

SESSION 2:

COVENANT WITH GOD

Welcome, Prayer & Review of LIFE Starter Journaling: 5 minutes

Session #2 Teaching:

Why do I need understand covenant for my marriage? 10 minutes

Many have heard of the Old Covenant, but few have understood that it was in many ways similar to our marriage covenant. Even more surprising to many, it was a covenant between Israel and the God of the Old Testament, who later came to earth as Jesus Christ! Seeing the big picture of our covenant relationship with God the Father, Jesus and our spouse is critical in fully grasping our identity in Christ. If we understand how the covenants function in the Bible, we will have a good grasp of how the Bible fits together.

Covenant can be defined as follows: a covenant is a chosen relationship in which two parties make binding promises to each other. A covenant should be distinguished from a contract because it is a personal relationship which people voluntarily enter. The definition of covenant here is rather broad, but that is because there are many different kinds of covenants in Scripture. Marriage is the best current illustration of a covenant, for a man and woman choose to enter into a relationship with one another and make promises to one another. Not all covenants were alike in the ancient world. In some covenants a person with more authority made a covenant with those having less authority and power. Such was the case when a king made a relationship with his subjects. God's covenant with Abraham plays a central role in the biblical storyline. God promised Abraham offspring, land, and universal blessing. The promise to Abraham finds its culmination in Jesus Christ as the true son of Abraham (Gal. 3:16). All those who belong to Jesus Christ by faith are children of Abraham. The promise of land was fulfilled when Israel possessed Canaan under the leadership of Joshua and Solomon, yet Israel lost the land and went into exile because of sin. Remember that a covenant is a formal, binding agreement, in which each party agrees to specific terms or expectations. To put it briefly, God required Israel to obey whatever He said. In exchange, God would make Israel the premier nation of the earth. Exodus chapters 20–23 give the fundamental terms of the covenant. The laws contained in the 10 Commandments were in effect long before God entered into this covenant with Israel. They were included in (or became one of the requirements of) the Old Covenant, and they continued on into the New Covenant also. Exodus 20–23 is called "the book of the covenant" (Exodus 24:4, 7). After hearing these basic terms spelled out, it was Israel's turn to express agreement. "All the words which the Lord has said we will do," was their reply (Exodus 24:3, 7). Of course, the blood of animals prefigured the blood Jesus Christ would one day shed, and which would become the blood of the New Covenant. The new covenant is the climax of all of God's covenants. We will talk more about the new covenant in the next session, but in essence, it represents the culmination of God's saving work among his people. God regenerates his people by his Spirit and renews their hearts so that they obey him. The basis for such renewal is the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, for by his atoning death and resurrection complete forgiveness of sins is achieved. Hence, a new and bold access to God that wasn't available in the old covenant is obtained. The covenant with Israel has passed away, and now the promise is fulfilled in the restored Israel, which consists of both Jews and Gentiles. All the promises made to Abraham and David are fulfilled in the new covenant.

Small Group Discussion: 25 minutes

- Discuss why a covenant with God is so important.
- Discuss how God's covenant is a precursor for your marriage covenant.
- Do you understand the different between the "old covenant" and the "new covenant?" Discuss.

Pray with your group about the importance of understanding the magnitude of God's covenant marriage.

Small Group Wrap-Up: 15 minutes

What were the biggest take-aways and action items? Group Discussion: 15 minutes

SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 1

Read Genesis 2

Focus on Genesis 2:24 and journal about what God says about becoming ONE flesh.

L=Listen in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 2

Read Ecclesiastes 4

Focus on Ecclesiastes 4:12 and journal about what God says about the unity of marriage.

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F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

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SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 3

Re-Read Ephesians 5:25-33

Think about how you can do YOUR part to treat your spouse like God expects. Journal about that.

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SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 4

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Pray about the fruits of the Spirit and areas that YOU need to improve to show God's love to your spouse.

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I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

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