

A New Covenant

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Jeremiah 31:27-34

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost

Lesson Focus
We belong to God.



If you are using the Semi-Continuous version of the Revised Common Lectionary (ELCIC, Episcopal Church USA, Anglican Church of Canada, PCUSA, United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ), the lesson for Lectionary 29 is A New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:27-34). The leaflet for this lesson is included with all other leaflets for this quarter.

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Center Time Kids make a button, play with magnets, and color Bible story pictures.	Lesson Stickers, Coloring Pages 	Blank paper, crayons, stiff paper, star and heart stickers, markers, double stick tape, magnets, metal items (large washers, screws, paper clips)
Circle Time Kids get pumpkin seeds with their names on them, hear about the church season, and get ready by looking at a magnet.	Leaflet	Pumpkin seeds, extra fine point marker, cup or container, magnets
Prayer Time Kids pray with a ribbon reminder.	None	Ribbon, clear tape

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
A New Covenant Storytelling Kids hear the story and respond.	Spark Story Bible	None
Belonging Kids act out responsibilities of pet ownership.	None	Stuffed animals
A Special Message Kids tie their leaflets to look like a message.	Leaflets	Thin ribbon

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
I Belong to . . . Kids find things that belong to others.	Leaflets	Crayons
Follow God's Message Kids find the message.	Leaflet, Lesson Stickers	None
Belong Together Kids play a matching game.	None	Many pairs of socks

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids sing a good-bye song.	Leaflets	None
Prayer Time Kids pray with their hands on their hearts.	Family Pages 	None



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director's CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director's CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

Gather (10 minutes)

Center Time

You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, say the following rhyme:

1-2-3-4 Come on! Let's sit on the floor!

5-6-7-8 Pick up your things and don't be late!

It's Circle Time!

Repeat until all the kids hear and start cleaning up.

I Belong to God Button

Use a paper cutter to cut the paper into triangles large enough to accommodate the rectangle lesson sticker, about 3 inches (8 cm) on a side. Set out other art items. Make a sample. Let kids put the "I belong to God" stickers on their triangles. Use the star and heart stickers and markers to decorate the buttons. Use double stick tape to attach buttons to kids' clothing.

Stick Together

Set the magnets and metal items on a flat surface. Let the kids experiment with the things you brought and other items in the classroom.

Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies and copies of the Spark Coloring Page available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Spark Resources

Lesson Stickers

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Blank paper

Crayons

Stiff paper

Star and heart stickers

Markers

Double stick tape

Magnets

Metal items (large washers, screws, paper clips)

Circle Time

Use the marker to write each kid's name on a pumpkin seed. **We belong to God. God knows us by name. I have written our names on pumpkin seeds. When you put your pumpkin seed in the cup, we'll say, "Welcome [Name]. You belong to God." Who wants to go first?** Go around until all have been welcomed.

Hold up the leaflet. **Let's look at our leaflet to find out about the church season. I see a green tree. The green tree tells us it is Pentecost, the season of growing. From the time we are as little as a pumpkin seed to the time we grow big, big, big like a tree, we belong to God.**

Pick up the magnets. **Look at these magnets. They stick together don't they? They belong together, just like we belong with God. God's promises are stronger than the strongest magnet. God promises that we will always belong to God!**

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Pumpkin seeds

Extra fine point marker

Cup or container

Magnets

Prayer Time

I'm going to add this piece of ribbon to our buttons to remind us that we belong to God. God always loves us. Tape a piece of ribbon to everyone's button. **Let's touch our ribbon while we pray and thank God for taking care of us.**

Dear God,
We are so happy that we belong to you.
Thank you for taking such good care of us.
We love you.
Amen.

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Pieces of ribbon
Tape

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

A New Covenant Storytelling

Our story today is about promises and God's love. God had a message for the people. The message was about love. God shared the message with Jeremiah and told him to tell everyone. Open your Spark Story Bible to page 176. **Here is a picture of Jeremiah when he was just a boy.** Turn to page 179. **Here is Jeremiah when he is a grown-up. He is sharing a message from God with the people. Let's listen to the story of Jeremiah.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bible

Supplies
None

Jeremiah was one of God's prophets. When God had a message for the people, God told Jeremiah what to say, and Jeremiah told the people. Once, when God's people were in trouble and about to be sent away from their home, God had a message for them. Jeremiah told the people what God said.

"I'm about to make a new promise to my people," God said. "My people have forgotten that I am their God. But I have not forgotten my people."

"Jeremiah, tell my people that I still love them. Tell them that I will make a new promise to them soon. I will change them so they know how much I love them. They can't change themselves, but I can do it for them—and I will!" said God.

"I will write my new promise on their hearts! Everyone will know how much I love them and they will *want* to do the right thing when I'm done changing them. I will be their God and they will be my people—that's the promise. They won't even have to teach each other about me—they'll just *know*.

"Tell them, Jeremiah!" said God. "Tell everyone that I love them and I forgive them. Tell my people that things will soon change and I will be with them no matter what!"

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer.

How long will we belong to God? (*forever*)

Where does God write the new promise? (*on our hearts*)

Why do you think we forget about God?

Belonging

Pass each kid a stuffed animal. **We belong to God. Belonging to God means that God takes care of us. When pets and other animals belong to us, it is our responsibility to take care of them. We're going to go around the circle. When it is your turn, show us or tell us something you would do to take care of your animal. Who wants to go first?** As each kid shares something, have all the kids act out what they suggest. Continue until everyone has had a chance to share something. Be ready to prompt kids who need help. It's okay if actions are repeated.

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Stuffed animals

A Special Message

Cut the ribbon into 12 inch (30 cm) pieces. Pass out the leaflets and ribbons. **Look at the picture on the leaflet. The people are hearing a message that God sent. God told Jeremiah the message. God promised to love and care for us always. God wants us to remember the message. Look at the happy people. They are happy to hear a message from God. They are happy that Jeremiah shares good news. We are going to roll our leaflets up to look like a special message.** Show the kids how to roll their leaflets. **Later, we will use this ribbon to tie our leaflets so we can take our special messages home.**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Thin ribbon

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

I Belong to . . .

Let's turn our leaflets over. Each of the things on one side of the page belongs to something on the other. The first thing is a mouse. What does the mouse belong to? (*computer*) **Let's draw a line from the mouse to the computer. Where does the puppy belong?** (*boy or girl*) **Draw a line connecting the kid and the puppy. And who needs a carrot? The snowman, that's right! The carrot belongs to the snowman, just like we belong to God.**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Crayons

Follow God's Message

God had a message for the people. God gave the message to Jeremiah and told Jeremiah to tell everyone. We have three stickers that will help us figure out the message. Put the stickers on the message where they match. Let's put the red sticker on first. Everyone grab the red sticker. Put it on the red part of the leaflet. Now put on the yellow sticker and then the blue sticker. Our message says, "You belong to me! Love God" That is a very good message. Let's tie our leaflets up to look like a message. Help kids tie ribbons around their leaflets.

Spark Resources
Leaflet
Lesson Stickers

Supplies
None

Belong Together

Let's sit in a circle. Give each kid one half of a pair of socks. **Hold your socks behind your backs.** Leave the other socks in the center of the circle. **We're going to take turns finding socks that belong together. When it is your turn, you may choose a sock from the center of the circle. Go around the outside of the circle until you find someone who has the sock that matches yours. Then you can both put a sock on your hand and share a high five. Just like the socks that belong together, we belong to God!**

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Many pairs of socks

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Sit in a circle and thank the kids for coming. Hold up the leaflet, review the Bible story, and ask the kids what they enjoyed about the day.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Before we go, let's share a song.

Supplies
None

Sing this song to the tune of "Hot Cross Buns."

Time to go. Time to go.

We've had fun, but now it's over.

Time to go.

Dads are here. Moms are here.

Grandmas, grandpas, sisters, brothers.

Give a cheer!

God cares for you. God cares for me.

We belong to God forever.

Happy, we'll be.

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home, because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family. God sent a message through Jeremiah. Your family can write a message and deliver it to a friend or neighbor. The message is: We belong to God!**

Prayer Time

Put your hand on your heart. **Jeremiah tells us that God writes love on our hearts. Let's pray today with our hands on our hearts.** Wait until all the kids have their hands on their hearts.

**Dear God,
Thank you for sending Jeremiah the message that we belong to you. Thank you for writing love on our hearts.
Amen.**

Be sure to send leaflets home with the kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None