

Teacher's Supplement - Covenants

PROCEDURE

Motivation/Introduction

Prior to class: Write the word 'covenant' on the board and the following definitions for 'covenant,' and cover until ready to present:

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary
n. 1 A formal, solemn, and binding agreement 2 a: a written agreement or promise usu. under seal between two or more parties esp. for the performance of some action

v. to promise by a covenant: PLEDGE: CONTRACT

Author's definition: a set of requirements and conditions essential to an agreeable and beneficial relationship between two parties. These agreements may include people, land, or nations but most important, between God and man. A covenant establishes a formal relationship with God.

In class: Q: What is a covenant? How does it compare to a pledge or promise?

1. Uncover the definitions on the board and ask participants to compare their responses to the dictionary definitions.
2. Lead them to adopt a definition that is compatible with the ones on the board.
3. Emphasize the gravity of the terms used to define covenant, such as, 'solemn,' 'formal,' 'binding,' 'pledge,' 'contract,' and 'under seal'.

Q: How seriously should covenants be regarded?

Q: How would you define 'unilateral' covenant? Define 'bilateral' covenant?

- ✓ Write terms and definitions on the board:

Unilateral → agreement binding one of the parties;

Bilateral → affecting reciprocally two sides or parties

Q. What are some examples of 'unilateral' and 'bilateral' covenants?

- Unilateral – God's promise to Noah to not destroy the whole earth by flood.
- Bilateral - Wedding and baptismal covenants, contractual agreements...

Q: How long are covenants meant to last?

Lesson Development

Everlasting Covenant Between God and Abraham

Assignment 1 : Describe God's covenant with Abraham and (a) **explain what God promised to Abraham** and (b) what Abraham was required to do.

Supportive scriptures:

Genesis12:

[1]Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

[2]**And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:**

[3]**And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

Genesis13:

[14] And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

[15] **For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.**

[16] **And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth:** so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

[17] Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give unto thee.

Genesis17:

[1] And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

[2]**and I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.**

[4] As for me, behold, **my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.**

[7] **And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee, in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.**

[8] **And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.**

[9] And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

[10] This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

[11] And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

[12] And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

[13] He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

[14] And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

Everlasting Covenant Extends to Isaac

Assignment 2. Describe God's covenant with Isaac, and (a) tell **what God promised to Isaac** and (b) **what was required of Isaac to keep the covenant.**

Supportive scriptures:

Genesis 26:

[1] And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.

[2] And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:

[3] **Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed. I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father.**

[4] **And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed:**

[5] Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes and my laws.

Everlasting Covenant Extends to the Children of Israel

Assignment 3. Describe God's covenant with the children of Israel in Moses' time, and (a) **tell what God promised to them** and (b) **what was required of the children of Israel to keep the covenant.**

Supportive scriptures:

Exodus 6:

[4] **And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.**

[5] And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

[6] Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and **I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments.**

[7] **And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God:** and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians,

[8] **And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD”**

Exodus 19:

[3] And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

[4] Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

[5] Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

[6] **And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.** These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Reason for a New Covenant

Assignment 4. Why did God establish a new covenant with the house of Israel? Compare the terms of the new covenant with the old - what is the same? What is different?

Supportive scriptures:

Jeremiah 31:

[31]Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, **that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.**

[32] Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

[33]But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

Hebrews 8:

[7] For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

[8]**For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:**

[9]Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

[10]For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:**

[11]And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

[12] **For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**

[13] In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

Suggestions/Scriptures for Further Study/ Exploration/ Extension of Topic

- Using scriptural examples, identify why groups or individuals violate their covenants with God and apply to modern day. Discuss how we can be faithful to our covenants with the Lord.
- Discuss how one can prepare for entering into covenants such as marriage or baptism.

Church Education Lessons

- The Divine Commission of The Church of Jesus Christ (Restoring Israel to Righteousness)
- Righteousness

Covenants Word Search Solutions

C + R + R + S + + + + N T +
+ O + E + E + H R + + E N + +
H + M + M + H E A + T E + R +
O + + M + E S T + R M + + E S
L T W O A P M + A E E + + H R
Y + + + E N + B E F T + P T O
+ + + C + + D R E R + + R O B
+ + T + + + G M A R + + O M H
H O N O R A + E E + + + M + G
E S O O H C H E V N L + I G I
+ + + + + + + L + T L S O E
E V O L + + + + + U A S E D N
C O V E N A N T + W R + + + +
+ + + + + + + S + + + + + +
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(Over, Down, Direction)

AGREEMENT (6, 9, NE)

CHOOSE (6, 10, W)

COMMANDMENTS (1, 1, SE)

COVENANT (1, 13, E)

FATHER (10, 6, NW)

GOD (14, 10, S)

HEART (7, 10, NE)

HOLY (1, 3, S)

HONOR (1, 9, E)

LAWS (12, 11, SW)

LOVE (4, 13, W)

MOTHER (14, 8, N)

NEIGHBORS (15, 13, N)

PROMISE (13, 6, S)

REMEMBER (3, 1, SE)

RESPECT (3, 8, NE)

RULE (11, 13, NW)

SHARE (7, 1, SE)

TEN (11, 3, NE)

TWO (2, 5, E)