

*'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.
- Jeremiah 31:31*

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week is our final session in the covenant series looking at the New Covenant. Jesus in His perfection fulfilled all the commitments of the Old Testament. Hebrews says how superior this covenant is compared to the old. What is important in this covenant is the implications that it has for us today as Christians. We are members of this covenant and the promises are ours!

I hope that you have enjoyed teaching your children God's word as you have worked through the covenants with them. Discipleship in the home is such a valuable tool in building a strong relationship with God. As children grow older having a Christian foundation will help them to stand firm in their values and faith throughout their teen and adult years.

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 your children's ages and complete that together as a family.

Blessings,

Jess

Topic:	Covenants of the Bible – The New Covenant
Session Aim:	Children will learn how Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament commitments. What are the promises God made us in the New Covenant and what our commitment is.
Bible Passage:	Jeremiah 31:31-34

A Time of Prayer

Come together for a time of prayer with your children. All of you can share your God stories from the week. This is also a chance for your children to bring anything before God that they are worried about or want to say sorry about.

Dear Father,
Thank you for sending Jesus for us,
And for your New Covenant,
Please write this new covenant on our hearts.
Help us to know that Jesus died and rose again so that we may have new life.
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, encourage children to be active in their praising of God.

Recap of Covenants

1: This is our last week of looking at the covenants of the Bible, hopefully your children have a better understanding of what this Biblical word means. Ask them how would they explain the word covenant to someone who has never heard it before and who does not know the Bible.

2: Watch the video from the Bible project on covenants. Now at the end of the series the concepts and the covenants themselves should be familiar.

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

3: Covenant Snap

For this particular game/craft you will need to make a deck of snap cards. This can be done by printing the template at the end of this document or children can create their own on blank paper and cutting them out. The more cards you print or create the longer/harder the game will be.

Children can decorate the cards. Encourage them to decorate with pictures that match the Covenant on the side of the card with words. For example, on the Davidic Covenant they may draw a crown.

Deal out the entire deck among all the players. Cards either list a promise of an Old Testament covenant or how Jesus fulfilled it. You can 'snap' when the two cards match. There are some cards which will have two possible matches. You may have to go through the deck a few times to match the different covenants with how Jesus fulfilled them.

Instead of snap your children may like to invent their own game of matching the covenant promises with Jesus' fulfilment.

God made a promise to Noah	God never flooded the whole world again
God promised Abraham his family would be a blessing to the nations	Jesus brings blessings to everyone in the world
	Jesus is a great, great, great, great grandson of Abraham
The Israelites needed to follow the Ten Commandments	Jesus followed the Ten Commandments perfectly
God promised blessings to the Israelite if they kept the law	
A descendant of King David would have an everlasting Kingdom	Jesus' Kingdom lasts forever
A descendant of King David will be king forever	Jesus is our King and He always will be
The New Covenant is for the forgiveness of sins	Jesus died on the cross for our sins

4: Jesus is the only one that could fulfil all the Old Testament covenant commitments. As a descendant of Abraham, Jesus is the one who has brought and continues to bring blessings to the whole world.

The Israelites failed to keep the Ten Commandments. Jesus is the only human who is without sin and therefore the only one who could perfectly fulfil the Law.

Jesus is a descendant of King David, and Jesus is the one who is King forever of the everlasting Kingdom.

Bible + Discipleship Questions

1: Have your children find Jeremiah 31 in their Bibles. Encourage them to use the contents page to help them learn their way around. Either you or one of your children pray for God's Spirit to be at work in your heart's revealing His meaning.

You or your children reads Jeremiah 31:31-34.

2: In each covenant we have seen that God makes a series of promises and then throughout the Bible we read their fulfilments or look to the time when it will happen. Discuss the following promises of the New Covenant which we are members of:

1. Forgiveness of Sin

In verse 34 God declares that through the new covenant our sins are forgiven and no longer remembered by God. We know that this is achieved by Jesus dying on the cross. Jesus died in our place, he took the punishment that our sins deserved. Because of this we have forgiveness. Matthew 26:28 (*your children may like to flip to this in their Bible*), says that Jesus' blood has been poured out for the forgiveness of sins. As members of the new covenant we have confidence that our sins are forgiven.

2. Rescued from Darkness

For those who believe in Jesus they are members of the New Covenant and are rescued from walking in darkness. Jesus is the light of the world, and as His believers we walk in the way of light. We should be praying for those who don't know Jesus yet and are still lost walking around in the darkness.

3. Everlasting life in the Kingdom

Have your children turn to John 3:16. God the Father has initiated the new Covenant through the death and resurrection of God the Son. People who believe in Jesus and everything he has done are members of the New Covenant. Read John 3:16, as believers we have hope and confidence that we shall not perish but have eternal life.

Application

1: As members of this Covenant we have a commitment. We need to faithfully be living our lives the way God wants us to as well as sharing the good news with everyone we know.

Jeremiah 31 says that the New Covenant is written on our hearts. It is important that we have a relationship with God not just know about Him. Like any relationship it grows as we learn more about someone, so reading the Bible is a good way to learn about who God is. But it is really important that we have a relationship with God. Talking with Him, asking Him for help, and involving him in your life and all the decisions you make.

This week help your children find a way that they can involve God in their lives. I would love you to share the creative ways that you children find by emailing me at jess@oaktreeanglican.org.au



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Jesus is a descendant of Abraham



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SNAP