



*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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**Topic:** Covenants of the Bible – Noah and God's Faithfulness  
**Sessions Aim:** Children will learn the meaning of the word covenant and learn about God's first covenant with Noah and the whole of creation.  
**Bible Passage:** 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.  
Father help us to live a life that is pleasing to you.  
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.

To help get out some energy before the session. While the worship songs are playing encourage your children to be active in their praising of God. They make like to dance, or do jumping jacks anything that keeps them physically active while you worship God.

### **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.

The more random the items the more creative your children will have to be in explaining the connection with Easter.

## 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.

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 initiates 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. They are backed by the good character of God.
5. Covenants are for God's glory and for our good.

When we think of Covenants in the Bible while we remember all of this we have to remember they are more than just a promise or agreement. These normally happen between two equal parties, but we are not equal with God. While we have a response in the covenants we are something called the beneficiaries. This is a fancy way of saying we are the ones who receive. These are for our good and for our blessing.

## Bible + Discipleship Questions

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1: Watch the following video from the Bible Project on Covenants.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ferLlsvlml>

2: 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: To encourage children to look more deeply into the passage ask them the following questions. It is good to ask these sorts of questions every time you read from the Bible.

- What's one thing that stood out to them or surprised them?
  - Why?
- Are there any repeated words or phrases?
  - If yes, why do they think that might be important?
- Is there anywhere else in the Bible where we read similar things?
- What has happened earlier in this book, what happens after?
  - God created the world and it was good. But now things have gone terribly wrong.
  - After this, people still rebel against God, but God keeps his promise.

This process can be made easy by having a printed version of the passage in order to write notes and highlight key phrases. If you don't have access to a printer you can also copy the passage into a word document. Bible Gateway is a great place to electronically find passages, <https://www.biblegateway.com>

3: Discuss the following points with your children.

1. God keeps His promise

We all know the story of Noah and the Ark really well. 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 amount of evil and sin 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 floods 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 via 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.

With your children try and build a rainbow. Below are some links to some websites which have different science experiments to build a rainbow.

- For this rainbow you will need: a glass of water, white paper, and a torch  
<https://www.funology.com/make-a-rainbow/>
- This website has a number of ways to create a rainbow  
<http://onetimethrough.com/how-to-make-rainbows-at-home/>
- This is a density rainbow. Adding different amount of sugar to water will prevent colours from missing allowing you to build a rainbow  
<https://www.rookieparenting.com/sugar-water-rainbow-density-and-air-pressure-experiment/>

If you and your children enjoy baking. You could attempt to make a rainbow cake.

If you have children interested in making jewellery they could make friendship bracelets using the colours of the rainbow.

If your children have lego, you could encourage them to build the tallest rainbow they can.

3: The application for this week is how we can show our faithfulness to God. To help children with this, have them write on little bits of paper different ways they can show their faithfulness or reminders of God's promises to encourage them. It might be a different prayer point, different parts of the bible to read that day, or ways to love their family or neighbour. They could also write the two greatest commandments reminding them what God asks of us.

Find a box or jar for them to decorate. They then can place all their tasks or reminders in this and select one each day. Make sure it is kept somewhere easy for them to see each day.