

*I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind.*

*- Genesis 9:15*

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term Sunday Club will be looking at the different covenants of the Bible. As we have finished celebrating Easter and the new covenant, this is a great time to go back to the beginning and look at all God's covenants.

Looking back at the covenants made in the Old Testament helps us to understand why the new covenant with Jesus is so important and why we should be thankful that we are a part of it. Humans in their sin failed in upholding their part of the covenants. Jesus in His perfection fulfilled the Old Testament Covenant obligations. As we look at each of the Old Testament covenants we will be looking to the new covenant which we partake in.

This week we are recapping what Jesus achieved at Easter, what a covenant is and the Covenant God made with Noah and creation.

If you have children in more than one age group, can I please encourage you to pick one program that you feel works best for all your children's ages and complete that together as a family.

Blessings,  
Jess

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<b>Topic:</b>	Covenants of the Bible – Noah and God's Faithfulness
<b>Sessions Aim:</b>	Children will learn the meaning of the word covenant and learn about God's first covenant with Noah and the whole of creation.
<b>Bible Passage:</b>	Genesis 8:18 – 9:17

#### **A Time of Prayer**

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Come together in a time of prayer with your children. Everyone can share something they would like to pray for or share a God Story. These are stories of where we have been able to see God at work in our lives or each other's lives during this week.

Dear God,  
Thank you for the promises that you have given us,  
For the New Covenant that we have in Jesus.  
We thank you for our schools, that we can learn from home.  
Please help us today have open ears and hearts to learn from your word and Spirit.  
Amen

### **Worship Songs**

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Please spend some time listening and singing to your family's favourite worship songs. This may have already been done in the worship period of Oaktree's service.

Below are a few suggestions for worship songs with actions. Please feel free to use any other songs which your children know.

- Holy Spirit Build Me Up [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P\\_MYrHdoVZE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_MYrHdoVZE)
- Our God is a Great Big God  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EajUa4C\\_HLE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EajUa4C_HLE)
- Who's the King of the Jungle?  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_pCirKZr8QY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_pCirKZr8QY)

### **Easter Recap Game**

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1: Parents collect five to eight random objects from around your home.

2: Over Holy Week we looked at four major events. Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), Passover, Good Friday and the Empty Tomb.

The challenge of this game is that your children now need to find connections between these random items and the Easter story. Your children need to pick four of the items, one for each major event. They then need to use this item to explain and illustrate the significance of the event.

For example: if you had a clothes peg, your child could explain Palm Sunday or Good Friday. The pegs remind us the people laid their cloaks down for Jesus because they welcomed him as a King. The significance is that the people thought Jesus was going to save them from the Romans but Jesus actually had come to save them from their sins.

Pegs could also be used to explain Good Friday. Pegs are used to hang up clothes and Jesus was hung up on a cross. The significance of Good Friday is that Jesus was hanging on the cross all of the world's sins were laid upon him and he paid the price for these sins.

If you have younger children try to pick items that can more easily be connected with the Easter Story.

### **What is a Covenant**

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1: Find a comfortable place to complete this worship session with your children. They might like to have a drink and a snack.

2: Ask your children what they think the word covenant means. They may like to give some examples from the Bible or compare them to things we have today.

If they are unsure on what it means, ask them what they would normally do when they come across a new word?

When we come across new words in the Bible it is important that we try and find out what they mean. If your child comes across a word in the Bible they don't know it is good for them to ask you to explain it to them or a Sunday Club teacher.

4: The points below help us to understand what a covenant is.

1. A covenant is like a partnership with God. God makes promises to his people to bring us blessings.
2. God is always the one who starts these promises, agreements, or covenants. They are between Himself and a person or group of people.
3. A covenant can be conditional or unconditional
  - a. Ask your children what they think the difference is?
  - b. Unconditional – Humans don't have a response to the promise
  - c. Conditional – Humans need to play a part as well
4. How do we know God's covenants are reliable?
  - a. Because when we read the Bible we learn that God is good, his character is good.
5. Covenants are for God's glory and for our good.

### **Bible Time**

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1: Have your children find Genesis 8 in their Bibles. Encourage them to use the contents page to help them learn their way around their Bibles.

Either you or one of your children pray for God's Spirit to be at work in our hearts revealing His meaning.

You or your children reads Genesis 8:18 – 9:17.

2: After reading the passage ask your children for one thing they found, surprising, or cool, or they were unsure about.

Talk with them about why they found it interesting or help to explain the parts they didn't understand.

3: Discuss the following points with your children.

1. God keeps His promise

We all know the story of Noah and the Ark and here is an optional video if you would like to recap: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wbfp7fzhj4Y>

Genesis 6:5-6 tells us that *"The Lord saw how bad the people on earth were and that everything they thought and planned was evil. He was very sorry that he had made them."* This number of bad things in the world was why God flooded the world – to start again.

When God made the Covenant with Noah he knew that humans would stuff up again and there would be corruption in the world. But God remembers his promise. He continues to bless his creation and never again flood the entire world.

2. God made an amazing promise, what did humans have to do in response?

Nothing – this is the example of an unconditional covenant. God is the one making the promise and to be faithful to it knowing that humans haven't learnt or changed.

3. What do we learn about God's character from this Covenant?

God is **Faithful**: God keeps his promise. We don't always keep our promises to God, in fact we fall short a lot. That doesn't change God's mind on keeping his promises.

God is **Love**: God shows unconditional love. He was hurt by his people that he created, but still promised not to repeat total destruction with a flood.

## Application

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1: God is faithful to his covenantal promises; how can I be more faithful to God.

We make promises to God that we will follow Him, live according to his commandments, love one another. To be talking to God through prayer, reading His word, listening to what God is saying.

This week how can we be more faithful to God?

Spend some time praying with your children for the Spirit's guidance on how they can do this, this week.

## Craft

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1: This particular covenant has a sign to remind both us and God of His promise. That every time after rain there is a rainbow in the sky reminding us that God will never again flood the entire world.

*I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant for all generations.*

2: Every day we enjoy the blessings of this covenant in God's creation around us, that he will not destroy it all again.

Go around your house and find objects that are in the different colours of the rainbow. If you can find them all outside in God's creation that will be great if not use objects from inside the house.

Sort all the objects into the different colours of the rainbow and organise them in an arc or rainbow shape.

3: If you are using small objects that you are happy to use glue on, glue the objects onto some paper and write the above Bible verse.

4: Depending on your resources there are lots of different ways you could make a rainbow. Including different science experiments which are easily found online. You could even try and bake a rainbow cake. Please be as creative as you can with how you build your rainbow.

Have your rainbow somewhere visible in the house to remind children of God's faithfulness to his promises and also to encourage us in our faithfulness to God.