



Week 3
Discipleship Study
Questions



Covenants

From the dawn of creation to the coming of Christ, God's story is marked by unbreakable promises that reveal His love, faithfulness, and desire for a relationship with us. In this Advent season as we prepare our hearts for Christmas, we will journey through the Bible's five major covenants—starting with Noah and ending with the New Covenant in Christ. Each week, we'll uncover how God's promises have shaped history – and our own individual faith as well. Across centuries and through different people, each of these covenants points to Jesus and continues to give us hope today.

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

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Background: After 430 years of slavery in Egypt, God's people have been set free and they are en route to the land promised to their ancestor Abraham. Under Moses' leadership, the Israelites now must learn what it means to live as the chosen people of the Great I Am. God gives the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai, and Moses shares it with the people. Unlike the covenants made with Noah and Abraham, however, this covenant is a two-way street – Israel has some responsibilities that they need to fulfill in order to receive God's blessings.

Read: Exodus 19:1-8, Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

Digging Deeper:

How could Israel trust that God would fulfill His covenant promise?

What was Israel's responsibility in this covenant? What was "their end of the bargain"?

What would happen if Israel fulfilled their obligations in the covenant?

What would happen if Israel did not fulfill their obligations in the covenant? What would it look like when they were not living out the covenant promise?

How does God feel about the nation of Israel?

End this time with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, you are a faithful God and you keep your promises. Unfortunately, we are sinners and we do not remain faithful. Thank you for being a God of grace and mercy. We don't need to earn your love by being perfect – you love us as we are and the blood of your Son covers our sins. We can't earn your favor, and we don't deserve it, but you give it anyway. Praise to You, Father. In Jesus' name, Amen.