

God Promised a New Covenant

Jeremiah 17; 31

What is God like?

God is holy, good, and loving.

The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he
has made.
Psalm 145:9

Story Point:

God promised His people a new covenant and forgiveness of sin forever



PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Starter Activity and Question of the Day
- ☐ 11:00 - Kids Worship



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ Lesson Review - God Promised a New Covenant
- ☐ Discussion Questions
- ☐ Group Demonstration: Old Covenant vs. New Covenant



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Share and Care Prayer Time
- ☐ Group Activity: Written on Our Hearts with Play-Doh
- ☐ Group Activity: New Covenant and the Cross
- ☐ Group Activity: God's Promise Chain

SHEPHERD GUIDE

How often do we rely on our own strength or understanding instead of trusting in God's promises? Our sinful hearts desire control and resort to self-reliance. Yet God's Word offers us a better and more lasting way to find peace. God knows our hearts, and He knows our ultimate need for Him to rescue us from ourselves. Apart from God we will stumble again and again, looking to the world to give us the peace we so desperately long for. As we study the words of the prophet Jeremiah, we find the promise of a new and better covenant: a lasting way for us to experience peace with God and within our own hearts.

Trusting in ourselves leads to sin and shame. When we rely on ourselves instead of trusting in God, we often make choices that lead us away from Him. The Bible shows us that our hearts are deceitful, and when we try to follow our own path, it often results in sin and shame. Like the people of Judah, when we trust in our own strength, we fall short and miss God's best for us. Only God is truly trustworthy. When we rely on Him and His wisdom, we find peace, direction, and a life that honors Him.

Truth comes from God alone. In a world filled with many voices and opinions, it can be hard to know what's true. But God shows us that ultimate truth comes from Him alone. God is the Creator of everything, and He knows what is best for us. His Word is a reliable source of truth, giving us wisdom for our lives and the assurance of life with Him through faith in Christ.

God's covenant is unbreakable. The people of Judah broke their promises to God, yet He made a new covenant that would never be broken. God promised to forgive their sins and write His law on their hearts. This covenant was fulfilled through Jesus, who gave His life so that we could have forgiveness and be in a right relationship with Him forever. God is faithful to His promises, and we can trust Him completely.

As you teach kids, guide them to see that God's new covenant shows us that we can trust Him fully, knowing His promises are unbreakable. Point them to the truth that when we stop relying on ourselves and start trusting in God's truth, we find forgiveness, peace, and a loving relationship with Him.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 10:20 - 10:30 in C1.
Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that God can change their heart to love and obey Him.
- *ASK God for forgiveness and a new heart.
- *RELY on God instead of their own power.



As you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Option - Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

Starter Activity

Welcome and
Question of the
Day

Question of the Day:

Has someone ever made a promise to you? Did they keep it?

Today, we're going to learn about an amazing promise that God made to His people. In the Bible, God sent the prophet Jeremiah to deliver important messages. The people of Judah had broken their covenant with God by turning away from Him and trusting in their own strength. They tried to obey God's law, but they couldn't do it perfectly on their own. Their sin couldn't just be erased, and they needed forgiveness.

But here's the good news! God promised His people a new covenant and forgiveness of sin forever. This new covenant—or agreement—would be different. The new covenant would not depend on their ability to follow every law perfectly. Instead, God promised to write His law on their hearts and forgive their sins forever. Through this new covenant, God offered forgiveness and the way for His people to be close to Him again—forever! This new covenant came true through Jesus, who came to forgive our sins and give us a new heart.



KIDS WORSHIP

11:00

Take children to LG2 for combined Pre-K -4th grade worship time.



ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the REVIEW VIDEO on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

God Promised a New Covenant

Bibles,
Review Video –
Bible story on TV

Open your Bible to Jeremiah 17 and 31. You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE

Trusting in ourselves leads to sin and shame (Jer. 17:5-8): The person who trusts in other people is cursed, because people are sinful and imperfect.

Truth comes from God alone (Jer. 17:7-13): We are to trust in God alone. He is trustworthy. Those who trust in God will be strong and healthy.

God's covenant is unbreakable (Jer. 31): God has loved His people with an everlasting love and made a new covenant with them.

Before Babylon came and attacked Judah, God sent a prophet named Jeremiah to speak His words to God's people. Jeremiah said, "The sin of the people of Judah is like words carved into a stone—it can't be simply wiped away."

Jeremiah shared more of God's words, saying, "The person who trusts in other people is cursed, because people are sinful and imperfect. People cannot save themselves. The person who trusts in the Lord, however, will be strong and healthy, like a tree planted by water."

Through Jeremiah, God also said, "Our hearts are deceitful, and we cannot understand them. But God knows our hearts, and God is trustworthy. He gives each person what they deserve according to their character." Even though people have sinful, deceitful hearts, Jeremiah shared how God promised to make a new covenant with His people. Jeremiah said, "Look, the days are coming when I will make a new covenant with my people. It will be different from the old covenant I made with them when I freed them from Egypt. They broke that covenant, but they will not be able to break this one.

I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. All my people will know me, from the least to the greatest. I will forgive them and never remember their sin."

CHRIST CONNECTION

Like God's people, we all have sinful hearts that do not obey God or love Him rightly. Through Jesus' death on the cross, God made a new covenant.

Those who trust in Jesus have their sin forgiven and have the law written on their hearts.

What did you hear in the story? Did anything surprise you? [Allow responses.] The people of God could not perfectly obey the old covenant, so a new covenant was needed. What was the old covenant? [Allow responses.] The old covenant came through Moses. God gave His people the Law, or commandments, when they came out of Egypt. They made an agreement with God to follow Him and obey His commands, and God would be with His people and bless them. But the people couldn't perfectly obey. Their disobedience didn't surprise God, but their sin deserved punishment. That's the bad news Jeremiah spoke to the people. God would judge their sin. But he also brought hopeful news. God would rescue His people from their enemies and give them a new covenant. [Read Jeremiah 31:33-34.] God would write His law on His children's hearts. He would enable His people to love and obey Him.

Who gets to be part of this new covenant? Everyone who trusts in Jesus are a part of the new covenant with the law written on their hearts. Jesus has done the work of obeying God perfectly, and when we are joined to Him in faith, God no longer sees our sin. Instead, He sees the perfection of Jesus! We are no longer under the power of sin but are free as God's children to be part of His kingdom forever.



Discussion

Discussion
questions listed
here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

Why do Christians desire to obey God's commands? Share how believers have changed hearts and now recognize God's love for them through Jesus. They rightly see how God's commands are for their good and how following God's commands shows they love God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 119:127-128.)

Have you ever heard the saying 'trust your heart'? Is this good advice? What does the Bible say about trusting our heart? Remind kids that our hearts are deceitful, and we can't always trust them. Our hearts sometimes lead us to think that what we want or desire is good when it really isn't. Share how God does change our hearts to want to obey Him, but we must ultimately rely upon the Word of God and the Holy Spirit for true understanding. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Mark 7:21-22.)

Why is the new covenant good news? Discuss how under the new covenant people can find forgiveness of sins. Share how under the old covenant, God required complete obedience to every one of His laws. The bad news is that we can never obey God perfectly. We are sinners who fall short of His perfect standards. However, under the new covenant, Jesus perfectly obeyed the law for us. Now, when we trust in Him, we not only find forgiveness of our sin, but we are counted as if we lived perfectly like Jesus. Through faith in Jesus and the Holy Spirit, Christians obey the law to love God and people, but not as a way to be saved. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Gal. 3:23-24.)



Old Covenant vs. New Covenant

- Poster paper (taped on wall ahead of time)
- T-chart worksheet
- Stone
- Ruler
- Stuffed Lamb
- Scroll
- Foam heart
- Cross
- Tissue paper "Fire"
- Bible
- "Quotes"

Explain to the class that with the Old Covenant, God's rules were written on stone (on the outside). But, with the New Covenant, God's love is written on our hearts (on the inside.)

On the big poster paper, draw a line down the middle and write "Old Covenant" on one side and "New Covenant" on the other side. Pass out the t-chart for them to fill out as you go.

Pull out the following objects and have the children guess what they represent and which side of the chart they go on. Write what they come up with on each side of the poster paper.

- **Stone** - Stone Tablets (Old)
- **Ruler** - Rules to follow (Old)
- **Stuffed Lamb** - Animal sacrifices (Old)
- **"Try Harder" quote** on sheet of paper - Trying to obey out of our own power (Old)
- **Scroll** - God primarily spoke through prophets (Old)
- **Foam heart** - Our hearts (New)
- **Cross** - Jesus' sacrifice on the cross (New)
- **"Help!" quote** on sheet of paper - God helping us to obey (New)
- **Tissue paper "fire"** - God speaking through his Holy Spirit to us (New)
- **Bible** - God speaking through His Word to us (New)

Old Covenant	New Covenant

SAY: God made a promise that He would help His people live according to His law. He sent Jesus to rescue us and to make it possible for us to be forgiven and be in a right relationship with Him. The new covenant means we don't have to do everything on our own—we can trust God to guide us and forgive us. The new covenant God promised is different from the old covenant—it's not about us trying hard and failing to obey the law. Instead, it's about trusting God to help us follow Him and receiving His forgiveness when we mess up.

Jesus is the One who truly fulfills the covenant and makes the way for us to be forgiven. We no longer have to depend on our own ability to follow rules perfectly—we can trust in God's grace and forgiveness through Jesus.

How can we trust Jesus to help us live the way God wants us to?

What are some ways we can remember that God's love and forgiveness are always available to us?



Share and Care Prayer

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Saragih Family**)
- Ask for specific prayer requests that any of the kids have to share about something going on in their own lives.

Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. Review and follow up with any prayer requests from the chain made the week before. Use the Global Partner of the Month spotlight sheet (In the Pen Pal Kit) to talk about prayer requests from the Saragih Family.



New Covenant and the Cross

- Masking Tape

Draw a big cross on the white board. Have the children line up across the room and stand in front of cross.

Then, ask the children the following questions:

- Have you ever told a lie?
- Have you ever disobeyed your parents?
- Have you ever said mean words to someone?
- Have you ever not shared a toy?
- Have you ever taken something from someone else?
- Have you ever thought mean thoughts about someone?
- Have you ever wanted something that wasn't yours so bad that was all you could think about?

Have children take one large step back if he/she answers yes to any of these questions.

Point out the distance between the children and the cross. Talk about how sin separates us from God.

Ask: How do we get back to God? (Answer: Jesus' sacrifice on the cross bridged this gap and all we have to do is believe in Him and pray and ask for forgiveness.)

Make a cross out of masking tape on the floor and have the children walk across it back to God (the cross). Explain how Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the New Covenant that Jeremiah was talking about. Pray and thank God for keeping His promise and fulfilling the New Covenant by sending Jesus and giving us the Holy Spirit and His Word as a guide for our hearts and minds.



God's Promise Chain

- Colored strips of paper
- Markers
- Stapler/tape
- Stickers

Pass out one or two strips of paper to each child.

On each strip, have the children write or draw something that God promises (loves us, forgives us, helps us, listens to us, always be with us.)

Have them share their strip with the class and as they do, link the strips into a paper chain.

Explain how this chain reminds us of God's promise that He'll always be with us and love us!