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A Spiritual Lesson In Toon Language:  
Lesson 12a

By God and Richie Heinlein  
(In God I Trust and Write)

Series: Superbook, Tom and Jerry

Episode: That's a Promise (Superbook),  
The Truce Hurts (Tom and Jerry),

Topic: Keeping Promises, Breaking  
Promises I—Keeping Promises Can Be  
Hard

# Introduction:

**Fun Fact:** In my opinion, this two-part lesson is very solemn. Not only does this lesson show that promises are serious to God, but that they are hard to keep a lot of times too.

This lesson shows the above thought extremely graphically. We use the Tom and Jerry short **The Truce Hurts**. Even though this cartoon is funny, it is extremely serious as well. It starts to show that promises are not easy. However, this lesson is not very funny for long, as we see in the Superbook episode **That's A Promise**. This Bible cartoon has some funny points but it ends very sad. This cartoon is on the account of Jephthah and his daughter. Jephthah makes a foolish promise that must be kept. One of my friends who is going to a music Conservatory (Might have graduated already) didn't like the ending of this cartoon at all. She actually said **"That's crap!! What happened to her is total crap!!!"**. Anyone who likes happy endings won't like this Bible account's ending either. I think that even though a tragic account in the Scripture, Jephthah is very honorable here. His promise still was a bad one though.

**Scriptures Used Include: Judges 10: 6- 11:40**

I: Opening Prayer

II: Discussion: What is a promise? Have you made a promise that you didn't keep?

Why didn't you keep it? Sometimes keeping promises can be hard, as you will see in this set of cartoons.

III: Show Tom and Jerry Short "The Truce Hurts"

Cartoon Link:

[http://toonspirit.net/lessons\\_and\\_studies/112/](http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/112/)

[The\\_Truce\\_Hurts.webm](http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/112/The_Truce_Hurts.webm)

IV: Discussion: What was the promise made here?

V: Introduction to Bible Study: God takes promises seriously. Read Exodus 20: 16, Deut. 23: 21, Ecclesiastes 5: 1-7

VI: Bible Study: I will show “That’s A Promise” (Superbook) This covers Judges 10: 6- 11:40 (The Story of Jephtha and his daughter)

Cartoon Link: Link:

[http://toonspirit.net/lessons\\_and\\_studies/112/Thats\\_A\\_Promise.webm](http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/112/Thats_A_Promise.webm)

VII: Discussion: What was the promise made here? Do you think it was a good promise? Why or Why

not? God required this promise to be kept. Why? God expects our best.

A young unmarried girl was and is very valuable. Children are what are needed to keep a family bloodline going. Jephtha didn't expect such a high price for his victory over his country's enemies. He regretted doing so but made good his promise because it was the right thing to do.

What would you have done if you were Jephtha? I think that this

would have taken a lot of guts to do what he did. I would have to pray for a major portion of strength to make good this promise. Wouldn't you?

VIII: Discussion: In the Tom and Jerry cartoon, what happened to their promise? Was it wrong to break this treaty? Sometimes we make promises that we break. Breaking your word is dangerous because it

reduces the trust in the promise  
breaker's trustworthiness. Breaking  
these kinds of promises listed here so  
far would be wrong, no matter how  
hard it is not to break them. Breaking  
your word is like lying in God's  
sight. What can you do to make  
better promises than the ones in  
today's session?

IX: Closing Prayer