

SUNDAY MORNING: Title of Lesson: Something Old vs. Something Better

Scripture: Hebrews 8

Memory Work: Hebrews 8:6

YOUNGER STUDENTS: "...now--the new law is much better than the old one..."

OLDER STUDENTS: "...now, the new law Jesus brought from God to His people is much better than the old one..." Have this verse written on the whiteboard before class.

Set Up: Have memory verse written on whiteboard. Have poster of God's Covenants displayed. Activity sheets and sharpened pencils distributed in front of each chair.

Materials: pens, pencils, scissors, markers, crayons, Old Covenant/New Covenant Poster (FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS, have the Fruit of the Spirit color sheet)

FOR OLDER STUDENTS, have crossword puzzle or word search of TEN COMMANDMENTS activity sheet and Fruit of the Spirit coloring sheet. First student arriving and completing worksheet gets to collect them when lesson begins and return them at end of class.

Introduction: Sing this song for them, then ask them to join in the second time.

Good morning to you(look at person on your left),
Good morning to you(look at person on your right,
We're all in our places,
With clean, shiny faces,
What a great way
To start the Lord's day!

It is sooo wonderful to see you here this morning to learn about things that God has put into His Book for us to live by. What is the name of that book? (The Bible) I know you all know how to spell it, so let's spell it together. B-I-b-l-e

Songs:-What does that make you think of? (the song) Yes! (sing the song "The B-I-b-l-e" together)

Sing "My Heavenly Father"

(Tune: "You Are My Sunshine" by Sarah Richey(adapted)

You are my Father,
My Heavenly Father.

You are the one and only God.
And I will worship and always love you,
Because you are the one true God.
You are my Jesus,
My only High Priest.
You loved me way before I was born.
And how I love you, and I'll obey you.
So I can live in Heaven with you.

Word Wall or Vocabulary Words: mediator, abolished, covenant, priest, high 2 priest, temporary, everlasting, and imperfect.

Have these words and meanings (at their level of understanding) displayed to refer to and to review (important for visual learners). Go over many times during lesson.

Prayer: My, what great singing voices you brought here this morning! God must be very pleased about that. Is there anything you would like for us to pray for this morning?

Lesson Starts Here: (As you present the lesson, stop at important points and ask students a question about that point. If a certain student seems to be distracted, redirect with a question.)

FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS: Raise your hand if you have rules at your house. What can happen if you DON'T have rules? At our house, one of our rules is to listen carefully when someone is talking to you. What is a rule you have at your house? (Discuss a few possibilities.) When we study God's book, the Bible, we find out that God has always had rules for His people. Some of the rules or laws He had long, long ago were called commandments--the 10 commandments were given to Moses when he was on a mountain. The 10 laws or commandments were written on stone tablets. But the 10 commandments or laws were just for the people and time BEFORE Jesus was on the cross. When Jesus was nailed to the cross, the 10 commandments were nailed to the cross too. They became the Old Law and Jesus had a New Law to be written--NOT on tablets of stone, but written on our hearts inside of us. So would the old law, the 10 commandments be better for us now? (No, it was for O.T. times) What law would be **better** for us now? (New law) Where do we find that law? (In the N.T.--it is forever) When you were a baby, did you know there was a law that all babies had to be in a baby carrier strapped into the car with their feet toward the back of the car? Do you ride that way now? Why not? When you grew bigger, that old law wasn't the best for you anymore. Your parents had to use a

new law to be strapped into a car with a seat belt to be safe. When something is old and not best for us any more, what do we usually do with it? We get rid of it and use what is BETTER for us, don't we? What is better--laws written on stone or laws written on our hearts?

Wrap-Up: (1) Old rules or laws were the Ten Commandments written on stone (2) Jesus brought us new rules or laws to be written on our hearts (3) Old laws were just for that time (4) New laws are forever (5) New laws of Jesus were much better in every way

Return their Fruit of the Spirit coloring sheet and talk about words written in Galatians 5:22-23. Discuss how they can show others in their lives each day that God has written these laws on their hearts.

FOR OLDER STUDENTS: When you begin school each year, what is one of the 3 first things your teacher talks to you about? (rules for your classroom)? Do we have rules for this classroom? What are some of the rules for our class? When you were only a baby, do you think you had the same rules for that class? Why not? Would the rules in the baby class work as good for you now? Why not? You need **new** rules to work better, don't you? What happens to the old rules when the time comes that you need new ones? What about in your home? Do you have the same rules now that you did when you were two years old? Why not? So rules sometimes need to change. What is another word we use for "rules"? In towns? (laws) What happens if you don't have laws? When we study God's Book, we find that God is wise in every way. He has always had laws for His people. Do you remember what 10 laws God's had in the O.T.? (10 Commandments) Commandments is another word for laws? In the Bible, another word that is used for "laws" is "covenant", or even "testament". Remember now, what is another word for "law" in the Bible? Today we will be studying about two laws that God has had for His people!

Raise your hand if you can tell me the 2 main parts of the Bible. (O.T. & N.T.) Where do you think the name **Old Testament** came from? (the **old law** of God that Moses wrote on the tables of stone). Where do you think the name **New Testament** came from? (the **new law** of God) that Jesus brought to the world. That law started when he was crucified. Where did we say the names Old Testament and New Testament came from? If you have a baby in your family, you probably know that there is a law that says parents must have their babies in a baby carrier with their feet toward the back of the car to take them anywhere in a car? Do you think your parents obeyed that law? Why? To help you be safe and protect you until you were ready to have a real seat belt.

At the right time when you grew enough, do you know what happened to that law for your parents? It was abolished (done away with) and a new law began for your parents that you must wear a seat belt--(not a baby carrier facing the back of the car). Why? The old law about babies was no longer good for you. **You** needed a **better** law--one that would promise to protect you and keep you safe **now!** So anything that is old and **useless** is ready to be tossed aside--thrown away. It doesn't really change. It just **disappears**. It's kind of like that with God's law or covenant. There was an old law with the 10 Commandments that God gave Moses on Mt. Sinai (temporary) until they needed a new law or covenant (everlasting). Jesus brought the new law to them that began when Jesus was nailed to the cross. So that is the story of the old covenant (Old Testament) and the new covenant (New Testament).

We've talked about God's laws, now let's talk a minute about rules at your home. Can you remember a time when you and your brother or sister had an argument or maybe even a fight? Maybe it was that one of you had broken a rule at your house. Who helped you understand each other and get it settled? Mom? Dad? Whoever helped you would be called a mediator--someone who goes between a rule or law and a person or between two or more people.

How many of you know what a "**priest**" is? When people of God in Bible times needed help for the wrong things they had done, they wanted a man of God (a **priest**) to go to God and pray **FOR** them, give sacrifices **FOR** them and thanksgivings **FOR** them. The **most important priest** for God's people was called the **high priest**. Did you know the very first thing God tells us in Hebrews 8 is that **WE have a high priest!!** We really do--sitting in Heaven at the **right** of God's side(throne)--but **He is on OUR side!!** Read Hebrews 8:1. How wonderful is that? In the beginning of time (the Patriarchal Age), the fathers acted as the priests in their worship. But then they had Aaron, the brother of Moses, who was the first high priest. Priests had to belong to the Levi family group. What family group did they have to belong to? All the sons of Aaron were priests. You have studied about another high priest. Can you remember his name?

Melchizedek was king of Salem and also a priest of the most high God. . **Jesus Christ was appointed High Priest** (Heb. 3:1-2; Psa. 110:4) in the same way that God chose Aaron (Heb. 5:5-6), but Jesus was said to be a greater high priest than Aaron. (**Any reading MUST be done slowly** with much **passion** and emphasis on **important** words or young children will lose interest! You will need to intermittently pause and explain as you read. If you have a young or very active group, you will need to tell it instead of read it, letting them see that you

are getting it from God's Word. If it is beyond your group, then pick 2 or 3 main points to tell them and move on.)

The last verse of Hebrews 7 tells us that Jesus is the kind of high priest that we need. He is holy--He has no sin in Him. He is pure and perfect forever.

From **Easy-to-Read** version: *Heb. 8:1 Here is the point of what we are saying: **We have a high priest** like we have been telling you about. That high priest now sits on the right side of God's throne in heaven. Vs.6 (For the **Jews, the agreement was the law of Moses.**) But now God has given a new and better agreement to his people through Christ. That **law that Jesus brought from God to his people is much greater** than the old one. And the new agreement has promises of **better** things.*

Jeremiah 31:31-34" The time is coming, says the Lord, when I will give a new agreement to the people of Israel(northern part of Jewish nation), and to the people of Judah(southern part of the Jewish nation)...This is the new agreement I will give the people of Israel. I will give this agreement in the future, says the Lord: **I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write my laws on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people....all people--the greatest people and the least important people--will know me. And I will forgive the wrong things they do against me, and **I will not remember their sins.**" Hebrews 8:13 "God called this a new agreement, so God has made the first agreement old. And **anything that is old and useless is ready to disappear.**"

Let's read Galatians 5:22-23: "But the Spirit gives love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; there is no law that says these things are wrong." Discuss the meaning of these fruits and how we can show in our lives that God has written them on our hearts.

Who can tell me what we need to remember about old laws and new laws in the Bible? When did we get the old law? Who brought the old law to God's people? When did we get the new law? Who brought us the new law? Which law is for us to obey? What does the Spirit give us? How?

Memory Work: Hebrews 8:6 --After the lesson, have the class read the memory verse from the whiteboard together 2 or 3 times. Erase 1 word and read it again. Then erase another word and read again. Continue until all words are erased and say it again while pointing to the place where each word was written when class says that word. Then say it with eyes closed.

Wrap-Up: So let's go over the main points for us to remember about the lesson this morning that God gave us in Hebrews 8.

1. Jesus Christ is our high priest, sitting in Heaven at God's right side.
2. God has always had laws for His people.
3. Moses gave God's people the Old covenant from God on tables of stone. (The 10 Commandments).
4. Jesus Christ gave us the New and better covenant and writes them on our minds and on our hearts.
5. The Old law was temporary and put to death when Jesus was put to death.
6. The New law we have is everlasting and better than the old law in every way.

Song: "YOU ARE MY FATHER"

6

(Tune: "You Are My Sunshine" by Sarah Richey(adapted))

You are my Father,
My Heavenly Father.
You are the one and only God.
And I will worship and always love you,
Because you are the one true God.
You are my Jesus,
My only High Priest.
You loved me way before I was born.
And how I love you, and I'll obey you.
So I can live in Heaven with you.

Prayer: Thank God for giving us Jesus to be our High Priest and to die on the cross for our sins. Thank God that He forgives our sins and even forgets they ever happened.

Game: Domino Memory Verse--(You'll need 38 dominoes and sticky labels to fit onto dominoes to make two sets if you plan to have two teams!) Print a word of the memory verse on label stickers (opt. Avery 8160) plus a label with "Heb.8:6" on it. Now stick each printed label on the blank side of a domino, making sure there is no overlap on at least one end so the students will not have trouble standing the dominoes up. Mix up each set into a pile with enough space for lines of dominoes and have teams wait until signal to begin. Kids love lining up the dominoes to make the memory verse and getting to knock them down when they finish and teacher checks them! The first team to complete the verse and knock them down wins!!! Have fun!!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Materials: Scissors, glue, markers,color sheet for Fruits of the Spirit, brown paper grocery bags or sheet of tan or gray (8 1/2 X 11) card stock and also a red sheet of card stock (same size)for each child, List of Rules both for Old and New Covenants for each child.

Set Up: Have craft sheets at each child's chair before class begins so he/she can begin sheet immediately after finishing in domino corner. Try to keep about the same number of students in each group.

Greet each child upon his/her arrival with a warm smile and enthusiasm! Show your joy of seeing them and in having them in class! Your attitude and love for each child should mirror our heavenly Father's. Each child needs to FEEL your love the moment they walk in the door! Have the dominoes from the memory verse game on Sunday in two areas for them to review by lining up the dominoes with the words in the right order, letting you and other students check it, and getting to knock them down.

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN: You may need to have stones and heart pieces pre-cuts and perhaps pre-glued. Stapling the tablets and hearts back-to-back needs to be done by the teacher after all else is done. Line up similar-shaped tops of tablets and hearts back-to-back. You can allow coloring to be contribution of younger students.

Songs: "The Bible" and "You Are My Father"

Review for memory work: When you arrived today, you reviewed your memory verse with the dominoes, so let's all say the memory verse together. I am going to point to each of you and go around the room. When I point to you, you are to say the next word in the verse. If you can't think of it, we'll help you--but then we must begin again. Let's keep it going without stopping!! I will say the first word...

Review Game:(As time allows) We also learned some new words Sunday! Let's get with our teams and play "Who Knows" with our "Final Facts"! The winning team gets to leave first, and the losing team gets to help clean up the room! Another word for "mediator"? Covenant? Abolished? Priest? High Priest? Imperfect? Temporary? Everlasting? (Include the most important things that we need to remember about Hebrews 8? Who is our high priest? Where is He now? What has God always had for His people? To whom and where did God give the old law? What were they called? Who gave us the new law? What is another

name for the new law? (New Testament) How does Jesus write the new law on our hearts? What are fruits of the Spirit? How do we get them? What ever happened to the old law? When did it happen? How is the new law so much better than the old law? Which law was temporary? Which law had many sacrifices? Which law had (on and on)..... Added questions over fruits of the spirit and how the new law was better than the old should be added by the teacher.

1. Jesus Christ is our high priest, sitting in Heaven at God's right side.8
2. God has always had laws for His people.
3. Moses gave God's people the Old covenant from God on tables of stone. (The 10 Commandments).
4. Jesus Christ gave us the New and better covenant and writes them on our minds and on our hearts.
5. The Old law was temporary and put to death when Jesus was put to death.
6. The New law is everlasting and better than the old law in every way.

Craft: FOR OLDER STUDENTS Have craft sheets: 1) "tablets of stone" 2) heart 3) printed list of both sets of laws at each child's chair with scissors and glue. (Option: Have tables of stone shape precut from tan paper grocery bag or gray card stock (for old covenant); also have heart shape cut from red or pink card stock (for new covenant) at each child's chair. The students are to glue old laws onto tables of stone and new laws onto hearts. Depending on your students, you may want to have pieces pre-cut and perhaps pre-glued. Line up together top of stones and top of hearts that have same shape and staple them back-to-back. Stapling needs to be done by the teacher after all else is done. When completed, tell class that we will be playing a game with the 2 laws, so to listen carefully to review so they can help their team win. We will then review briefly each law before going on to the game.

Game: After brief review, divide students into teams. Have a tall container (So words cannot be seen) filled with tongue depressors on which a mixture of old and new laws are written. In a black trash bag, have pool noodles with numbers from 5 to 50 by 5's (5,10,15,20,25...) or numbers of your choice. Rotating between teams, each team member chooses a tongue depressor, reads the law, and tells if it is part of the old law or new law. **If the answer is correct**, he/she gets to choose a pool noodle and receives the score written on it (no peeking into bag). The team with the highest score wins.

Prayer: Thank our Heavenly Father for giving us a new and better law and promises and for Jesus Christ loving us enough to make it possible for our sins to be forgiven and forgotten.