

Large Group Leader Notes:

Covenants of the Old Testament

A covenant is a formal agreement between 2 or more people in which one or both sides agree to fulfill a promise.

God creates many covenants with people in the Old Testament. Let's go over a few of the most important ones.

After the Flood God made a covenant with Noah that He would never send a worldwide flood again to destroy all living creatures. God uses the rainbow as a reminder of this covenant.

God created a covenant with Abraham that the nation of Israel will be his descendants. God tells Abraham he will have as many descendants as the number of stars he could count in the night sky.

God created a covenant with the Israelite King David that from his descendants will come a king, and that kingdom will "endure forever." This is a continuation of the promise God made with Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15. The Israelites look to the promise of this Messiah – the chosen one.

Broken Covenants

With covenants, both sides agree to the promise. Of course, God always fulfills His promises. The past few weeks we have talked about the cycle of sin:

- Sin
- Judgement
- Grace

When God first makes His covenants, the people are excited. They have hope and trust in God. But over time, because of sin, God's people forget about the promise. They lose the hope and trust that drew them close to God. Eventually, they fail to keep their promise and the covenant is broken.

The New Covenant

After many years, God tells the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:31) that He will make a new covenant, an eternal covenant.

We know that Jesus is the fulfillment of the New Covenant. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. This is Jesus talking to His followers the day before He dies. He tells us that He is the New Covenant. He has come to break the cycle of sin.

Although we sin every day, God is always ready to forgive us. But the ultimate judgement for our sinful lives is, when we die, we cannot get into heaven.

Jesus never sinned, yet He paid the penalty for us when He chose to die on the cross. We deserve to go to hell for our sins, but Jesus' sacrifice is the ultimate gift of grace that we are given so that God's original plan of spending eternity with us is fulfilled.

Week 6: God's Covenant

Key Verse: Galatians 3:29 | Goal: "Jesus' sacrifice fulfills God's promise to redeem His people."

NAME: _____ **PARENT SIGNATURE:** _____

Return to your Small Group Mentor next week with Parent's Signature

KEY POINTS:

1. Covenant: a formal _____ between two or more
in which one or both sides _____ to fulfill a _____.
2. All _____ involving _____ are _____ by Him.
3. God's covenants _____ in _____ with Him.



BIBLE TIME:

Read and highlight today's Key Verse in your Bible.

CATECHISM:

- 📖 Open your Catechism to page 44 and read Question #3 and its answer
- 📖 We can see God, ultimately, fulfilling His covenants through His plan listed here. How can we respond to God knowing what He has done?

ROLE PLAY:

Your friend is feeling all alone. He is overwhelmed by all of the challenges in his life. His parents are getting a divorce, his only living grandparent is dying, and he is failing algebra. He says that it is just too much for him to handle anymore. What do you say to him? What do you do?

SMALL GROUP COVENANTS

- 1) Take a minute to talk about why we come to CrossTraining.
- 2) Discuss goals you have for each class and your goals for this year.
- 3) Fill out your Small Group Covenant using the sheet provided.
In the 2 sections include:
 - a. How you will act
 - b. What your attitude will be
 - c. Participation expectations
 - d. How you will treat yourself, others in your group, other groups, teachers and leaders
- 4) Hand your covenant in before you leave tonight.

MORE ON BACK

QUOTES: Choose a quote that speak to you and share why you chose it.

- ✦ *The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe. **Proverbs 29:25***
- ✦ *Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. **Saint Augustine***
- ✦ *Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies. **Mother Teresa***
- ✦ *Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. **Martin Luther King, Jr.***

ROSE BOOK:

- Key Bible Stories Page 40
- Take turns reading out loud “The Storyteller,” “The Characters,” and “The Story.” (The column on the left side of the page.)
- Read Stories 4 and 5 and their Bible passages.
- If there is time read Stories 1-3 for review.

HIGHS & LOWS: Share the 1 BEST and the 1 WORST thing from your past week with the group.

My High _____

My Low _____

PRAYER: Share your prayer request(s) and Include them in a prayer to wrap up small group time.

Prayer Request _____

- 1 K _____
- 2 K _____
- 1 C _____
- 2 C _____
- E _____
- N _____
- E _____
- J _____
- P _____
- P _____



NEXT WEEK: Chosen People

