



The Week of October 3, 2021

Covenant Defined

Conversation Guide

Last Week: Value of Wisdom

- Did you have a chance to share the Life Conversation Guide with someone this week? How did it go? If you didn't, don't give up! Keep praying for the Lord to show you who He wants you to share the Good News with!
- Did you need to spend time studying the Life Conversation Guide yourself? Did you learn anything new? Do you have questions about it?

This Week's Take-Aways

- **About Salvation:** (Ephesians 2:1-10) Salvation is an act of God's grace, not of our works. God offers redemption of anyone who accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior. They become new persons in Christ, have their sins forgiven by God, are set apart to live for God's purposes and anticipate eternity in heaven with God.
- **About God:** (1 Corinthians 8:6) I believe there is one God who exists in 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is perfect in all things. He is the creator of all things. He has made humanity in his image and he desires a personal relationship with each one of us.

Intro Questions

- How would you define covenant?
- Have you ever signed a contract? Is that the same as a covenant?
 - Contract- when one breaks it, the other is released from the contract
 - Covenant- each parties is obligated to fulfill their side even if the other side fails to do so
- How would not having covenants affect relationships? Why are they important in relationships?
- Do you consider covenants life-giving or life-draining?

Covenant=Relationship

"Exactly what is a covenant? A covenant is an oath that seals a relationship. It's an oath that contains a promise of blessing for keeping the covenant, and a promise of curses for breaking the covenant." Pastor David

Exodus 19:3-8

Moses went up the mountain to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain: "This is what you must say to the house of Jacob and explain to the Israelites: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will carefully listen to me and keep my covenant, you will be my own possession out of all the peoples, although the whole earth is mine, and you will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.' These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites."

After Moses came back, he summoned the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. Then all the people responded together, "We will do all that the Lord has spoken." So Moses brought the people's words back to the Lord.

- What was the original covenant that God made with the children of Israel?
- What was God's part in the covenant? What was the people's part?
- What was the people's response to the covenant?

Love & Law

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

For you are a holy people belonging to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be his own possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.

"The Lord had his heart set on you and chose you, not because you were more numerous than all peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors, he brought you out with a strong hand and redeemed you from the place of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps his gracious covenant loyalty for a thousand generations with those who love him and keep his commands.

- What are the depths of God's love for us? What phrases in this passage show this?

Deuteronomy 29:9-18

Therefore, observe the words of this covenant and follow them, so that you will succeed in everything you do.

"All of you are standing today before the Lord your God—your leaders, tribes, elders, officials, all the men of Israel, your dependents, your wives, and the resident aliens in your camps who cut your wood and draw your water— so that you may enter into the covenant of the Lord your God, which he is making with you today, so that you may enter into his oath and so that he may establish you today as his people and he may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I am making this covenant and this oath not only with you, but also with those who are standing here with us today in the presence of the Lord our God and with those

who are not here today.

“Indeed, you know how we lived in the land of Egypt and passed through the nations where you traveled. You saw their abhorrent images and idols made of wood, stone, silver, and gold, which were among them. Be sure there is no man, woman, clan, or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations.”

- What are God’s motives for placing the restrictions on His relationship with the Israelites?
- Go through this passage and highlight or underline all the key pronouns (you, your, our, we, etc).
 - What did God say He would give to the Israelites in this covenant?
 - What did the people have to do?

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

Do not have other gods besides me.

Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, bringing the consequences of the fathers’ iniquity on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commands.

Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God, because the Lord will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses his name.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy: You are to labor six days and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. You must not do any work – you, your son or daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the resident alien who is within your city gates. For the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.

Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Do not murder.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Do not covet your neighbor’s house. Do not covet your neighbor’s wife, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. ‘

- What relationship do the first four commandments relate to?
- What relationship do the last six commandments relate to?

- How are you showing love by following these commandments?
- How is God showing His love for us by giving us these commandments?

Penalties

Hosea 4:1-3

*Hear the word of the Lord, people of Israel,
for the Lord has a case
against the inhabitants of the land:
There is no truth, no faithful love,
and no knowledge of God in the land!
Cursing, lying, murder, stealing,
and adultery are rampant;
one act of bloodshed follows another.
For this reason the land mourns,
and everyone who lives in it languishes,
along with the wild animals and the birds of the sky;
even the fish of the sea disappear.*

- Compare these verses to the Ten Commandments listed above. (Make a list!)
- What are the consequences for the Israelites for breaking their side of the covenant?

Galatians 3:13-14

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written,
Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree. The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham would
come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, so that we could receive the promised Spirit through faith.*

- We know that the covenant was broken by the Israelites (and by us). That means that a penalty had to be paid. Who paid that penalty for us?

Next Steps

- How is your relationship with God? If you're a believer, you are in a covenant relationship with God! How's it going?
- Look at other relationships in your life. Are you holding up your end of those covenants (both spoken and unspoken covenants)?

Additional Resources

- Check out Andy Stanley's Guardrails series at <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/218>. Need a RightNow Media Account? Get yours for free at <https://icelebration.org/watch>.
- Check out the sermon by Tim Keller that Pastor David mention: A Covenant Relationship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xICD5Ycsu04>