



Family Sunday School

Lesson 5 - The New Covenant

Introduction:

God's final Covenant invited everyone to be God's chosen people and saved all of us from sin and death. What would be enough to give in return for this promise?

Start the Fun!

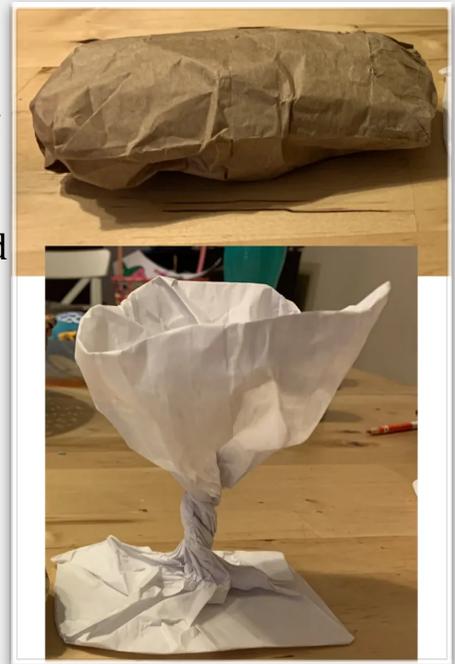
"Given for You"

At the Last Supper, Jesus talked about the New Covenant. Luke 22:20 says, "In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." For this craft, you will quickly create a fun model of the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper.

You'll need: two paper lunch bags

Directions: First, make the loaf of bread. Open one bag and wad it up as much as you want. Next, open the bag back up and begin to roll the open top edges inside. This is one point where younger kids may need a little help. Just keep rolling until the bag is completely rolled into an oval. You can tweak the shape a bit as needed. I found that it naturally works itself into a bread shape.

Next, the cup. Open up the second bag. Grab the bag just above the bottom and squeeze it together, leaving the bottom flat. Then twist the bag upward until your cup stem is the desired length. It will already be looking like a cup! The twist should stay in place pretty well. No tape required! Then, roll the top edge in just a little and smooth the wrinkles until you are satisfied with the shape/look of your cup.



Now it's time to find out what the New (and last) Covenant is!

Read together

Jeremiah 31:31-34, NIV

The New Covenant

“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.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to[a] them,”
declares the Lord.

“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts. I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord.
“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Discuss

Ask: What promises are given by God in the New Covenant?

Discussion points: In Jeremiah 31:33 God says, “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” In verse 34 God says, “They will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,”

And “ I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Ask: What do you think these promises mean?

Discussion points: We do not need to read books of laws to know what God wants; we have the Holy Spirit telling us right from wrong. We do not need to be intellectual geniuses to know God; every believer has the wonderful privilege of individual, personal fellowship with the Lord. We do not need to be perfect; God forgives all of our mistakes and sins.

Ask: Where is the part that tells what we need to do to earn the promise?

Discussion points: It is not there. God paid for our sins with Jesus’ life. Our salvation is a free gift.

John 12:23-24 NIV

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Discuss

Ask: What does the metaphor of the wheat kernel mean?

Discussion points: Jesus was the single seed, whose death and burial, like a seed being planted, brought forth abundant fruit (our salvation, our changed hearts that desire to please God by loving others). This metaphor is also used to illustrate the fruitfulness of a single Christian, who is prepared to die to self and the old sin-nature, and live for Christ.

Pray

Thank God for giving us the New Covenant. Ask God to help you let your sinful nature and self-centeredness die so that you can be raised up as a fruitful branch that honors your Lord.

Participate

Planting Seeds Prayerfully

When a seed is planted in warm, moist soil, it disintegrates (dies.) The seed will vanish so that a young plant can be nourished by it during germination. For this activity, we will plant seed paper with a reminder that Jesus died so that we might live.

Materials:

- Seed paper
- water
- marker

Directions:

Using a marker, write one of the following verses on your paper.

1 John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Matthew 20:28

The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Then soak your paper in water overnight. Put the paper outside in a sunny spot where you would like to see some wildflowers. Add 1/8 inch of soil on top of the paper and give it a good drink of water. After that, make sure it's always moist. You should see sprouts within 7-21 days. (Typically you will see wildflowers blooming within 8-12 weeks.)

Flowers you could see sprouting up from your paper: Five Spot, Catchfly, English Daisy, Bay Blue Eyes, Siberian Wallflower, Scarlet Flax, Zinnia, Sweet William Pinks, Gloriosa Daisy, Candytuft, Spurred Snapdragon, Corn Poppy and Black-Eyed Susan.



Wrap Up

God loves you. If you weren't sure of that before, let the New Covenant, which is what we call the Good News or the Gospel, sink in. It is the core of Christian faith.

Take a Moment to Breathe

Embodied Blessing and Healing

This embodied blessing was created by the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity for an anti-Asian violence protest in Oakland, CA on Feb. 13-14, 2021.

First, move through the blessing making each movement with the brief meaning. Then try it again with just the movements and remaining silent. Close with a spoken "Amen."

Take a deep breath. Exhale.

Place hands on heart. I see myself – acknowledge my own feelings – my own body.

Bow. Acknowledging sacredness, resilience, humanity, strength in myself. Bow.

Look around. I see you.

Cup hands to ears. I hear you.

Fold arms across chest. Mourning, feeling collective sadness, grief, lament, anger.

Bow. Acknowledging sacredness, resilience, humanity, strength in others.

Open hands, palm up, with a breath. Receiving blessings from God and from one another.

Touch with one hand and extend the other hand to another person. Heart-to-heart compassion.

Amen.

The blessing is repeated in action without spoken words.