

SUNDAY RECAP

Sunday was week 2 of our series, **Covenant God**, exploring the covenants found throughout Scripture. Sunday's focus was on God's first covenant, made with Adam and Eve. Before starting the questions with your group, invite God to reveal Himself through His Word and by His Spirit during your discussion.

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 2-3

Covenant of Works: Identify the parties involved, promise given, and conditions of covenant.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. **Read Genesis 2:7–9, 15–17.** What do these verses reveal about God's generosity and provision for Adam and Eve? Why do you think God gave them both *freedom* ("You are free to eat...") and *restriction* ("but you must not eat...")?
2. Why is it important to recognize that Adam and Eve's obedience would never have "earned" eternal life, but that **all was a gift from God**?
3. Reflect on the aspects of the **covenant of works** below. What stands out most to you, and how does it shape your understanding of your need for Christ?
 - Demands perfection
 - Requires trust
 - Does not end (not canceled with man's failure)
 - Must be satisfied
4. **Read Genesis 3:1–5.** How does the serpent's question ("Did God really say?") still echo in our culture and in our own hearts today? In what ways are we tempted to believe that God is "holding out on us"?
5. Why do you think **trust in God's character** is at the center of this covenant? Where in your life are you finding it hard to trust God's character and obey Him?
6. If the covenant of works demands perfection and must be satisfied, how do Paul's words in Romans 3:23–25 and Romans 7:21–25 help us understand both our inability to keep it and the hope we have in Christ who fulfills it? (passages below)

*For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. **Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight.** He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. (Romans 3:23-25a NLT)*

I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am!

Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 7:21-25 NLT)

GROUP PRAYER TIME: Share any personal requests before praying together.



DIGGING DEEPER

Adam and Eve

RESOURCES

For those interested in resources referenced in this series.

- The Bible Project - [Covenant Video](https://bibleproject.com/videos/covenants) (bibleproject.com/videos/covenants)
- *Miracles* - by C.S. Lewis
- *The Knowledge of the Holy* - A.W. Tozer
- Tim Keller's sermon "covenant relationships"
- Commentaries by John H. Walton
- *What is Covenant Theology?* - Ryan M. McGraw
- *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be* - Cornelius Plantinga Jr.

MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE: Fair Oaks Church Sermon Podcast (Apple Podcasts & Spotify) to listen to just the message. Check out **Cutting Room Floor** episodes that further unpack sermons and insights from preachers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn more at fairoaks.church/events

- 9/17: **Family Gathering VI** | 6:30-7:30p | submit Qs ahead of time | Childcare available with RSVP
- 9/21: **Partnership Track** | 12p-4p | Lunch provided, RSVP online | Childcare available with RSVP | Register by 9/18
- 9/19-9/21: **Men's Retreat at Camp Alta** | Cost: \$245/each | Register online
- 9/28: **Worship & Prayer Night** | 6:30p | Wells Chapel | RSVP for childcare
- 10/25: **Trunk or Treat** | 6-7:30p | Front parking lot | Sign up to help online

