



Session 5: Settled  
Suggested Week of Use: January 1, 2017  
Core Passages: Joshua 22:1-8

## News Story Summary

In 1978, Marty Lyons made a promise to the University of Alabama's legendary football coach Bear Bryant that he would finish college. Lyons, an All-American defensive lineman, was a key part of the team that won Bryant a fourth national championship. In 1979 when Lyons was 22 years old, he went on to play professional football for the New York Jets. At the time, he lacked only 24 credits to graduate, but attending college while playing in the NFL was impossible.

When Bear Bryant passed away in 1983, Lyons was still 24 credits short. So because of the promise he made to his coach, Lyons put together a plan to finish college. Finally, on December 10, 2016, at 59 years old, Lyons walked across the stage and received his college diploma, making good on the promise that he made to Bear Bryant 37 years prior.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "Marty Lyons' promise.")

## Focus Attention

To replace the Focus Attention idea, write the following quote by Aeschylus on the board prior to the session: "It's not the oath that makes us believe the man, but the man the oath." Ask: *What do you believe to be the message of this quote?* Read the news story summary. *How does Marty Lyons represent the "man" in the quote?*

Today's lesson focuses on the fulfillment of the promise that Moses required from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh. Because of their obedience and integrity, Joshua blessed them with the land that was promised.

## Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, state that Joshua had seen with his own eyes that "none of the good promises the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled" (see Josh. 21:45). This may have prompted him to be a person of integrity and fulfill the promise that was made to the two and one half tribes. Remind group members of the news summary. Explain Joshua waited until the land west of the Jordan had been conquered, and Lyons waited until pro football was behind him. Ask: *What does it say about Joshua and Lyons that they did not allow time to cause their promises to lapse?* Challenge group members to maintain their integrity by fulfilling all promises made no matter how long it takes. Remind them that because God is a promise keeper, we should be promise keeper as well.