expressions fade into skepticism as they turn to glare at each other.

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