



## Simon's Promise

# Children's Story

Year B, Proper 10

**Title:** Simon's Promise  
**Author:** Michelle Stoesz  
**Church:** Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship, Winnipeg, MB  
**Text:** Mark 6: 14 – 29  
**Theme:** Be careful about the promises you make!  
**Needed:** A Birthday Party invitation

### Wondering Questions:

- I wonder if Simon learned to be more careful about keeping promises.
- I wonder how you would feel if people didn't keep the promises they made to you.
- I wonder how we can learn to be careful about the promises we make.

### Gathering Activity:

Warmly invite the children to come forward for a story that talks about one of today's scripture texts in ways that connect with children. Welcome them and encourage them to settle into a comfortable position that helps them listen and worship. Once they are settled, show them the Scripture text and tell them that, in this Bible story, Herod was not careful enough about a promise he made, and it led to a big problem. Ask them if any of them have made a promise that led to trouble. Explain that, in today's children's story, a boy named Simon who is almost six years old makes a promise about his birthday that becomes quite a problem.

---

This Children's Story is part of a larger story archive available as a resource to teachers, ministers, and others of Mennonite Church Canada ©2009. Posted by permission of the author. Edited by Elsie Rempel, director of Christian Education and Nurture for Mennonite Church Canada

## Story:

*(Hold up an invitation.)* What is this? It's a birthday invitation to Simon's party. Simon loved talking about his birthday. He talked about it so much that he invited all the children in his Kindergarten class to his party, and this is where Simon's troubles started. You see, his mother had said Simon could invite one child for each year of his life. How many is that? (6) In his excitement, Simon forgot he could only invite six friends. That's what led to his problem.

What should Simon do? He had already promised the whole class that they could come.

Simon didn't want to break his promise, but he knew he'd be in big trouble with his mom if the whole class showed up. He stopped talking about his party, but his classmates didn't forget. They were waiting for a big party.

As his birthday got closer, everyone in Simon's class was waiting for their Birthday Party invitations. What should Simon do? He was very tempted to make invitations for everyone, but he knew that wouldn't work. He was so upset about his problem, that he didn't even take his turn in the play corner. When his teacher asked him what was wrong, he cried, but then he told her about his problem.

She agreed with him that Simon had made a promise that created a problem. She didn't know if it would be worse to be in trouble with his classmates or with his mom. When she asked Simon what he would do differently if he could start all over again, he said he would be careful not to invite more people than he had permission to invite.

Simon's teacher and Simon thought about solving the problem. They thought and thought. Suddenly, Simon had an idea! "Teacher," he said, "you are used to having the whole class here everyday. Could we have a simple party for the whole class here at school instead of me having a smaller fancier one at home? Would you help me not to be in trouble?" She said, "That's a creative idea, Simon! Can I call your mother so we can talk about it together?" Simon agreed.

When they called his mom, she agreed to Simon's plan. Simon's birthday party ended up being a nice lunch and play period in his classroom. He didn't get any presents or go to any special place, but Simon had learned an important lesson, a lesson he would never forget. He told all his friends, "Be very careful about making promises. Making promises you can't keep, or don't really want to keep, can be a real problem."

## Let's pray...

Our Father in Heaven,

You are our loving and caring parent.

Thank you that you make good promises and keep them.

Please help us be careful and make good promises, too. In Jesus' name, Amen.