

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Look over the suggested questions to the right. Ask God to guide you to the ones that will work best for your group.
- Be prepared to get the discussion going in your group if they're not feeling it today.
- Don't feel like you have to know all there is to know about scripture. Use this week's study notes to prepare yourself. But, if something arises that you can't answer, tell your group, "That's a great question. I'll research that and get back with you." Then, email eddie.mosley@lifepointchurch.org for help.

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

When God makes a promise to one of His own. He always keeps it.

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Next week we will read the remainder of Exodus along with the first 15 chapters of Leviticus. We will look at the Levitical sacrificial system.

AS YOU READ...

...Think through who in your life is sacrificing his life on the altar of substances, sex, workoholism, etc. Just as the sacrifices we read about are insufficient in providing lasting redemption, so are these things. They simply point to our need for a savior.

CONNECT**(10 min.)**

Choose one of the following questions to begin your time together as a group. If your group has been together longer, you may want to skip question 1 in favor of question 2.

1. **If you had a time machine that could take you back to any year you wanted, to which year would you go? Why?**
2. **When you were a child, what was the one rule you most hated to follow? Why?**

EXPLORE**(40 min.)**

Say something like, "Today we're going to take a look at a promise God made to His people. No matter which of His rules they broke. He never ceased to keep His promise." Then guide your group through these questions.

3. **If you attended worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

(Leader: Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. **Based on what you heard during this week's sermon, why do you think it is important to understand the Mosaic covenant in order to really grasp the work Jesus did?**
5. **Read Exodus 24:1-2. Notice that Moses was the only one who could come near to God on behalf of the people. How does this foreshadow Jesus?**
6. **When Moses comes down from the mountain in Exodus 24:3-4, he tells the people all that God had said. They agree to obey. Do you think it's happenstance that God placed obedience to His Word at the center of His covenant? How has our journey through the Word so far this year impacted your life?**
7. **Read Genesis 3:19 and Hebrews 9:15. Based on these verses and the fact that God is 100% just, why did Jesus have to die? Why could God not just look over our sin?**
8. **The laws that God gave to Moses were given to establish God's standard of perfection along with man's inability to achieve it. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. Why was Jesus able to provide the proper substitute for our sin?**

TRANSFORM**(10 min.)**

Say something like, "Today we've talked about one of God's unconditional promises to His people." Then wrap up your time by asking the following question and then praying together.

9. **Who in your life needs to realize Jesus' promise to be the substitute for our sin, if we will simply repent and embrace a relationship with Him (1 John 1:9)?**

This Week's Study Notes:

What's the difference between a covenant and a contract?

Great Question. In short, contracts are made in defense—because one party does not trust the other party. Covenants, on the other hand, are made out of complete trust for the other person. Further, contracts are broken when one of the parties fails to keep his promise. In our society, this is called “breach of contract.” Covenants, however, cannot be unilaterally broken. A covenant puts no conditions on faithfulness. It is the unconditional commitment to love and serve (I.H. Marshall, *Jesus the Savior*, IVP, 1990, p. 275ff).

Common Covenants In Scripture

Adamic Covenant: Found in Genesis 3:14-19 This is the covenant conditioning fallen man's life on the earth. Satan's tool (the serpent) was cursed. The first promise of the Redeemer was given (3:15). Women's status was altered (3:16). The earth was cursed (3:17-19). Physical and spiritual death resulted (3:19).

Noahic Covenant: It is found in Genesis 8:20-9:6 and is also known as the covenant of human government. Man is to govern his fellow men for God. Other features included the promise of redemption through the line of Shem (9:26).

Abrahamic Covenant: Gen 12:1-3. Abraham's descendents were to be made a great nation. In him (through Christ) all the families of the earth were to be blessed (Gal 3:16; Jn 8:56-58).

Mosaic Covenant: Ex 20:1-31:18. The legal covenant, given solely to Israel. It consisted of the commandments (Ex 20:1-26); the judgments (social) (Ex 21:1; 24:11) and the ordinances (religious); (Ex 24:12-31:18); also called the law. It was intended to show individuals their need for a savior(Christ) because of their inability to follow the law to the letter.

New Covenant: Jer 31:31-33; Mt 26:28; Mk 14:24; Lk 22:20; Heb 8:8-12— This is the covenant of unconditional blessing based upon the finished redemption of Christ. It secures blessing for the church, flowing from the Abrahamic covenant (Gal 3:13-20), and secures all covenant blessings to converted Israel. This covenant is unconditional, final and irreversible.

Scripture Notes

Exodus 24:2

Though God allowed tribal elders to come nearer than the rest of Israel, only Moses, the mediator between God and Israel, is allowed direct access. Jesus becomes the “mediator of a new covenant” with God (Heb. 12:24), bridging the gulf between human and divine. Jesus is a greater mediator than Moses (v. 8; Heb. 3:3; 9:15).

Exodus 24:3

The Ten Commandments and the laws of the Covenant were the essential elements of the covenant between God and Israel. As such, the Israelites had to agree to follow the commandments and the law for the covenant to be binding.

Leader Tips

AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
 1. Who does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
 2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
 3. Whom do I need to tell about these verses?

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: Bible.org
- Bible Commentary: DesiringGod.org
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm

