



## LESSON 1: Jesus is the Fulfillment

Matthew 5:17-20

In one of Dr. Seuss's classic children's books, *Horton Hatches the Egg*, when lazy Mayzie tires of sitting on the egg in her nest, she convinces the elephant Horton to sit on the egg for her. Through all types of conditions, Horton never abandons his responsibility to care for Mayzie's egg. He repeats over and over, "I meant what I said and I said what I meant." This book, written for children, emphasizes to people of all ages the importance of keeping our promises. As a family, discuss: **What good is a promise if the person who makes the promise cannot be relied upon to keep it? How many times can a person break their promises before you no longer trust them?**

Read Matthew 5:17-20. When Jesus began His ministry, He spoke to large crowds of people and His teaching often challenged their understanding of how they were to obey the Law and the Prophets. Because Jesus taught with divine authority, He often challenged the people to not only live by the letter of the Law, but to also live by the spirit—or intention—of the Law. Seeing their confusion, Jesus emphasized that He had not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfill every little detail contained within them. Because these writings were so important, Jesus explained that those who kept and taught others to keep the Law would be great in the kingdom of heaven while people who broke or disregarded the Law and taught others to do the same would be least in the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus then astounded his listeners by proclaiming that only those whose righteousness exceeded that of the scribes and Pharisees would enter the kingdom of heaven. In these statements, Jesus emphasized the importance of God's Word. Through the Law, God had revealed His character, man's sinfulness, and His plan to provide a way for people to receive forgiveness for their sins. In the Prophets, God had revealed many things about the Messiah, the One God would send to earth to save His people from their sins. Because God is faithful and can be fully trusted to keep His Word, Jesus had come to fulfill every last detail of God's plan of redemption. As a family, discuss: **How does the certainty that God can be trusted to keep His Word in every way encourage us to place our faith in Him?**

### CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. How many people do you know who can be trusted to keep every little promise that they make?
2. How did Jesus' determination to fulfill the Law and the Prophets prove that God can be trusted to keep His Word?
3. Why should we be willing to trust Jesus to provide a way for us to be made right with God?
4. How can we help others trust God's faithfulness and Jesus' sacrifice so they can enter the kingdom of heaven?