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Biblical Covenants

God's Covenant with Us



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show that it's impossible to reach God through mere religious devotion or rituals.
- To explain that God reached out to us with a "Covenant of Love."
- To show how God's Covenant empowers us to obey Him.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Deuteronomy 7:9-12; Hebrews 10:16; Ezekiel 11:19; Philippians 2:12-13 (God's Covenant with Us)



MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 10:16: This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.



BIBLE PASSAGES

James 2:10:

If you obey every law except one, you are still guilty of breaking them all.

One broken commandment is equal to
having broken all of them!

So whatever I do, whether it's cutting my back, or giving
contributions to the church,
or fasting for forty days, it doesn't make me any less sinful.

Deuteronomy 7:9:

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments.

Deuteronomy 7:12:

If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep His covenant of love with you, as He swore to your ancestors.

God's Covenant with Us is called a "Covenant of Love"—not a covenant of rules.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How does a person sign up for God's Covenant of Love? There's no sheet of paper to put a signature on, is there?

God's Covenant of Love is not signed on paper. It's signed in our hearts. This is how it's done:

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).

Specific sins that I want to repent of:

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).

God’s Covenant of Love is a friendship with God. It’s not about following a bunch of rules and regulations. Does this mean we no longer need to obey the commandments laid down in the Bible?

Even though Adam and Eve were created sinless and perfect, they broke their agreement with God not to disobey. This being the case, what are the chances that we'll be able to do any better? Is it really possible to live in obedience?

GD Video Presentation

GD Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQjyYjOzeXsandfeature=relmfu>

Duration: Beginning to "2 mins:57secs."

Hebrews 8:6:

Now Christ has been appointed to serve as a priest in a much better way, and He has given us much assurance of a better agreement.

Question: In what way is the New Covenant better than the old one which God had made with the Israelites?

Answer: _____

Hebrews 10:16:

When the time comes, I will make an agreement with them. I will write my laws on their minds and hearts.

Question: What better promise is the New Covenant offering?

Answer: _____

2 Corinthians 3:3:

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the Living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Question: According to this verse, if we choose to become part of the New Covenant, what is written on our hearts?

Answer: _____

Ezekiel 11:19:

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.

Question: Based on this verse, what do you think is written in the letter on our hearts?

Answer: _____

Philippians 4:13:

I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.

Question: According to this verse, what does God do for us under the New Covenant?

Answer: _____

Philippians 2:12-13:

My dear friends, you always obeyed when I was with you. Now that I am away, you should obey even more. So work with fear and trembling to discover what it really means to be saved. God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey Him.

Question: According to this verse, what does God do for us under the New Covenant?

Answer: _____

**APPLICATION**

This week, spend more time with God, in worship, prayer and Bible study. The more you get to know Him, the more you'll begin to understand how deeply you're loved. And then your trust in Him will begin to increase, leading to an increase in your level of obedience.

- This week I will spend _____ minutes on Bible Study, every day.
- This week I will spend _____ minutes on Prayer, every day.
- This week I will remember to worship God and thank Him for all that He has done for me.

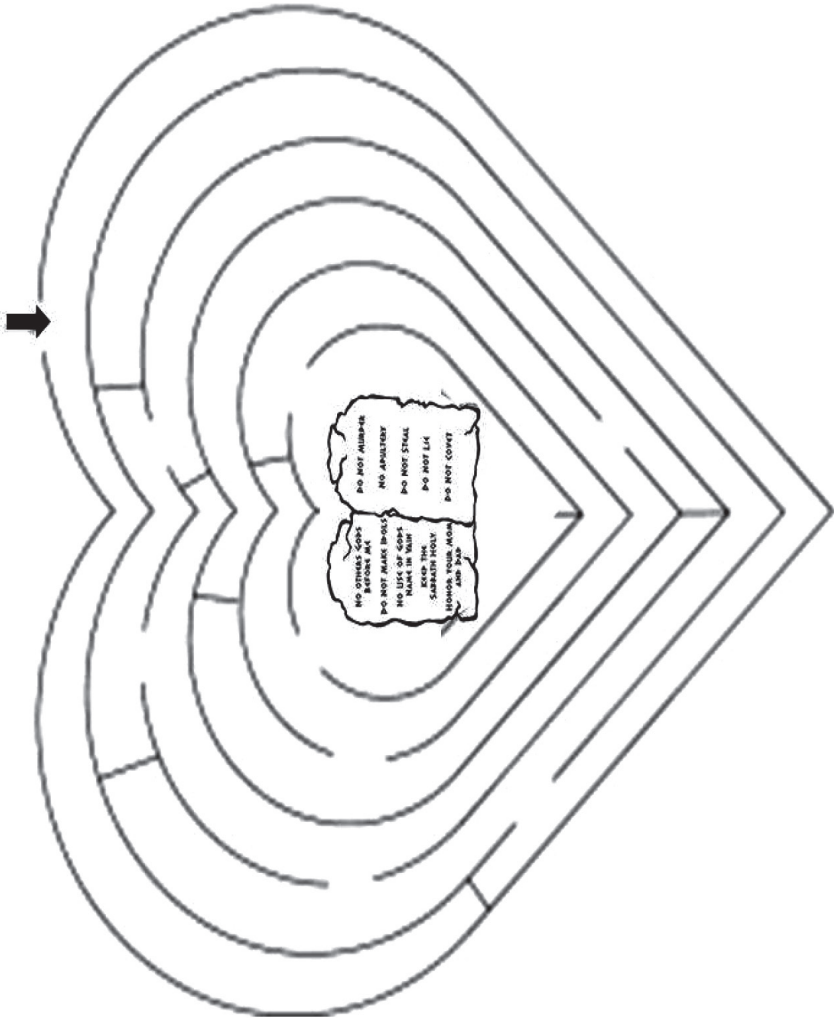


TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

God writes His Laws on our Hearts

(Taken from Puzzles.about.com)

Trace the route to the center of the heart, where the Lord has inscribed His laws.





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 explain the importance of shedding blood when making a Covenant.
- To show that the Covenant offers many blessings and privileges.
- To motivate children to fulfill their Covenant responsibilities.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Genesis 15; Leviticus 17:11; Luke 13:10-17 (A Blood Covenant offers Privileges)



MEMORY VERSE

Leviticus 17:11 says, "... the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life."

1. God's Covenant is Established by Blood

Matthew 26:28: This is My blood, and with it God makes His agreement with you. It will be poured out, so that many people will have their sins forgiven.

Leviticus 17:11: Life is in the blood, and I have given you the blood of animals to sacrifice in place of your own.

2. God's Covenant Offers Blessings and Privileges in Daily Life

Luke 13:16: This woman belongs to the family of Abraham, but Satan has kept her bound for eighteen years. Isn't it right to set her free on the Sabbath?

God had made a Covenant-promise to Abraham, to take care of both him and his descendants.

He kept His promise **even after 1900 years**, when He healed the lady (a descendant of Abraham)!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Even after becoming part of God's Covenant, many Christians continue to suffer financial difficulties and sickness? Why don't they enjoy the Covenant-privileges promised in the Bible?

Luke 18:1: Jesus told his disciples a story about how they should keep on praying and never give up:

3. God's Covenant involves Responsibilities

We saw above, that God's Covenant offers us blessings and privileges, even after the passing of hundreds of years. Do you think that God's Covenant offers only blessings, or responsibilities as well?

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-LqkH37mKc&feature=related>

Duration: 3 minutes and 03 seconds

This is NOT a Christian video. It teaches that nobody is born with character; we have to build it up over time.

- **Does this apply to us who are part of God's Covenant? Doesn't the Bible teach that we have been "born again as a new creation?" So do we need to build our character, or has it already been supplied to us through God's Covenant?**
-
-
-
-
-

Romans 12:2: Don't be like the people of this world, but let

God change the way you think.
Then you will know how to do everything that is good and
pleasing to Him.

WHY is it important to renew our minds?

HOW do we 'renew' our minds?

First, _____

Second, _____

Third, _____

James 1:22 advises, "Obey God's message! Don't fool
yourselves by just listening to it.

Renewing our Minds helps us obey the
two greatest commandments;
It enables us to fulfill our responsibility
as Covenant -participants



APPLICATION

Some Covenant-Privileges I'd Like to Claim from the Lord:

John 15:15: Servants don't know what their master is doing, and so I don't speak to you as my servants. I speak to you as My friends, and I have told you everything that My Father has told me.

What privilege is this verse offering?

What I must do to claim this privilege:

1 John 1:9: ... if we confess our sins to God, He can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.

What privilege is this verse offering?

What I must do to claim this privilege:

Psalms 55:16: I ask for Your help, Lord God, and You will keep me safe.

What privilege is this verse offering?

What I must do to claim this privilege:

Matthew 6:31-33: Don't worry and ask yourselves, "Will we have anything to eat? Will we have anything to drink? Will we have any clothes to wear?" Only people who don't know God are always worrying about such things. Your Father in heaven knows that you need all of these. But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what He wants. Then the other things will be yours as well.

What privilege is this verse offering?

What I must do to claim this privilege:

Exodus 15:26: I am the Lord your God, and I cure your diseases. If you obey me by doing right and by following my laws and teachings, I won't punish you with the diseases I sent on the Egyptians.

What privilege is this verse offering?

What I must do to claim this privilege:

Psalms 32:8: You said to me, “I will point out the road that you should follow. I will be your teacher and watch over you.

What privilege is this verse offering?

What I must do to claim this privilege:

Jeremiah 29:11: I will bless you with a future filled with hope—a future of success, not of suffering. You will turn back to me and ask for help, and I will answer your prayers.

What privilege is this verse offering?

What I must do to claim this privilege:

Some Areas of My Life Where I Need to “Renew My Mind”
(Areas in which I still think just like worldly people).

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____

Some Covenant-Responsibilities Given to Us by the Lord

1. Our Responsibility Morally

Ephesians 4:31-32: Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don't yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.

What responsibility is this verse talking about?

Galatians 5:19, 21: People's desires make them give in to immoral ways, filthy thoughts, and shameful deeds ... I told you before, and I am telling you again: No one who does these things will share in the blessings of God's kingdom.

What responsibility is this verse talking about?

2. Our Responsibility to Christ and to the Local Church

Colossians 4:3-4: Be sure to pray that God will make a way for us to spread His message and explain the mystery about Christ, even though I am in jail for doing this. Please pray that I will make the message as clear as possible.

What responsibility is this verse talking about?

2 Corinthians 9:7: Each of you must make up your own mind about how much to give. But don't feel sorry that you must give and don't feel that you are forced to give. God loves people who love to give.

What responsibility is this verse talking about?

Hebrews 10:25: Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord's coming is getting closer.

What responsibility is this verse talking about?

Colossians 4:5-6: When you are with unbelievers, always make good use of the time. Be pleasant and hold their interest when you speak the message. Choose your words carefully and be ready to give answers to anyone who asks questions.

What responsibility is this verse talking about?

3. Our Responsibility to Put God First

Matthew 6:33: But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what He wants. Then the other things will be yours as well.

What responsibility is this verse talking about?



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

God's Promise to Abraham

Genesis 22:15-19 NIV

Because Abraham demonstrated complete trust in God the Lord restated His promise to Abraham. Complete the math problems to decode what God said to Abraham in Genesis 22:17,18.

A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, D = 4, E = 5, F = 6,

G = 7,

H = 8, I = 9, J = 10, K = 11, L = 12,

M = 13,

N = 14, O = 15, P = 16, Q = 17, R = 18,

S = 19, T = 20, U = 21, V = 22,

W = 23, X = 24. Y = 25, Z = 26



"I will surely _____ you and make

5-3 6+6 4+1 10+9 11+8

your _____

2+2 10-5 10+9 8-5 3+2 7+7 3+1 9-8 7+7 12+8 15+4

as numerous as the _____ in the

12+7 15+5 9-8 9+9 5+14

_____ and as the _____ on the

21-2 9+2 12+13 5+14 7-6 6+8 2+2

_____ . . . And through your

4+15 2+3 9-8 20-1 12-4 7+8 9+9 6-1

5+10 3+3 9-3 8+11 8+8 20-2 12-3 6+8 3+4

_____ nations on earth

3-2 14-2 4+8

will be _____ because

1+1 3+9 12-7 5+14 21-2 7-2 12-8

you have _____."

25-10 9-7 11-6 15+10 2+3 10-6 7+6 1+4



Biblical Covenants

The Blood Covenant



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To assure that God will never break His “Unbreakable Blood Covenant” with us.
- To discover all the privileges that belong to us through the Blood Covenant.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Romans 5:6-8; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Galatians 3:7-9; John 10:14-16 (Unbreakable Covenant)



MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 8:9: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

In a Blood Covenant, Two Persons Become ONE

The Blood Covenant was the exchange and the co-mingling of two lives so that the two lives became one. I stood accountable for the one with whom I had made a Covenant, and he stood accountable for me.

- **My life was his life.**
- **His life was my life.**

We blended the two together. So, if someone came against him, they came against me. If someone came against me, they came against him.

I had to protect him and he had to protect me ... **because he was now me, and I was him.**

The Oneness of the Covenant has two implications:

- ONE PERSON can't cut himself into half and say that he wants to become two persons. So a blood covenant was '**unbreakable.**' Once they entered the covenant and became one, they could no longer separate.
- Moreover, everything of the one, **now belonged to the other**—including gold, silver, cattle, etc.

We See These Elements Beautifully Mirrored in God's Covenant with Us

1. God's Blood Covenant is Unbreakable

Romans 5:6-8: Christ died for us at a time when we were helpless and sinful. No one is really willing to die for an honest person, though someone might be willing to die for

a truly good person. But God showed how much He loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful.

Jesus considered our lives as His life, and was willing to sacrifice EVERYTHING for us.

Now He wants us to consider our lives as His life, and be willing to sacrifice everything for Him!

2. Everything of the One, Now Belongs to the Other

John 15:13: The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them.

2 Corinthians 8:9: You know that our Lord Jesus Christ was kind enough to give up all His riches and become poor, so that you could become rich.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Jesus sacrificed His life on the Cross because He was not willing to break Covenant with Abraham and His descendants. He regarded their lives as His own, and He wanted to save them.

- **But we Indians are not Abraham’s descendants. So how can this beautiful Covenant and its benefits apply to us?**

“I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and they know me ... I have other sheep that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them together too, when they hear My voice. Then there will be one flock of sheep and one shepherd”
(John 10:14-16).

If God’s Covenant is ‘unbreakable’ does it mean that I’ll never lose my salvation, no matter how much I sin? Will the Covenant not break even if I commit a billion sins?

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rc7OFH5yKY>

Duration: 4 minutes and 30 seconds

God’s children cannot keep on being sinful. His life-giving power lives in them and makes them His children, so that they cannot keep on sinning. You can tell God’s children from the devil’s children, because those who belong to the devil refuse to do right or to love each other (1 John 3:9-10).

In a Blood Covenant, “everything of the one, now belongs to the other.” What did we receive from Christ as a result of this Covenant?

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).



APPLICATION

Today, we have seen the deep love that God has for us. Even when we broke our end of the Covenant, the Lord was not willing to disown us. He considered our lives as His own. He sacrificed Himself so that He could take all our sins and debts, and give us His blessings.

This being the case, in return, are we now willing to regard His life as our own, and submit everything to Him?

Here is a brief checklist that helps you determine whether or not you have submitted every area of your life to the Lord (Ask the children to tick the relevant column):

	Not submitted	Submitted to some extent	Submitted to a great extent
1	<p>I have submitted my body to the Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My eyes (what I watch and read, etc.) • My ears (music I listen to/ the conversations I have, etc.) • My hands (things I do) • My feet (places that I go), etc. 		
2	<p>I have submitted my pocket money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I spend carefully/wisely • I give to the needy • I give to the Kingdom of God etc. 		
3	<p>I have submitted my time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I spend enough time on Bible Study/ Prayer • I spend enough time on studies • I spend correct amount of time on sleep/rest • I make time to help my parents/family etc. 		

4	<p>I have submitted my friendships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't make close friendships with people who follow wrong values • I don't imitate my friends when they do sinful things • I try to be a friend to the needy etc. 			
5	<p>I have submitted to the godly authority placed over me</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I obey my parents in everything, always • I obey my teachers • I obey the rules of the government (traffic rules, etc.) 			
6	<p>I have submitted my character to the Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't lie, cheat, steal, etc. • I forgive those who hurt me • I don't display sinful anger etc. 			

True children of God will grow in obedience and submission every day.

If this isn't happening in your life every day, then check your heart to make sure whether you've truly entered into a covenant with the Lord.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Jesus Died for Us Anagram

(Taken from DLTK's Growing Together)

Hidden Word (Circled letters)



- a d e i l n _____
- a e l o p s s t _____
- a i o r s v _____
- a m n o r s _____
- c c f i i n o r u x _____
- c e e i n o r r r s t u _____
- e j s s u _____
- h n o r s t _____
- i c h t s r _____
- s c o r s _____



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class)

How I practised the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Biblical Covenants

Davidic and New Covenants



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show that God kept His Word and fulfilled the Covenant Promises made to David.
- To explain how the New Covenant is linked with the Davidic Covenant.
- To reflect on our response to the Son of David—as Citizens or Whitewashed Tombs.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Jeremiah 33:20-21; 2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17:11-14; 2 Chronicles 6:16 (Davidic Covenant)



MEMORY VERSE

2 Kings 8:19: Nevertheless, for the sake of His servant David, the Lord was not willing to destroy Judah. He had promised to maintain a lamp for David and His descendants forever.



BIBLE PASSAGES

2 Chronicles 6:16: You promised that someone from his family would always be king of Israel, if they do their best to obey you, just as he did.

Jeremiah 33:20-21: I, the Lord, have an agreement with day and night, so they always come at the right time. You can't break the agreement I made with them, and you can't break the agreements I have made with David's family ... A descendant of David will always rule as king of Israel ...

2 Samuel 7:12-13: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for My Name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**

1 Chronicles 17:12: He is the one who will build a house for Me, and I will establish his throne forever.

2 Samuel 7:16: **Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me;** your throne will be established forever.

Hebrews 1:8: But God says about his Son, "You are God, and you will **rule as King forever!**"

JEREMIAH'S PROPHECIES about FULFILLMENT of the DAVIDIC COVENANT

Backlash due to Sinfulness of the Israelites:

Jeremiah 32:4-5: King Zedekiah will be captured and taken to King Nebuchadnezzar, who will speak with him face to face. Then Zedekiah will be led away to Babylonia, where

he will stay until I am finished with him. So, if you people of Judah fight against the Babylonians, you will lose. I, the Lord, have spoken.

Jeremiah 30:14-15: Your friends have forgotten you; they don't care anymore. Even I have acted like an enemy. And **because your sins are horrible and countless**, I will be cruel as I punish you. So don't bother to cry out for relief from your pain.

The Lord's Covenant with David contained six promises:

- A Great Name (2 Samuel 7:9; 8:13)
- A Place for the People (v.10)
- Rest (v.11)
- A House (v.11)
- A Seed (v.12), and
- A Kingdom (v.13)

Fulfillment of Promises through the Messiah

Promise of a Great Name

Jeremiah prophesied that God would cause the nations to honour the House of David, in the future

- Jeremiah 30:19-20: Other nations will respect and honour you ... you will celebrate, singing praises to Me. It will be just like old times. Your nation will worship Me ...

Promise of a Place for the People

Jeremiah prophesied that God would re-establish the House of David in their own land.

- Jeremiah 30:3: Someday I will let my people from both Israel and Judah return to the land I gave their ancestors.

Promise of Rest

Jeremiah prophesied that God would provide the House of David with rest in the future.

- Jeremiah 31:2: In the desert ... **I gave them peace**, and when the time is right, I'll do the same for you. I, the Lord, have spoken.

Promise of a House

Isaiah prophesied that God would establish the House of David through the Messiah, the Son of David.

- Isaiah 16:4-5: ... The oppressor will come to an end, and destruction will cease; **the aggressor will vanish from the land**. In love a throne will be established; **in faithfulness a man will sit on it—one from the house of David**—one who in judging seeks justice and speeds the cause of righteousness.

Promise of a Direct Descendant

Jeremiah prophesied that God would provide a ruler who'd come directly from the House of David itself.

- Jeremiah 30:21: **One of your own people will become your ruler**. And when I invite him to come near Me at the place of worship, he will do so ...

Promise of a Kingdom

Jeremiah prophesied that God would re-establish the Kingdom of David.

- Jeremiah 30:8-9: ... but I will break the chains and smash the yokes that keep you in slavery. Then you will be my servants, and **I will choose a king for you from the family of David.**

THE RESPONSE TO THE MESSIAH

Due to Jeremiah's Prophecies, the Jews thought the Messiah would immediately form an army and attack the Romans, to re-establish the earthly throne of David.

None of them seemed to remember the words of prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah had prophesied that the Lord would form a New Covenant.

- Under the New Covenant, the first task would NOT be the restoration of the earthly Israelite kingdom.
- Rather, the first task would be restoration of the "hearts of the people" (Jeremiah 31:33).

Jeremiah 31:33:

Here is the NEW AGREEMENT that I, the Lord, will make with the people of Israel:

"I will write my laws on their hearts and minds ..."

Jesus, the Messiah, established this New Covenant through His sacrifice on the Cross. He died on the Cross so that we would be forgiven of all our sins, just as promised in Jeremiah 31:34.

- Jeremiah 31:34: ... I will forgive their sins and forget the evil things they have done.
- Zechariah 13:1: In the future there will be a fountain, where David's descendants and the people of Jerusalem can wash away their sin and guilt.

When the Jews realized that Jesus' immediate goal was to restore hearts rather than restore the earthly kingdom, many of them were very upset.

- They didn't like Jesus pointing out their sins to them. They didn't want their hearts changed. They were very comfortable with their selfishness, pride and rebelliousness.
- They just wanted to enjoy position and power in a powerful earthly kingdom.

Division between Jews and Christians

Ever since that time, there has been a great divide between the Jews and the followers of Jesus Christ (the term 'Christian' means "follower of Christ"—Acts 11:26).

- The Jews believe that Jesus is NOT the Messiah, as He failed to prove His Messiah-ship by restoring the earthly Kingdom of David.
- Christians believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah because He is able to fulfill both prophecies of Jeremiah (the prophecy that He would obtain forgiveness of sins for us; and the prophecy that he would establish the Kingdom of David).



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

One of the main arguments of the Jews is that the Messiah was supposed to establish a Kingdom.

- But Jesus did NOT seem to establish any Kingdom.
- So Jesus is not the Messiah.

How should we respond to this Jewish argument? Is what they're saying valid?

Video Presentation

Video Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNtBa_qwlho

Duration: 2 minutes and 19 seconds

Based on this video, would we still say that Jesus did NOT establish a Kingdom when He came to the earth?

If Jesus has occupied the throne of David to rule forever, WHERE exactly is His Kingdom located RIGHT NOW? Is it located today in the current State of Israel? Or is it located only in heaven?

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NtgjNLNpaoandfeature=related>

Duration: 3 minutes and 45 seconds

According to this video, where is the Kingdom of God today?

According to the video, Christians are “Citizens of the Kingdom of God.” Does this mean all Christians will go to heaven one day?

If I try to sincerely follow all that Jesus commands, will this make me a Citizen of God’s kingdom?



APPLICATION

Check your life to find out if you’re a **“Citizen of God’s Kingdom”** or a **“Whitewashed Tomb”**

Citizen of God’s Kingdom: A Citizen is clean both inside and out. They don’t pretend to holy on the outside, while hiding a lot of dirt on the inside.

Whitewashed Tomb: Whitewashed Tombs appear so holy on the outside that everybody praises them. But their hearts are filled with pride, self-centeredness, jealousy, and all kinds of evil.

Checklist:

- Do I read/watch/do things that I don't want others to know about? Are they things that Jesus would not like to watch/read/do? _____

- Am I the giving/helpful type? Or am I self-centered?

- Do I have a regular Quiet Time with the Lord? Is it truly effective, or do I simply do it as a ritual (Am I usually sleepy, distracted, or in a big hurry to finish it off)?

- Do I enjoy the friendship of people who're openly/secretly doing sinful things?
(The extent to which you enjoy their company, will reveal the extent to which your heart enjoys such things). _____
- Do I make a conscious effort to show "love in action" at home, by helping out, by restraining my anger, etc.? Or do I simply express love through words/cards (and not back them up with "love in action")? _____

- Do I pretend to be studying when I'm, in fact, doing other things? How often do I do this each week?

- Do I pretend to show respect to older people, and then speak badly about them behind their backs (especially teachers, parents, relatives, etc.).

- Do I pretend to forgive people, but continue holding a deep grudge inside my heart? _____

How you answer these questions will give you an idea of whether you're a true **Citizen of God's Kingdom** or a **Whitewashed Tomb**.

While skimming through the above list, you might have felt God specifically convicting you of certain things:

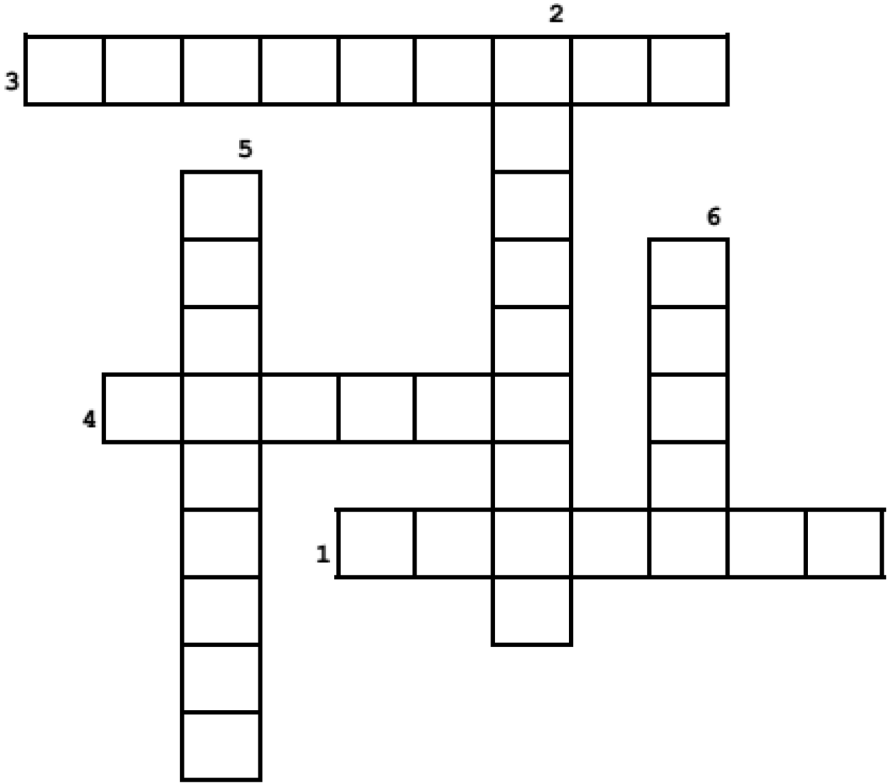
- If you genuinely repent of those things, and work towards overcoming them, it shows that you're a Citizen.
- A Whitewashed tomb, on the other hand, will feel sorry for a little while and then forget about it. They won't make an effort to submit to the Lord's prompting and change.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

God's Covenant with David

(Created by Crossword Puzzle Maker at www.GospelHall.org)



Refer to “2 Samuel 7:12-14” in the NIV Version, for the Clues:

When your days are over and you rest with your _____ (Clue 3), I will raise up your _____ (Clue 2) to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will _____ (Clue 5) His kingdom. He is the one who will _____ (Clue 6) a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of His _____ (Clue 1) forever. I will be His _____ (Clue 4), and He will be My son.



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class)

How I practised the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Biblical Covenants

Mosaic Covenant vs New Covenant



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain how the New Covenant is superior to the Old Covenant.
- To show that God made the New Covenant to establish a close friendship with us.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Exodus 29:45; Amos 5:21; Hebrews 8:6; Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Friendship with God)



MEMORY VERSE

Jeremiah 31:34: No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord.



BIBLE PASSAGES

Hebrews 9:22: The Law says that almost everything must be sprinkled with blood, and no sins can be forgiven unless blood is offered.

Amos 5:21: I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a **stench** to me.

AN INDIRECT FRIENDSHIP—Old Covenant

Exodus 29:45: I will live among you as your God.

God wanted to live with the people, the way a friend would ...

... but He had to protect them from the burning fire of His holiness which would consume them!

- So He appointed a High Priest who'd represent the people and make sacrifices on their behalf.

God wanted to talk to the people, the way a friend would ...

... But their sin-hardened hearts couldn't bear the mighty sound of His voice.

- So He appointed a Prophet who'd represent Him to the people and convey His messages to them.

Under the Old Covenant,
with the help of High Priests and Prophets,
God established an Indirect Friendship with His people.

A DIRECT FRIENDSHIP—New Covenant

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.

Jeremiah 31:31-32: The Lord said: The time will surely come when I will make a new agreement with the people ... It will be different from the agreement I made with their ancestors ... Although I was their God, they broke that agreement.

Promise 1: Imperfect Friends REPLACED by Perfect Friends

- V.33: I will write my laws on their hearts and minds ...

The Old Covenant people constantly broke their friendship promises by sinning against God. But now Jesus writes His law on our hearts.

He can supply us with both the desire and the power to stay committed to him (Philippians 2:13).

- So now we can draw as close to God as we wish.

Promise 2: Indirect Friendship REPLACED by Direct Friendship

- V.33: I will be their God, and they will be My people.

Human High Priests were imperfect because they were sinful people.

So they couldn't represent us perfectly and help us draw very close to God.

But Jesus is a perfect High Priest because He never sinned.

- So Jesus represents us perfectly before God, and is able to bring us as close to God as we wish.

Promise 3: Distant Friendship REPLACED by Close Personal Friendship

- V.34: No longer will they have to teach one another to obey me. I, the Lord, promise that all of them will obey Me, ordinary people and rulers alike.

Under the Old Covenant, God communicated with people through the Prophet.

So, the common people couldn't have direct, intimate conversations with the Lord.

However, under the New Covenant, we have the Holy Spirit living within us.

- So we can speak to God directly and informally, as though He is our own Father.

Promise 4: Guilt-ridden Friendship REPLACED by Guilt-free Comfortable Friendship

- V.34: For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

The sins of the Old Covenant people could only be 'covered' by the blood of animals. The blood of animals can't wash away sins.

So the people felt uncomfortable in the presence of a holy God.

But today Jesus' blood washes away our sins permanently!

- Today, when God looks at us, He doesn't see our sinfulness. He only smells the sweet smelling sacrifice that Jesus offered up on the Cross, on our behalf.

Because of the New Covenant
we can now have a guilt-free “stink-free” friendship
with the Lord

So the question is NOT,
“Is it possible to be friends with God?”

Rather the question is:

**Are you interested? Do you really want to be friends with
the Lord?**



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYaz96TVIJU>

Duration: 5 minutes and 50 seconds

**According to the video, what are some of the things we
need to do, to grow close to God?**

**Why do you think people say Bible-reading leads to a
close friendship with God? How can ‘reading’ lead to a
friendship?**

In a friendship, both friends talk. Can God really talk like a friend? If I say something to God, will He respond back with a reply? How?

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmvCKLWw5Vc&feature=relmfu>

Duration: 2 minutes and 41 seconds

According to this video, how does God respond back when we talk to Him?



APPLICATION

Jesus did not sacrifice His life on the Cross just to buy you a ticket to heaven. His main goal was to establish a close friendship with you.

- Close your eyes for a minute right now, and thank God for paying such a heavy price, just to be your friend.
- Make a commitment to spend time with Him, and hear from Him.

This week, maintain a record of the different ways God spoke to you (through a picture in your mind, through a song, through a Bible verse, etc.) Share these experiences with the rest of the class next Sunday.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

God Offered His Friendship at Mount Sinai

What are the Israelites staring at, on top of the mountain? **Trace the lines, and complete the object.** (Exodus 19:18 explains the identity of the object).

The object on the mountain is: _____

HINT: It's NOT a cloud





FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class)

How I practised the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Biblical Covenants

Ark of the Covenant



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach that the Ark also served as the throne of God where 'mercy' was provided.
- To explain that mercy is shown only to the repentant.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

1 Samuel Ch. 4; Joshua 3:10-11; Exodus 25:17; Exodus 25:22; Hebrews 10:26-27; Romans 2:4; 1 Samuel 7:3-4 (The Mercy Seat of God)



MEMORY VERSE

Words Scramble on Page 62 contains the Memory Verse.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why did Eli have a massive heart attack and die when he heard that the Ark had been captured?

- (Notice that the dying daughter-in-law didn't name her son "My family is dead." She was more worried about the Ark and named him "God's glory has left").

Why did the Israelites consider the Ark so important?

Joshua 3:10-13: ... the living God will be with you and will force them out of the land when you attack. And now, God is going to prove that He's powerful enough to force them out.

Just watch the sacred chest that belongs to the Lord, the ruler of the whole earth. As soon as the priests carrying the chest step into the Jordan, the water will stop flowing and pile up as if someone had built a dam across the river.

Exodus 25:17 calls the Ark a "Mercy Seat"? Why do you think the verse refers to the Box as a Seat?

Exodus 25:17: You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold ...

Exodus 25:22: There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the Ark of the Covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all My commands for the Israelites.

Mercy is the kindness shown to a person who doesn't deserve it. Why do you think the "Undeserving Israelites" didn't receive mercy on the battlefield, even though they carried the Mercy Seat with them?

Hebrews 10:26-27 says, "No sacrifices can be made for people who decide to sin after they find out about the truth. They are God's enemies, and all they can look forward to is a terrible judgment and a furious fire."

- Why does this verse seem to suggest that there is no mercy for undeserving people? Isn't it the very Purpose of Mercy to show forgiveness to the undeserving?

Video Presentation 1

Video Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_-mKcMPgxU

Duration: 1 minute and 37 seconds

Video Presentation 2

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6qt4qZUnWc&feature=related>

Duration: Please play only the first **1 minute and 15 seconds** (where the term ‘repentance’ is explained). The rest of the video is NOT relevant to our discussion.

Based on these two videos, now can you guess why the Israelite soldiers didn’t receive mercy even though they carried the “Mercy Seat” into the battlefield?

Romans 2:4: You surely don’t think much of God’s wonderful goodness or of His patience and willingness to put up with you. Don’t you know that the reason God is good to you is because He wants you to turn to Him?

1 Samuel 7:3: ... If you really want to turn back to the Lord, then prove it. Get rid of your foreign idols, including the

ones of the goddess Astarte. Turn to the Lord with all your heart and worship only Him. Then He will rescue you from the Philistines.”

Why do you think God is very particular that mercy be shown only to the repentant? Doesn't God love the unrepentant?



APPLICATION

The Lord does not change every few years. He is constant. He'll treat us today, the same way He treated those Israelite soldiers back then.

- Those who repent will be shown loads of mercy.
- But the unrepentant will not receive forgiveness or help.

Some Unconfessed Sins in My Life:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Get right with God, and enjoy the great power and privileges that are available at His throne.



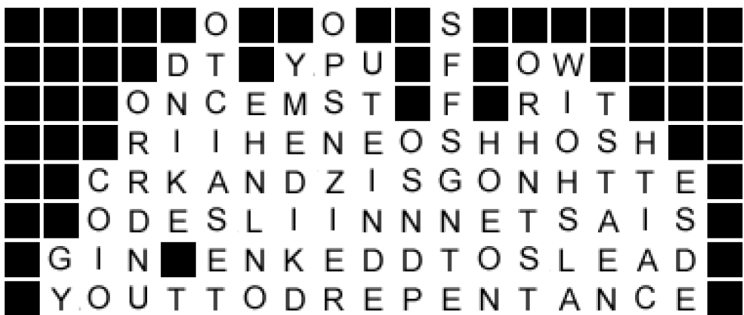
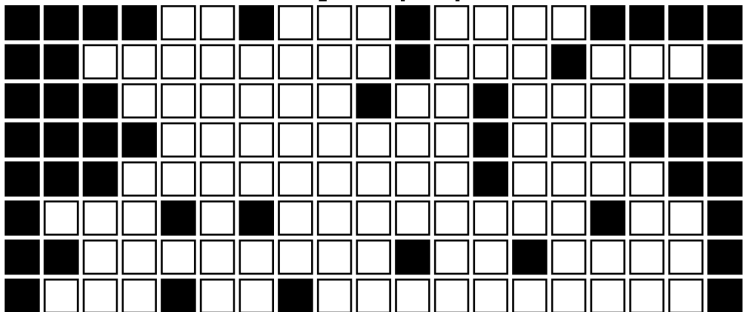
TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Memory Verse

(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.

Write down the Memory Verse:



Directions—Put the letters in the empty squares directly above them.

Romans 2:4: _____

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. _____



Biblical Covenants

God's Covenant and My Daily Life



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach about the “Communion Service” as a symbol of God’s Covenant.
- To explain our Covenant Responsibility towards other believers.
- To show how to participate in the Communion with the right attitude.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 10:16-22; 1 Corinthians 11:20-34 (The Lord’s Table)



MEMORY VERSE

Words Scrabble on Page 75 contains the Memory Verse.

COMMUNION—GOD’S COVENANT SYMBOL

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZpGxTzlt4sandfeature=fvsr>

Duration: 5 minutes and 30 seconds

The same way the wedding ring is a symbol of the marriage covenant, ‘Communion’ is the symbol of God’s Covenant with Us.

Matthew 26:28: “This is My blood of the Covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

In the video, when the little baby was unwrapped, what object was revealed?

Read Matthew 26:26 and explain what the bread represents.

Matthew 26:26: During the meal Jesus took some bread in His hands. He blessed the bread and broke it. Then He gave it to His disciples and said, “Take this and eat it. This is My body.”

Next read 1 Corinthians 10:17 and explain what the bread represents.

1 Corinthians 10:17: Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

In the video, what was poured out on the Cross?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:16 and explain what the Wine represents.

1 Corinthians 10:16: When we drink from the cup that we ask God to bless, isn't that sharing in the blood of Christ?

Next read Matthew 26:28 and explain what the Wine represents.

Matthew 26:28: "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

List down the two things that the Communion Bread represents.

1. _____

2. _____

List down the two things that the Communion Wine represents.

1. _____

2. _____

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COMMUNION SERVICE

Read 1 Corinthians 11:18 and explain why Paul was upset with the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 11:18: I am told that you can't get along with each other when you worship, and I am sure that some of what I have heard is true.

How did their divisiveness affect their participation in the Lord's Supper? Read 1 Corinthians 11:20-21 and explain.

1 Corinthians 11:20-21: When you meet together, you don't really celebrate the Lord's Supper. You even start eating before everyone gets to the meeting, and some of you go hungry, while others get drunk.

According to 1 Corinthians 10:17, WHY do we share one single loaf?

1 Corinthians 10:17: By sharing in the same loaf of bread, we become one body, even though there are many of us.

According to 1 Corinthians 11:27, what are we guilty of, if we don't maintain love and oneness?

1 Corinthians 11:27: But if you eat the bread and drink the wine in a way that isn't worthy of the Lord, you sin against His body and blood.

What are the consequences if we sin against the Lord, by not maintaining love and unity? Read 1 Corinthians 11:29-30 and explain.

1 Corinthians 11:29-30: If you fail to understand that you are the body of the Lord, you will condemn yourselves by the way you eat and drink. That's why many of you are sick and weak and why a lot of others have died.

Jesus' body was broken to make all of us whole. His broken body was meant to unite all of us into one family. The Lord's Supper was supposed to be a visible demonstration of this love, sacrifice, unity and holiness:

- The people participating in the Supper were supposed to show the same kind of love that He did.
- They were supposed to make sacrifices for one another, the same way He did.

- They were supposed to be united together like one single loaf of bread.
- They were supposed to be holy and pure, just like their Saviour.

Instead of demonstrating these things, the Corinthians had turned the Lord's Supper into a competition:

- Those who could bring the most grand dishes were honoured the most.
- Those who brought the costliest wine had the highest social status.
- The rich shared with their friends, and didn't bother to share with those they disliked.
- Nobody bothered to share with the poor because they couldn't give anything in return.
- As a result, the poor gathered in a corner by themselves, feeling very ashamed that they couldn't bring enough food for the "Potluck."
- These poor people went home hungry because nobody shared with them.
- The rich went home drunk, after gulping down all the expensive wine.

The Lord was disgusted to see the people 'celebrating' His Blood Covenant in this repulsive manner.

So He withdrew His protection from them. As a result, many came down with diseases, and some even died!

So Paul advised them saying, "... when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment" (1 Corinthians 11:33).



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why do you think we must participate in the Communion Service? Is it really necessary?

How do you think today's lesson about 'Unity' can be applied to the Sunday Communion Service?"

1 Corinthians 11:29 says, "For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves." What does it mean to "discern the body of Christ?"

How should members of “one family” behave toward one another?

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3OW9wr0tQo>

Duration: 2 minutes and 25 seconds

According to this video, how should members of “one family” behave toward one another?

Do they “lay down their lives” only when the “cost is less?”

To what extent do I have to be loving toward a rude, unloving believer? What does Matthew 5:21-22 say about this?

Matthew 5:21-22: You know that our ancestors were told, "Do not murder" and "A murderer must be brought to trial." But I promise you that if you are angry with someone, you will have to stand trial. If you call someone a fool, you will be taken to court. And if you say that someone is worthless, you will be in danger of the fires of hell.

Is it okay to take Communion if another believer is not on good terms with me? Read Matthew 5:23-24 and answer.

Matthew 5:23-24: So if you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God.

What will happen if I take Communion while having an unloving attitude towards another believer? Read 1 Corinthians 11:30 and answer.

1 Corinthians 11:30: That’s why many of you are sick and weak and why a lot of others have died.



APPLICATION

What was the Opening Question in the video?

- Approximate number of ‘Sacrifices’ I make in a day:

- Approximate number of “Comfort Choices” I make in a day: _____

Some Covenant Privileges that I’m going to consciously claim through Prayer:

(Detailed List is given in Lesson 2 of the Student Workbook).

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

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

(Detailed List is given in Lesson 2 of the Student Workbook).

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



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

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

1 - EHEESMLVST

		○		○					
--	--	---	--	---	--	--	--	--	--

2 - UHOT IWT

			○					
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--

3 - DNJTEUMG

		○	○			○	
--	--	---	---	--	--	---	--

4 - SCIHRT

○		○	○		
---	--	---	---	--	--

5 - NIRKD

			○	
--	--	--	---	--

Copy the circled letters into the blanks below and unsort the final word.

○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The words above will fit into the following sentence:

1 Corinthians 11:29: those who eat and _____ (Clue 5) _____ (Clue 2) _____ (Clue 6) the body of _____ (Clue 4) eat and _____ (Clue 5) _____ (Clue 3) on _____ (Clue 1)

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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