

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR PRINCIPLES

2. The CE Promise and Aim

Junior CE Aims

- To come every week
- To arrive on time
- To listen quietly
- To please God in all I do.

Very early in the Bible we read of Covenants made between God and people: Noah (Genesis 9), Abraham (Genesis 17), Moses (Genesis 34: 34 f), Nehemiah (Nehemiah 9: 38). Christian Endeavour believes that by encouraging children to sign a solemn promise they can be strengthened and challenged as they grow as Christians. The CE Aims are for boys and girls who are attending the meetings regularly but have not yet put their trust in Jesus. These aims give the Juniors goals to achieve which will make them aware of their lifestyle and will also benefit the weekly meeting.



The Junior Member's Promise

**I am trusting the Lord Jesus
to forgive me,
to love me,
to help me to pray and read the Bible everyday,
and to obey His teaching in all I think do and say.
I will try to attend CE every week
and help by taking part.**

Remember the promise Francis Clark originated and his wife read while the cakes burnt? (Refer to CE History booklet page 11.) This is our version!

The Promise signifies a personal acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Saviour, a desire for Christian growth through service, Bible study and prayer, and a loyalty to the local Christian Endeavour Group. When a Junior has reached this level of understanding and faith, s/he may take this demanding promise as his / her own.

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3. Promise Making

Once a month, or at least once a quarter, there should be a special time within the Devotional Meeting for an act of Promise making. All the Juniors can read or sing the Junior CE Aims. (Refer to music and words in the Scottish Resource Manual: 'CE' Section)

Praise all Juniors who have achieved the aims of coming regularly on time and have listened well. Discuss/ explain how our behaviour can please God in all we do, reminding them of their thoughts, actions and words.

Next, read or sing the Junior Member's Promise, explaining the difference: those Juniors taking the Promise are trusting Jesus as Lord of their lives and want to learn more about Him and how He wants them to live and behave. Those members who have accepted the challenge of the Junior Member's Promise are given the opportunity to rededicate themselves to the service of Christ and the Church. This is an important time in the life of the Christian Endeavour Group, as through the renewal of the Promise, members are reminded of the commitment they made when they first acknowledged Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and the need for ongoing service and spiritual growth.

A Roll Call will give the Juniors an opportunity for a personal response. (When intimating the next week as a Promise Night, remind Members to select a personally meaningful text or verse). The names of the members are read out, and as each name is called so each member stands and reads their personally selected verse from the Bible or a verse of a song that has helped them since the last Promise Meeting, or a short word of testimony. The choice of response will be like a "spiritual thermometer" and show how well, or how badly, the Junior feels they have kept their promise. A Member taking the Promise for the first time will sometimes be asked to explain why he /she felt led to take this step, thereby providing an opportunity for profession of faith.

The Junior Members can then stand and repeat or sing the Promise together, or listen while it is read out. An appropriate song, or a short prayer of commitment can follow.

The act of Promise making is usually led by the Group Leader or Church Leader. Some Leaders invite the Minister or another church member /leader to speak with a challenge at the Promise Meeting. Variety of presentation is important at the Promise Meeting to prevent a particular approach becoming over familiar or ritualistic, thereby losing it's impact and personal challenge.

