



Now if you will faithfully obey me, you will be my very own people. The whole world is mine, but you will be my holy nation and serve me as priests.

- Exodus 19:5-6

Dear Parents/Carers,

So far in our covenants series we have looked at the covenant with Noah where God promised to never flood the entire world again. Last week we learnt about the promises that God made in his covenant to Abraham. For land, a great nation and to be a blessing to all. This week we see God continuing the promises made to Abraham in the covenant he makes with the great nations of Israel. A nation which came from Abraham and Sarah. This Mosaic Covenant includes the Ten Commandments.

At the end of each session is an application for your children to put what they have learnt into practice. Throughout the week it is useful to check in with them to see how this is going.

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.

I would love to hear from you the creative ways in which your children use the application section during the week.

Blessings,

Jess

Topic: Covenants of the Bible – Promises to the great nation of Israel
Sessions Aim: Children will learn about the promises God made through the Mosaic Covenant, Israel's commitment to the covenant and the commandment we need to follow today.
Bible Passage: Exodus 19:5-6 and 20:1-17

A Time of Prayer

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 Heavenly Father,
Thank you for making us your chosen people,
Your royal priesthood, your holy nation, your special possession.
Father please help us to shout out your praises and your name so that other's will know who you are.
Let your Spirit shine out from us being a light to the world.
Amen

Worship Songs

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 may like to dance, or do jumping jacks anything that keeps them physically active while you worship God.

Recap of Last Week and the Game without Rules

1: Before today's game ask your children about the first two covenants of the Bible. Ask for them to give any details they can remember as well as checking in with how their application has been going. See if your children can explain to you what a covenant is. Ask your children if they know of any of the other covenants in the Bible.

Below is the Bible Project video on covenants. We watched this the first week of this series but please watch it again to remind children of what a covenant is and why they are important.

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

2: Play a Game without Rules.

When we play sports or a board game rules are important. While we sometimes complain about rules if you tried to play without them it would be chaotic and very difficult to play.

Pick your families favourite game and try to play with absolutely no rules. Each person can make up their own way to win. This might be monopoly, as there are no rules someone could choose to go the other way around the board hitting the high value properties first, or choose that passing GO you get \$500 instead of \$200.

If you have more active children you could go outside and play a ball game. If you enjoy soccer, one person would be able to pick the ball up and run to the goal or someone could tackle them on the way. It would be very difficult to score a goal and have anyone end up a winner.

You most likely won't be able to finish before it descends into complete chaos allow about 5 to 10 minutes to play the game.

Rules in the game are super important, they are what allow us to reach the end of the game or to have a winner. When God gave his people the Ten Commandments he told them if they keep their commitment to His rules He would keep his promises in this Covenant.

Bible + Discipleship Questions

1: Have your children find Exodus 19 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 Exodus 19:5-6 and 20:1-17.

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?
 - 'You shall not' is repeated frequently in this passage, do you think this is God being mean with too many rules, or setting clear instructions on how to keep their commitment to this covenant?
- Is there anywhere else in the Bible where we read similar things?
 - The Israelites very quickly break their commitment to this Covenant. In Deuteronomy 5:6-21 Moses goes through the Ten Commandments again.
- When we look at the Old Testament we can think about if we see this repeated in the New Testament?
 - Jesus gives us a new commandment in Matthew 22:37-39

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.

In Last week's Covenant, God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have so many children and they would become a great nation. We saw that God started this promise with the birth of their son Isaac.

This week Abraham's children have become the great nation of Israel. When we remember what a covenant is, God makes promises to His people and they make commitments to God. Below are the three promises of this Covenant. Israel's commitment to this Covenant was to follow the Ten Commandments.

1. Israel will be God's treasured possession

The nation of Israel is to be God's chosen special people.

2. Israel will be a kingdom of priests

The priests of Israel had a very special role. In the Old Testament priests were the ones who could come really close to God. The whole nation is given the blessing of being close to God.

3. Israel will be a holy nation

Last year the children learnt that the word Holy means to be set apart for God. The nation of Israel was going to be different from all the other nations – different in a good way.

Exodus 19:5-6 shows us that for Israel to receive these promises they had to follow the rules that God was giving them. As you keep reading your Bibles you see that Israel didn't do the best job at keeping their commitments in this Covenant. But no need to fear, in a few weeks we will look at the last covenant where we see Jesus as the perfect human who kept all of God's laws.

Application

1: Jesus has given us a commandment to follow - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. And love others as much as you love yourself."

We need to put God as the number one and most important thing in our lives. Help your children come up with a way that they can practice having God as their number one. It is important that we find time to spend with God throughout each day.

Craft

1: The second part of the great commandment in Matthew's gospel is 'to love others as ourselves.'

There are lots of different ways that we can show our love for each other. You might want to help mum and dad clean up or cook dinner one night. At the end of this document is a colouring in page from Illustrated Ministries. Your children can decorate this page and then send it to a family member or friend to let them know you are thinking of them during this time.

Alternatively, you can encourage your children to create something for a particular person and send a photo to them. It may be a drawing of your family, a Lego creation, or something special they bake.

The aim of this is to practice showing love to others, loving them just as much as we love ourselves.

THINKING OF YOU • COLOR & SHARE

Physical distancing is hard, isn't it? We don't get to see our friends, our grandparents, our extended family. When you miss your friends from school, your church friends, and your work friends, what ways do you let them know you're thinking of them during this challenging COVID-19 time?

One way you can let them know is by using this "Thinking of You" coloring page (adapted from one of our digital greeting cards). Print this sheet and color and cut out the "Thinking of You" coloring page below. Then take a picture of it and text it to a friend, or email it, or share it on social media. Maybe you could send one to a school teacher, or a Sunday School teacher, and let them know you are thinking of them. Or maybe your piano teacher. Or your grandparents, or other significant grown-ups in your life. However you use it, we hope you enjoy bringing some color and hope into someone's day.

