

CONTENTS

Lesson 1	God's Covenant with Us	Pg 5
Lesson 2	Nature of God's Covenant	Pg 13
Lesson 3	The Blood Covenant	Pg 21
Lesson 4	Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants	Pg 31
Lesson 5	Mosaic Covenant Vs New Covenant	Pg 40
Lesson 6	God's Covenant of Salt	Pg 47
Lesson 7	God's Covenant and My Daily Life	Pg 57

Biblical Covenants

God's Covenant with Us



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach the difference between a Contract and a Covenant.
- To show the difference between a Hired Servant and the Good Shepherd.
- To motivate a walk of obedience in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

John 10:11-13 (Contract vs Covenant)



MEMORY VERSE

John 10:11,13: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep ... The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

SAMPLE CONTRACT

CONTRACT

ALL PEOPLES CHILDREN’S CHURCH

I promise I will: _____

My teacher promises he/she will: _____

If I break my promise: _____

SIGNED: _____

ME

MY TEACHER

TODAY

A Contract is an ‘Agreement’

It involves a Requirement and Promise:

Example: Anita is required to look after the teacher’s seedlings for one week. She agrees to do so by signing the

contract. Now she must remember to keep her promise. In return, the teacher promises to reward her with a toffee.

It involves a Reward:

Example: If Anita keeps her promise, and the teacher's plants look healthy the following week, the teacher will give her a toffee.

It involves a Punishment:

Example: If Anita neglects looking after the plants, and they die the following week, then she must buy toffees for the whole class.

- When Anita signs the contract, it shows that she agrees to the three things mentioned in the contract: the promise to fulfill the requirement, the reward and the punishment.
- In the same way, when the teacher signs the contract, it shows that he/she also agrees to the three conditions in the contract.

In the same way, God made an 'agreement' with human beings.

CONTRACT vs COVENANT

- In a Contract, the person signing it is usually interested only in "personal gain" (What benefits can I get out of this contract?).
In a Covenant, the person signing it is interested in benefiting the other person (How can I be a help and a blessing to the other person?).

- In a Contract, if one party fails to fulfill his part of the agreement, the other person can punish him or deprive him of certain benefits.

In a Covenant, the person signing it is willing to bless the other person (even if the other person fails to do his part).

- In a Contract, the person signing it will not usually risk his life to help the other.

In a Covenant, the person signing it is willing to even die for the other person.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read the Verse

John 10:12-13: Hired workers are not like the shepherd. They don't own the sheep, and when they see a wolf coming, they run off and leave the sheep. Then the wolf attacks and scatters the flock. Hired workers run away because they don't care about the sheep.

Answer the Question:

Do you think the hired worker signed a contract or a covenant? Why do you think so?

Read the Verse

John 10:11: I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives up His life for His sheep.

Answer the Question:

Do you think the good shepherd signed a contract or a covenant? Why do you think so?

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, died for the sins of the whole world. Does this mean everybody is now a friend of God? Does this mean everybody will go to heaven?



APPLICATION

This week I'll do the following things, to show my love and gratitude to the Good Shepherd:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

If you have not done so earlier, today choose to become part of God's family by agreeing to accept His Covenant:

1. Admit you are a sinner.

"All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory"
(Romans 3:23).

2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent).

"... you can be sure that if you don't turn back to God,
every one of you will also die" (Luke 13:5).

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried, and rose from the dead.

"God loved the people of this world so much that He gave
His only Son, so that everyone who has faith in Him will
have eternal life and never really die" (John 3:16).

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your Lord and Saviour.

“So you will be saved, if you honestly say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and if you believe with all your heart that God raised him from death. God will accept you and save you, if you truly believe this and tell it to others” (Romans 10:9-10).

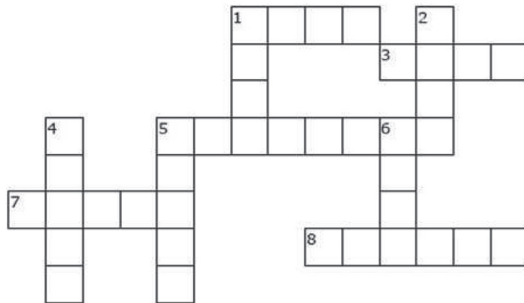


TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

The Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on John 10:11-18



ACROSS

1. The period from birth to death
3. A wild animal that look like a dog and hunts in a pack
5. One who takes care of the sheep
7. What we use to speak
8. To hear or pay attention to something

DOWN

1. A strong feeling of affection
2. The opposite of bad
4. A group of sheep herded together
5. Woolly animals which are similar to goats
6. Goes faster than walking

SHEPHERD	GOOD	LIFE	SHEEP	WOLF
FLOCK	RUNS	VOICE	LISTEN	LOVE



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class)

How I showed my love and gratitude to the Good Shepherd this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Biblical Covenants

Nature of God's Covenant



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show that God lovingly took the first step in reaching out to us.
- To explain the necessity of obeying the Terms laid down in God's Covenant.
- To assure that God fully intends to fulfill all the Covenant-promises He has made to us.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Genesis 6:18 and 15:18; Exodus 6:5-6 and 19:5; Deuteronomy 4:31 (Terms of the Covenant)



MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 19:5 says, "Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession."

A BUSINESS CONTRACT:

- Whom do you want to make the contract with? (Who do you want the buyer to be? Your friend? The Indian Prime Minister? Sachin Tendulkar? Think BIG!)
- How much do you want them to pay for your creative art-work? Rs.50? Rs.100? Rs.500?

(Decide on these details, then fill up the Contract on the next page).

Catching the Attention of Big People

Catching the attention of big people is not easy! Making them sign a contract with you is even more difficult! This being the case, imagine how much more difficult it is to sign a contract with **someone much bigger than the biggest person on earth!**

Things people do to impress God:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

But God is not impressed! The only thing that impresses God is holiness, because God is perfectly holy.

How can unholy people ever impress God enough, to make Him sign a contract with them? It's impossible!!!

This is why God had to make the first move. He reached down first, and initiated a formal covenant with sinful humans, during the time of Noah.

BUSINESS CONTRACT

This agreement is made between:

Name: _____ (Name of the seller)

and

Name: _____ (Name of the buyer)

Both parties reached the following agreement:

The seller will supply the buyer with handcrafted Clay-figures _____

Quantity and Quality of items to be exchanged is as follows

The seller will supply '3' handcrafted Clay-figures, of superior quality, every month _____

Payment amount and Payment Terms

The buyer will pay Rs. _____ for each handcrafted Clay-figure, at the end of every month. _____

Shipment and Delivery Method

The seller will send the handcrafted Clay-figures, by COURIER, to the residence of the buyer

Termination, Termination of Services shall be undertaken under the following terms:

If the seller fails to supply '3' handcrafted Clay-figures, of superior quality, every month, his/her services will be terminated.

Signature of Seller: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Buyer: _____ **Date:** _____



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God Took the First Step to Initiate a Covenant With Humans

- God initiated a Covenant with _____ (Genesis 6:18)
- God initiated a Covenant with _____ (Genesis 12:1-3)
- God initiated a Covenant with the _____ (Exodus 3:7-8)
- God initiated a Covenant with _____ (1 Samuel 16:13)
- God initiated a Covenant with _____ (Revelation 3:20)

We must be grateful that such a **BIG GOD**
was willing to sign a Covenant
with imperfect little people like us!

2. God Expects Us to Obey the Terms Laid Down in His Covenant:

Exodus 19:5 says, “Now if you obey Me fully and KEEP My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession.” How do we KEEP God’s Covenant?

Where are the terms and conditions of God’s Covenant written down?

How do we express our gratitude for being invited to be part of God’s Covenant?

John 14:15: Jesus said to His disciples, "If you love Me, you will do as I command."

3. God Promises to Remember the Terms Laid Down in His Covenant:

Exodus 6:5 says, "I have heard the groaning of the Israelites ... and I have remembered My covenant." Does this mean that God sometimes forgets His covenant, and He needs to remember it all over again?

Exodus 6:5-6: Now I have seen how the people of Israel are suffering because of the Egyptians, and I will keep My promise. Here is My message for Israel: "I am the Lord! And with My mighty power I will punish the Egyptians and free you from slavery."

This verse means:

In what sense does God REMEMBER the Covenant He has made with us? How does this help us?

God **remembers the promises WE MADE** to obey all of His commandments:

God also **remembers all the promises that HE MADE to us:**

Deuteronomy 4:31: The Lord your God will have mercy—He won't destroy you or desert you. The Lord will remember His promise, and He will keep the agreement He made with your ancestors.



APPLICATION

Commandments that I tend to neglect sometimes:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Make a renewed commitment to obey these
commandments without fail

Some Covenant-promises that God has made to me:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

5. _____

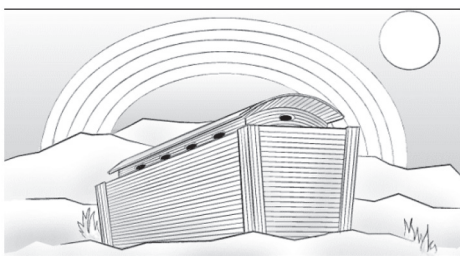
Praise God for All the Covenant-promises that He is going to fulfill in your life



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

The Rainbow Covenant

(Copyright 1997 Sharon Whittaker)



Genesis 9:12-16 NIV:

NYBUTOF RYAVCLGMDISEW
 ○ * ◇ * ☆ ◆ □ ● ♣ ■ ▽ ♥ * ▽ ♥ ⊕ ★ ⊕ ⊕ ♣

This is the ○ * ▽ of the ▽ ▽ ▽ ⊕ ○ ■ ○ ☆
 I am making between me and you and every

* ★ ▽ ★ ○ ▽ ▽ ● ⊕ ■ ☆ * ● ⊕ ... I have set
 my ● ■ ★ ○ ◇ ◆ ♣ in the clouds ... Whenever
 ... the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will

● ⊕ ▽ ⊕ ▽ ◇ ⊕ ● my covenant ... ○ ⊕ ▽ ⊕ ●
■ ▽ ■ ★ ○ will the waters become a □ * ◆ ◆ ⊕
 to ⊕ ⊕ ☆ ☆ ● ◆ * all life.



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class)

How I practised the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Biblical Covenants

The Blood Covenant



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain that a curse was invoked on those breaking a Covenant-agreement.
- To show how the Israelites brought God’s curse upon themselves through disobedience.
- To teach that Jesus redeemed us by becoming a curse for us.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Isaiah 53:4; Numbers 6:24–26; Hebrews 13:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21 (Jesus became a Curse for Us)



MEMORY VERSE

Galatians 3:13: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

CURSES MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

Match the Following:

- The right-hand column mentions some of the **Curses** that were spoken in the Bible.
- The left-hand column describes what happened as a **result of the curse spoken**.

Match the Results with the Curses

<u>Curses that were Spoken</u>	<u>How the Curses came to Pass</u>
1 Because of Adam’s sin, God put a curse on the ground (Genesis 3:17).	All the crops of the Israelites withered and died (Joel 1:11-12).
2 God warned that anyone who tried to rebuild Jericho would be cursed (Joshua 6:26).	All of creation is groaning today because of sin (Romans 8:22).
3 God warned that anyone who took the gold and silver of the Jericho people would be cursed (Joshua 6:18).	The fig tree completely dried up, right down to the roots (Matthew 11:20-21).
4 God put a curse on those who had robbed him (Malachi 2:8-9).	The Israelites lost the battle at Ai (Joshua 7:11-12).
5 Jesus cursed the barren fig tree (Matthew 11:13-14).	While Hiel was rebuilding Jericho, his sons died (1 Kings 16:34).

Bible Passages for the “Match the Following” Exercise:

1 Kings 16:34: While Ahab was king, a man from Bethel named Hiel rebuilt the town of Jericho. But while Hiel was laying the foundation for the town wall, his oldest son Abiram died. And while he was finishing the gates, his youngest son Segub died. This happened just as the Lord had told Joshua to say many years ago.

Genesis 3:17: "... the ground will be under a curse because of what you did. As long as you live, you will have to struggle to grow enough food."

Joel 1:11-12: Mourn for our farms and our vineyards! There's no wheat or barley growing in our fields. Grapevines have dried up and so has every tree—figs and pomegranates, date palms and apples. All happiness has faded away.

Joshua 6:18: And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

Joshua 6:26: After Jericho was destroyed, Joshua warned the people, "Someday a man will rebuild Jericho, but the Lord will put a curse on him, and the man's oldest son will die when he starts to build the town wall. And by the time he finishes the wall and puts gates in it, all his children will be dead.

Joshua 7:11-12: I said everything in Jericho belonged to Me and had to be destroyed. But the Israelites have kept some of the things for themselves. They stole from Me and hid what they took. Then they lied about it. What they stole was supposed to be destroyed, and now Israel itself must be destroyed. I cannot help you anymore until you do exactly what I have said. That's why Israel turns and runs from its enemies instead of standing up to them.

Malachi 2:8-9: You are robbing Me of the offerings and of the ten percent that belongs to Me. That's why your whole nation is under a curse.

Matthew 11:13-14: From a distance Jesus saw a fig tree covered with leaves, and He went to see if there were any figs on the tree. But there were not any, because it wasn't the season for figs. So Jesus said to the tree, "Never again will anyone eat fruit from this tree!" The disciples heard Him say this.

Matthew 11:20-21: As the disciples walked past the fig tree the next morning, they noticed that it was completely dried up, roots and all. Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree. Then Peter said, "Teacher, look! The tree You put a curse on has dried up."

Romans 8:22: "We know that all creation is still groaning and is in pain ..."



BIBLE PASSAGES

Genesis 15:17-18: Sometime after sunset, when it was very dark, a smoking cooking pot and a flaming fire went between the two halves of each animal. At that time the Lord made an agreement with Abram and told him: I will give your descendants the land east of the Shihor River ...

Galatians 3:13: ... Christ rescued us from the Law's curse, when He became a curse in our place ...



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Psalms 118:27 describes the animal sacrificed on the altar: "God *is* the Lord, and He has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar."

Why do you think the animal was tied to the altar?

If Jesus had not been nailed to the Cross, do you think He would have run away? Why or Why not?

John 10:18: No one takes My life from me. I give it up willingly! I have the power to give it up and the power to receive it back again, just as My Father commanded me to do.

Matthew 27:39-40 says: People who passed by said terrible things about Jesus. They shook their heads and shouted, “So You’re the one who claimed You could tear down the temple and build it again in three days! If You are God’s Son, save Yourself and come down from the Cross!”

The people passing by were ordinary people like you and me. Why do you think they hated Jesus so much, and enjoyed making fun of Him?

Deuteronomy 21:22-23: “If someone guilty of a capital offense is put to death and their body is exposed on a pole ... be sure to bury it that same day, because **anyone who is hung on a pole is under God’s curse.**”

Isaiah 53:4: He suffered and endured great pain for us, but we thought His suffering was punishment from God.

According to Galatians 3:13, while Jesus was hanging on the Cross, He became a ‘CURSE’ for us. What kind of suffering, do you think, does a “cursed person” experience?

When God made His covenant with the Israelites, He spoke this blessing upon them:

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24–26).

The exact opposite of the blessing would read this way:

“May the Lord curse you and abandon you. May the Lord keep you in darkness and give you only judgment without grace. May the Lord turn His back upon you and remove His peace from you forever” (taken from “The Curse Motif of the Cross” by R.C. Sproul).

This terrible curse came upon Jesus while He was hanging on the Cross!

Already weak from all the whipping and torture, Jesus was unable to bear this sudden withdrawal of the Father—the One person who had always supported Him!

Completely abandoned by everyone and in raw pain, Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why have you deserted me?” (Matthew 27:46)

If Jesus had not become a curse for us, all of us would right now be in hell crying out:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Jesus went through what we should go through.

He did it for us!

This is why God promises today, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). Jesus allowed Himself to be forsaken so that we would never, ever be forsaken.

If Jesus, who was wholly righteous, became a curse, then what did cursed people like us become?

2 Corinthians 5:21: God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.



APPLICATION

Areas in which I tend to fall into disobedience:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Make a fresh commitment to obey the Lord
even in these areas.

Don't waste Jesus' sacrifice on the cross by continuing
to live in sin



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

(Taken from <http://www.isob-bible.org>)

Jesus took our Curses, and gave us Blessings in Exchange:

1. Jesus was punished that we might be _____.
(Isaiah 53: 4-5, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 2:13).
2. Jesus was wounded that we might be _____.
(Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 8:16-17, 1 Peter 2:24).
3. Jesus was made sin with our sinfulness that we might be made _____ with His righteousness (Isaiah 53:10, 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Righteousness means to be in good standing with God
(Romans 3:22, Romans 4:6, Romans 10:10).

4. Jesus died our **death** that we might share His _____.
The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23, Hebrews 2:9, John 8:52).
5. Jesus was made a curse that we might receive the _____.
(Galatians 3:13-14, Deuteronomy 21:22-23, Deuteronomy 28:1-13).
6. Jesus endured our **poverty** that we might share His _____.
(2 Corinthians 8:9 and 9:8).

Sufficiency is just enough; abundance is more than enough so that we can bless others.

Jesus was hungry, thirsty, naked and in need at the Cross.
7. Jesus bore our **shame** that we might share His _____.
Matthew 27:35-36; Hebrews 2:10 says that Jesus brings many sons to glory (not shame).
8. Jesus endured our **rejection** that we might have His _____ with the Father.
Matthew 27:45-51; The Father hid His face from Jesus and rejected Him for us.
Ephesians 1:6 says we are accepted by the Father.
9. Jesus was **cut off from the Father** that we might enjoy **God's** _____ eternally.
(Matthew 27:46, Isaiah 53:8, Hebrews 10:21-22, Jude 24, Colossians 1:27, Ephesians 3:16-20).
The fullness of the Holy Spirit is available to give us God's presence (Acts 1:8).

10. Our sin nature was put to **death** in Him, so that Christ's nature might come to _____ in us (Romans 6:6, Galatians 2:20).



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class)

How I practised the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Biblical Covenants

Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain the concept of “Covenant Boundaries.”
- To teach that God’s covenants benefited both the Israelites and the rest of the world.
- To reinforce that Covenant Benefits can be enjoyed only when Covenant Boundaries are observed.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Genesis 12:1; Exodus 19:5; Galatians 5:18; Philippians 2:13
(God’s Covenants to Israel)



MEMORY VERSE

Words Scrabble on Page 36 contains the Memory Verse.

GOD'S COVENANT BOUNDARIES

Boundary for Adam and Eve

What was the Boundary?

Genesis 2:16-17: You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden, **except the one** that has the power to let you know the difference between right and wrong.

If you eat any fruit from that tree, you will die ...

Covenant Boundary for Noah's Family

What was the Boundary? _____

Genesis 6:18: But I will establish My covenant with you, and **you will enter the ark**—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.

Genesis 7:5-7: Noah was six hundred years old when he **went into the boat to escape the flood**, and he did everything the Lord had told him to do ...

Covenant Boundary for Abraham

What was the Boundary? _____

Genesis 12:1: The Lord said to Abram: **Leave** your country, your family and your relatives, and go to the land that I will show you.

God sets boundaries for two reasons:

- for our own personal good
- for the good of others

God wanted to show the world through Abraham, that those who obey His covenant will enjoy great blessings and privileges.

Covenant Boundary for Israel

What was the Boundary? _____

Exodus 19:5: Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.

The surrounding nations had no clue how to live!

- They sacrificed their babies in front of golden statues.
- They ate foods that made them sick with diseases.
- They indulged in cheating and business malpractices, which exposed their families to demonic attack.

They were totally messed up,
and Israel was given the **important duty of setting an example** for them.

We can probably label the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants as **'Invitations.'**

- They were invitations to a specific few, inviting them to follow God, trust Him, and live differently.
- They were also an invitation to those watching, inviting these people to join in, so that they too could enjoy the Covenant blessings.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

One of the 613 boundaries laid down in God's Covenant to Israel was that people should not wear clothes with mixed fabric (Leviticus 19:19). Then why is it that Christians today wear polyester, nylon and spandex?

Leviticus 19:19: Breed your livestock animals only with animals of the same kind, and don't plant two kinds of seed in the same field, **or wear clothes made of different kinds of material.**

Galatians 5:18: ... if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

If we don't need to follow the Israelite Covenant laws anymore, then why do Christians give tithes? Isn't this a law of the Old Covenant?

Leviticus 27:32: When you count your flocks and herds, one out of ten of every newborn animal is holy and belongs to me.

What is your personal opinion? Is it easier to obey the 613 laws of the Israelite Covenant? Or the leading of the Holy Spirit? Why?

Philippians 2:13: God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey Him.



APPLICATION

The Abrahamic Covenant required Abraham to give up his homeland and live as a stranger in a foreign country. What is God asking of you today?

- What is He asking you to give up?
- What things is He asking you to do?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Make a decision today that you'll NOT be like the Israelites.

The Mosaic Covenant was given to them so that they could become a "treasured possession." But the Israelites suffered one national disaster after the next **because they failed to observe His Covenant boundaries FULLY.**

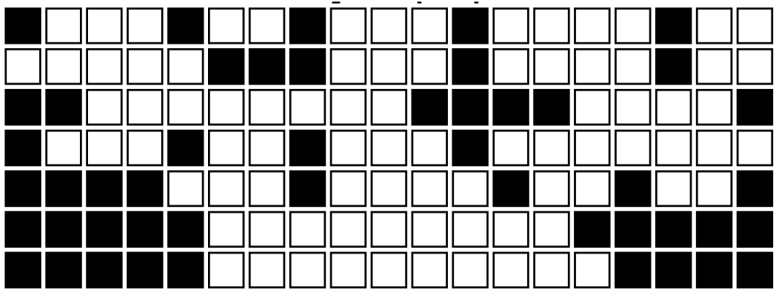
Covenant Benefits Can Be Enjoyed Only When Covenant Boundaries Are Followed Fully!



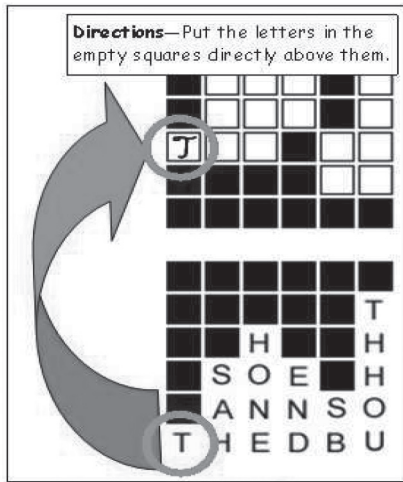
TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

(Created online at GospelHall.org)

The following puzzle is a "Dropped Verse." All of the letters in the white squares have fallen to the ground. Raise them back up into their places to see what the Memory Verse says.



F YOU B
 I AND OEE
 OW ENT KE M
 LL OF ALL ATY M
 NCOYOUAWILLNBTPENE
 UUTVTREASUREDEHONY
 FO YPOSSESIONIMYS



Write down the Memory Verse:

Exodus 19:5: _____

DON'T FORGET TO MEMORISE THE MEMORY VERSE!



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class)

How I practised the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3.

DRAGON ISLAND

Inhabitants of Dragon Island

Archelons

- Archelons are marine turtles that live in the water. They feed on mollusks and squid.

Avimimus

- These are fast-moving, light-weight dinosaurs. They have sharp serrated beaks that help them kill and feed on small animals.

Coelurus

- Coelurus are dinosaurs with very long tails. They generally feed on mammals.

Tarsiers

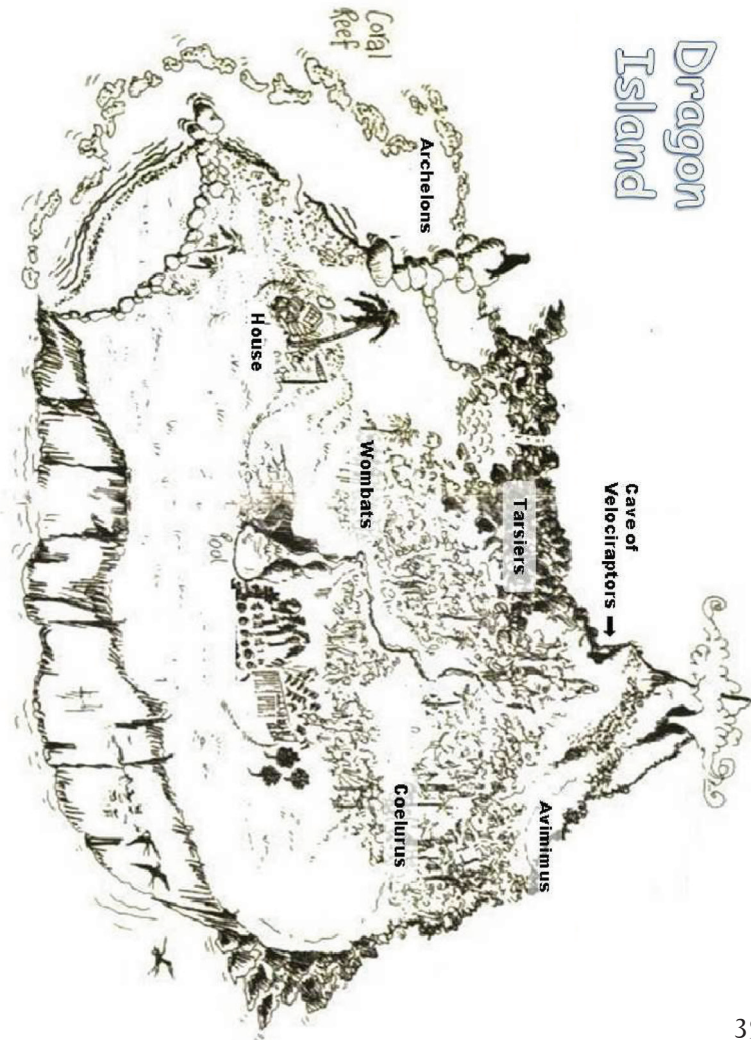
- These creatures have eyeballs as large as their brains. They live in the trees and feed on birds, snakes and lizards

Velociraptors

- Velociraptors have sickle shaped claws. They're carnivorous animals

Wombats

- They like to burrow under the ground. They eat grass and roots.



Biblical Covenants

Mosaic Covenant vs New Covenant



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show how the New Covenant is superior to the Old Covenant.
- To explain how the Tabernacle of the Old Covenant points toward Christ.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Hebrews 10:4; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 8:3-4; Hebrews 7:25
(The Superior New Covenant)

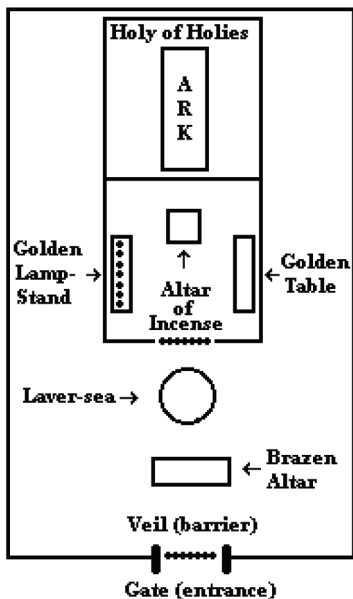


MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 8:6: But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which He is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

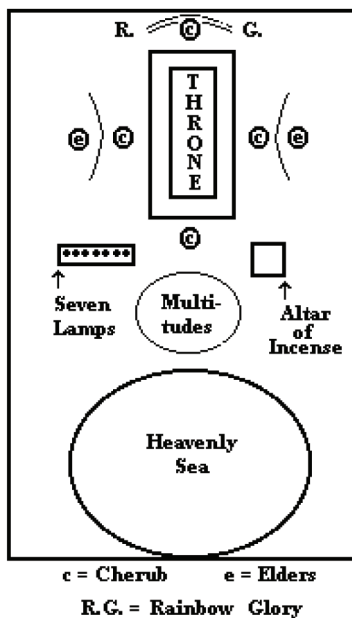
EARTHLY TABERNACLE and HEAVENLY TEMPLE

Hebrews 8:5: But the tent where they serve is just a copy and a shadow of the real one in heaven. Before Moses made the tent, he was told, “Be sure to make it exactly like the pattern you were shown on the mountain!”



Earthly Tabernacle

(not to scale)

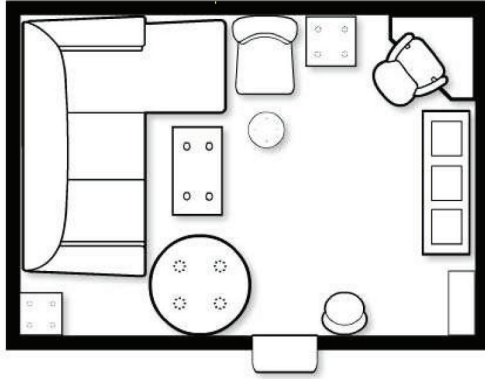


Heavenly Temple

My Living Room

Draw a blueprint of your Living Room at home, showing how the furniture is arranged (*A Sample is included below*):

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a blueprint of a living room. The box is completely blank and occupies most of the page's width and height.



Old Covenant vs New Covenant

Animal sacrifices vs Jesus' sacrifice:

- Hebrews 10:3-4: But the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. It only reminds people of their sins from one year to the next.
- 1 John 1:7: And the blood of His Son Jesus washes all our sins away.

Jesus established a better, more superior Covenant through His sacrifice on the Cross.

Altar of Incense:

- Revelation 8:3-4: This one was given a lot of incense to offer with the prayers of God's people on the gold altar in front of the throne. Then the smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up to God from the hand of the angel.

The Incense of the Prayers of God's People goes directly to God because the dividing curtain between God and us was torn open!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Based on what we have learnt today, explain in what way Jesus is a better High Priest than the human High Priests of the Old Covenant.

If the New Covenant is better than the Mosaic Covenant, why do you think God even gave the Mosaic Covenant to Israel? Why didn't He directly send Jesus to establish the New Covenant?

The blood from the animal sacrifices 'covered' the sins of the people. It didn't wash away their sins. Does this mean that all the people of the Old Testament went to hell ... because Jesus had not yet sacrificed His life for them?

Revelation 13:8: ... the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.



APPLICATION

Romans 6:6 says, “We know that the persons we used to be were nailed to the cross with Jesus. This was done, so that our sinful bodies would *no longer be the slaves of sin.*”

God went to the drastic extreme of sacrificing Jesus on our behalf, **to set us free!**

- He has set us free from the consequences of every sin we have ever committed. He has forgiven us completely.
- Also, He has set us free from the power of sin (by giving us both the desire and the power to live for Him – Philippians 2:13).

This being the case, He expects us to **Continue Staying Free.** He doesn’t want us to go back into those very same sins, of which He has forgiven us at such a high cost.

Some sins that have a strong hold on me:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Jesus has set us free so that we don't have to be enslaved by these sins anymore.

Begin to enjoy the freedom that Jesus has obtained for you through the New Covenant.



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class)

How I practised the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

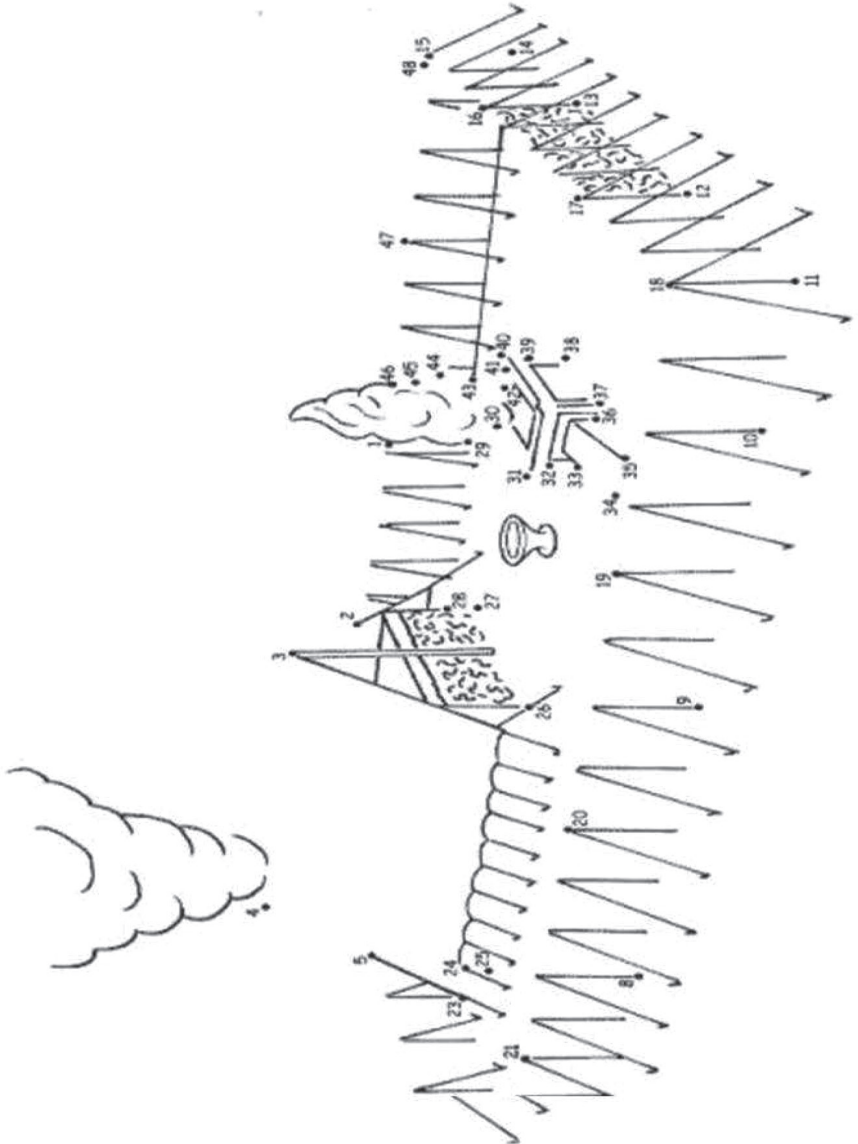
3. _____



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Tabernacle of Moses – Connect the Dots

(Taken from Calvary Kids Pages)



Biblical Covenants

God's Covenant of Salt



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain why God calls His covenant a “Covenant of Salt.”
- To encourage the children to make ‘salted offerings’ to the Lord.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

2 Chronicles 13:5; Leviticus 2:11, 13; Matthew 5:13 (Salt of the Covenant)



MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 5:13: You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?

SIGNIFICANCE of a SALT COVENANT

2 Chronicles 13:5: Don't you know that the Lord, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt?

- This verse refers to God's Covenant as a "Covenant of Salt."

Why do you think God called it a Salt Covenant?

Why not call it a Covenant of Sugar? Or a Covenant of Honey?

Reason 1

Salt is used to preserve food items from rotting. When we preserve things in salt, they last for a very long time.

- So God called His Covenant a "Covenant of Salt." He wanted the people to know that His covenant would last forever. It wouldn't decay after a few hundred years.

Reason 2

Also, salt purifies things. For instance, in olden times, people rubbed a newborn baby with salt, to purify its skin. The salt destroyed all the germs on the skin of the baby.

- So God called His Covenant a "Covenant of Salt." He wanted the people to know that His covenant was pure and holy. We can trust God hundred percent because He will never secretly deceive or cheat us.

Reason 3

Salt heals—if you settled a dispute with your neighbour, then you would invite the person into your home to share a dish of salt. Each of you would lick your finger, dip it in

the salt and then eat the salt together. This is the symbol of friendship that heals the rift.

- So God called His Covenant a “Covenant of Salt.” He wanted the people to know that He had forgiven them in spite of all their sins.
- Romans 5:8 says, “But God showed how much he loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful.”

Reason 4

Salt was also used to seal a bond of friendship forever. Brethren at an Israelite table would seal their friendship by the sharing of salt.

- So God called His Covenant a “Covenant of Salt.” God wanted to be sealed with us in an eternal covenant of friendship, seasoned with salt.

GOD has commanded SALT-FLAVOURED OFFERINGS

1. Abiding Long-term Commitments

Leviticus 2:13: Season all your grain offerings with salt. **Do not leave the salt** of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; add salt to all your offerings.

When God declared that “salt-flavoured” sacrifices and offerings were compulsory, He was essentially saying:

“If you want to make any promise or commitment to me, let it be a long-term one that you’ll always keep.

I'm not interested in short-term promises
that you plan on breaking;
so don't even make them."

2. Pure Commitments

Leviticus 2:11: Yeast and honey must never be burned on the altar, so **don't ever mix either of these** in a grain sacrifice.

- God ordered that the grain offerings contain only salt (v.13). They were NOT to contain any yeast or honey.

Why do you think God wanted only salt? Why not yeast and honey too?

Yeast symbolized the sins of man, while salt symbolized purity.

- God was essentially saying that He doesn't want half-hearted commitments, where the person obeys God partially and follows his sinful desires partially.

Similarly, honey was used by neighbouring nations in their offerings to idols, to bribe them.

- Honey was supposed to sweeten up the god in their favour, and make it turn a blind eye to the sins they were committing.

However, the Lord wants a hundred percent pure
commitment from us—

He cannot be bribed into accepting compromises.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

God has Commanded Salt-flavoured Offerings

Matthew 5:13: You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

- According to this verse, we're supposed to offer ourselves as salted offerings while living on this earth. The same way salt purifies meat, we must purify the world.

Discuss:

What are some of the things involved in a "pure lifestyle?"

How can leading a pure life lead to purification of the world?

Is it really possible to be salt in your school or neighbourhood? Will anybody listen to you? What is your personal opinion? Why or Why not?



APPLICATION

Salted Offerings that I'm going to Make:

- God has made a Covenant of Salt with you, which will last forever. You can always depend on Him.
- But can He depend on you? Are you giving Him salted long-term offerings?

Becoming Salt that Purifies

Some areas of my life where I need to practice more purity:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Some things I can personally do to purify my school/ neighbourhood:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

My Commitment

- God has committed to keep His Covenant-promises FOREVER
- I commit to keep my promises (which I have mentioned above) for _____ weeks/ months/ years (write down the specific number of weeks/ months/years).



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Salt of the Earth

In olden times, salt was very precious and expensive. Find your way through this large jar of preserved salt.





FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class)

How I practised the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Biblical Covenants

God's Covenant and My Daily Life



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach about Covenant Privileges and Responsibilities.
- To help students see themselves as God's own children, and behave as such.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Romans 8:14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Matthew 7:9-11 (God's Covenant Children)



MEMORY VERSE

Romans 8:15: The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father."

PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

What do you think is the main difference between Living in a Hotel and Living at Home?

Some children tend to treat home like a hotel.

They expect their parents to be waiters and cleaners,
who'll wait on them and serve them.

**But being a child doesn't involve just receiving a lot of
love, service and gifts.**

It also involves chores and responsibilities.

Age-wise Chore List

Match the Chores to the Age-groups (Which chores should a child take up at different ages?)

Age Groups:	Home Responsibilities
4 - 5 yrs	Help prepare simple meals. Helping with the laundry. Purchasing the simpler groceries.
6 – 8 yrs	Help with sweeping/mopping. Water the plants. Learn to wash dishes.
9 – 12 yrs	Help make the bed. Pick up toys and books. Dust furniture.

13 – 18 yrs

Help feed pets.
 Help wipe up messes.
 Clear and set the table.

Why COVENANT PRIVILEGES are SPECIAL

Have you noticed that the privileges you enjoy at home are *better and superior* to those enjoyed by the servant-maid?

- Most probably at Christmas-time, your parents give gifts to both you and the servant. But have you noticed that yours is given with much deeper love and much greater thoughtfulness? You are SPECIAL because you're their OWN CHILD. You're not a mere servant.

Similarly, God gives His Covenant Children the kind of special privileges that are reserved for family members. He doesn't treat us like servants.

- Therefore Covenant Privileges are SPECIAL!

Some PRIVILEGES We Enjoy as Part of God's Family

- He treats each of us as His best friend (John 15:15).
- He forgives and forgets, even when we confess the most terrible sins to Him (1 John 1:9).
- He protects us from harm and danger (Psalms 55:16).
- He answers our prayers and provides for us (Matthew 6:31-33).
- He heals us of all kinds of sicknesses (Exodus 15:26).
- He gives us good advice and guides us (Psalms 32:8).
- He prepares good plans for our future (Jeremiah 29:11).

Why COVENANT RESPONSIBILITIES are SPECIAL

Have you noticed that you feel greater love and concern for your parents than a paid servant would?

- If you were preparing a Surprise Snack for your tired mother, you'd put in more love and effort into the snack than a servant who is merely cooking as part of her regular duties.

Similarly, God hopes that you'll serve Him out of a heart of love, rather than simply obey like servant who has no choice.

- A servant works to earn money; she may have no special concern for your family. Sometimes we treat God similarly. We obey Him to earn blessings, we have no special love or concern for Him. This attitude dishonors God.

God wants us to fulfill our responsibilities with an attitude of love—not with the attitude of a servant looking for payment.

Some RESPONSIBILITIES we have as Part of God's Family

The New Life

According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, God has made us into a new creation.

- So He expects us to behave 'New.' Our thoughts, words and actions must be new and Christ-like. We must not behave like Satan's children anymore.

New Responsibilities toward _____

- We must discipline ourselves to spend time with the Lord, in Bible Reading and Prayer.

New Responsibilities _____

- We must give up old satanic habits like lying, hurting people with our anger, stealing, etc.

New Responsibilities to our _____

- God expects us to serve our family by sincerely helping out with household chores.

New Responsibilities toward _____

- We must be willing to help other Christians in whatever way we can.
- We must be a friend to those who are lonely.

New Responsibilities toward the _____

- We must be willing to volunteer at church and help out, if there is a need.
- We must be willing to give to the church from our pocket money.

New Responsibilities toward _____

- We must be willing to share the Gospel with non-Christians.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

We looked at some of the privileges that we enjoy as God's Covenant Children. Why are many Christians living in poverty and sickness in spite of these great privileges?

Romans 8:15: God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of Him.

Instead, we become His children and call Him our Father.

Matthew 7:9, 11: Would any of you give your hungry child a stone, if the child asked for some bread? ... As bad as you are, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. But your heavenly Father is even more ready to give good things to people who ask.

Why is it very important for us to behave like New Creations?

What are some ways we can help other Christians who belong to God's family?



APPLICATION

Covenant Privileges that I'm going to consciously claim through Prayer.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

This week, I consciously commit to fulfilling these Covenant Responsibilities:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

(Created online at <http://gospelhall.org>)

Search for the words printed in CAPS, in the Memory Verse Puzzle:

Romans 8:15: The SPIRIT you RECEIVED does not make you SLAVES, so that you LIVE in FEAR again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your ADOPTION to SONSHIP. And by Him we cry, "ABBA, FATHER."

Memory Verse Word Search:

C U P L Z J N S O I I R I W T F F H R F
 C R F E A R O Q Q U X X F B Y C U Q E A
 F C H L L W I S V D D S H K H F F E O Z
 W P W I E M T A P T U F Z I I V Z S X A
 N R V W R N P T I R I P S S M I Y L K T
 N E E E D F O D N D N A S U A H F R N U
 G S E C N T D L U Y D B D B V R N U O O
 Y P Y S E E A P I W X V B C T W N O T B
 K S N N K I X C X X B A R O A K N Y V A
 J O A I C Y V V U D C S O S H I R U G W
 J E E A T S E E B B N R U H T Y X U P W
 Q G H G L N S D D D R O G H F D O J X U
 I Q C A X O X P O X Y U H U F A T H E R
 Z T K U N U C G K E C O T S D L A R B X
 D O Q S T E N X Y W S X O E F Q S A G H
 A H H Z K N V X A Z Y D P V W D Z T M K
 X I L A M B G F Z D A R L A Y J H H O D
 P I M Q D D B E D Y C B C L J U Q E D I
 V K Z W E W T U H K X R V S Q N T R R E
 I L Y E Z B V O U T G U L I C W C C P W

DON'T FORGET TO MEMORISE THE MEMORY VERSE!



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class)

How I practised the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



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