

## LIFE GROUP STUDY

# Doctrine

Foundations of Faith in the God of the Bible



### Doctrine Series Week 6: Covenant GOD IS A GOD OF RELATIONSHIP

#### WHAT IS A COVENANT?

A covenant is a relationship with God, initiated by God ... on his terms.

Theologian J.I Packer defined a covenant this way: *“Covenants in Scripture are solemn agreements, negotiated OR unilaterally imposed, that bind the parties to each other in PERMANENT, DEFINED relationships, with specific PROMISES, CLAIMS, and OBLIGATIONS on BOTH sides”*

#### SIX ASPECTS OF A COVENANT

- In their book “DOCTRINE: WHAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD BELIEVE” Pastor Mark Driscoll and Dr Gerry Breshears rightly point out that covenants in the OLD TESTAMENT seem to have six distinct aspects.
- 1) **MEDIATOR/HEAD** - A person who represents the covenant relationship with God.
  - 2) **BLESSINGS** - The blessings are the benefits of the covenant.
  - 3) **CONDITIONS** - Covenant relationships are not relationship with God on any terms. There are always conditions and they are always stipulated by God.
  - 4) **SIGNS OF THE COVENANT** - The signs are the covenant are both internal (e.g faith) and external (e.g circumcision).
  - 5) **COMMUNITY** - The community of the covenant are always represented by some form or relationship.
  - 6) **PROMISE OF FULFILLMENT IN JESUS** - The covenantal relationships between God and people are not relationships that terminate on themselves. They always point to and foreshadow the ultimate covenantal relationship that people can have with God, through Jesus.

- Work your way through the Covenants below and in your discussions try to fill in the blanks to complete the six aspects of each of the covenants.

**ADEMIC COVENANT**

- **MEDIATOR:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **BLESSING:** God Blessed Them, gave them dominion over all of the animals, birds etc. God walked with them in the Garden
- **CONDITIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 2:15-17)
- **SIGN OF THE COVENANT:** Faith (Internal) ... trusting and obeying God. Walking with God in the Garden (External)
- **COMMUNITY OF THE COVENANT:** Marriage. Adam and Eve
- **PROMIS OF JESUS:** Read Romans 5. Discuss how Adam is a picture of the promise of Jesus.

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**NOAHIC COVENANT**

Read Genesis 6:5-9 Genesis 9:8-17

- **MEDIATOR:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **BLESSINGS:** God gives him children, gives him favour, promises not to flood the whole world again
- **CONDITIONS:** Do not murder, respect human life
- **SIGN:** FAITH (Internal) Why faith? \_\_\_\_\_;  
(external sign) \_\_\_\_\_
- **COMMUNITY OF THE COVENANT:** Noah and his family.
- **PROMISE OF JESUS:** Noah and his family found undeserved grace and favour with the Lord just as Christians find undeserved grace and favour with the Lord through Jesus. (Discuss how this expresses itself in day to day living)

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## **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**

Read Genesis 12; Genesis 15; Genesis 17:1-21; Genesis 22:1-18

- **MEDIATOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **BLESSING:** (more than 1) \_\_\_\_\_

- **CONDITIONS:** Obey God

- **SIGN:** (Internal) \_\_\_\_\_ (external) \_\_\_\_\_

- **COMMUNITY OF THE COVENANT:** Abraham's Family and \_\_\_\_\_

- **PROMISE OF JESUS:** "Through your seed will come a blessing of all the nations of the earth (JESUS)

## **MOSAIC COVENANT**

Read Genesis 3:1-10; 6:7-8; 19:5-6

- **MEDIATOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **BLESSING:** \_\_\_\_\_ and Freedom to worship God.

- **CONDITION:** God gives the LAW

- **SIGN:** (internal) \_\_\_\_\_ - Go to Pharaoh .. tell him let my people go;

(External) \_\_\_\_\_

- **COMMUNITY OF THE COVENANT:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **PROMISE OF JESUS:** The Passover points to Jesus. Through Jesus, deliverance from slavery to sin and redemption as God's Holy people ... the church.

## **DAVIDIC COVENANT**

Read 2 Samuel 7:8-17; Psalms 89:3-4

- **MEDIATOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **BLESSING:** Shepherd Boy to King in order to protect the kingdom

- **CONDITIONS:** If you sin, there will be consequences. He will DISCIPLINE

- **SIGN:** FAITH (internal) David conquered Goliath, Waited patiently to become king. TEMPLE (external ... built by Solomon); THRONE (External)

- **COMMUNITY:** KINGDOM

- **PROMISE OF JESUS:** From the seed of David would come the King of Kings ... JESUS!

## **NEW COVENANT**

Read Jeremiah 31:31-33; Matthew 26:26-29

- **MEDIATOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **BLESSING:** Salvation, Forgiveness of Sin, The Holy Spirit living in those who are in Christ, Reconciled relationship with God, imputed righteousness of Jesus, Eternal life in Heaven, transformed life here on earth.

- **CONDITION:** \_\_\_\_\_

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- **SIGN:** (internal) FAITH; THE HOLY SPIRIT (internal), (External) \_\_\_\_\_

- **COMMUNITY:** THE CHURCH.