

Lesson #15  
Hebrews 8:1-13  
February 4, 2015

Do you remember when we talked about promises? A promise is really doing what you say. God is the perfect promise keeper! He can never lie or go back on His promise. Today we are going to learn about a special type of promise that God made. It is called a “covenant.” God’s covenants are promises between Him and His people. In the book of Hebrews, the writer explains two covenants. One is “old” and is described as the promise before Jesus was born. The other is “new” and came when Jesus was born.

Let’s look at the old covenant first. The old covenant came with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. When you think of Noah what comes to mind? (*Let them answer.*) Right! The ark, the flood, and the animals...What about Abraham? Remember the song “Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham, I am one of them and so are you, so let’s all praise the Lord.” (*You can sing it together.*) How about Moses? He said to Pharaoh, “Let my people go!” Through Moses God divided the Red Sea and the people were set free from slavery. And then there was David. Remember David and the giant Goliath? David became King David and He had great love for God. Wow! Those were some amazing people. God did great things through them. And through them, God made a covenant with all the people who loved and followed Him.

God’s covenant was that the people would live forever with Him IF they obeyed His commands. There is one thing a bit different between a promise and a covenant. A promise is like this: “I will do what I say no matter what you do.” But, a covenant is: “I will do what I promise IF you do what you promise.” A covenant is an agreement between two people. Both people are required to do something in order for the covenant to work. *Write the word IF on the board.* Did you hear the old covenant? God promised that His people and His Kingdom would last forever— IF the people obeyed His commands. They agreed, but were the people able to follow all of God’s commands? Did they do what they said they’d do?

Well, in Jeremiah 11:7-8 in the Bible it says, “From the time I brought your ancestors up from Egypt until today I warned them again and again, saying ‘Obey Me’. But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubbornness of their evil hearts. So I brought on them all the curses of the covenant I had commanded them to follow but that they did not keep.” OH NO! The people didn’t keep their promise. They failed to keep the old covenant. But there is good news! A second chance!

When Jesus was born, God made a new covenant through His son. This new covenant is found in John 3:16. It says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Jesus’ sacrifice made a way for us to live forever with God in His kingdom. AMEN! We need to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, sent to save us from our sins.

There are things that we do to remind us of this amazing new covenant with God. One is when we take communion. *(You can bring in the elements and show the kids how we take communion.)* It is when we get a piece of bread and a small plastic cup of grape juice and we eat and drink it all together. This is so we remember the day that Jesus died for us on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. The bread represents Jesus' body that was broken for us. The juice represents Jesus' blood that was shed for us. Because of what Jesus did, we have a NEW covenant with God. We can live with God forever, if we believe Jesus is God's son and died in our place and came back to life to make a way for us to be with God. It is all Jesus! God made a NEW way for us to be with Him!

Let's pray. "Thank you, God, that You want to be with us. Thank You for Your covenant to us. Thank You for Your son, Jesus, and His way to a right relationship with You. Help us to follow You and to believe in Jesus. Amen."

**Bible Verse: "By calling this covenant 'new,' He has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear." Hebrews 8:13**

Grow At Home #15  
Hebrews 8:1-13  
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Today the children learned these God facts:

- The “old” covenant is described as God’s promise before Jesus was born.
- The “new” covenant was given when Jesus was born.

**Live It Out:** A covenant was a special kind of promise God made to His people. A promise is: “I will do what I say no matter what you do.” But, a covenant is: “I will do what I promise IF you do what you promise.” A covenant is an agreement between two people. God’s people weren’t able to keep their side of the Old Covenant, but God loved them (and us) so much that He provided a second chance (the New Covenant) in His son Jesus. Because of what Jesus did on the cross for us, our sins can be forgiven and we can have a relationship with God!

Celebrate the New Covenant with your child. Make a special meal or dessert and declare it a celebration for God’s gift of Jesus. Have your child make a thank you card for Jesus and display it in your house as a reminder to the whole family that the New Covenant is something to celebrate and be thankful for every day.

**Prayer:** “Thank you, God, that You want to be with us. Thank You for Your covenant to us. Thank You for Your son, Jesus, and His way to a right relationship with You. Help us to follow You and believe in Jesus. Amen.”

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