



## K-I<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### Introduction

In our last lesson, we learned about three different men who were allowed to see something very special.

- What did God let Ezekiel, Isaiah, and the Apostle John see? *A vision of God and his glory.*

Refer to Lesson 111 Flip Chart. Ezekiel's vision was so amazing that it was hard for him to describe, but he saw things that looked like fire, lightning, and even a rainbow! The sight of the Lord on his throne was so amazing that Ezekiel fell down in fear and worship. Isaiah also saw a vision of God in his temple and the seraphim as they worshipped him. Then the Apostle John saw Jesus in heaven. These visions of God's glory and holiness were truly awesome!

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Think back now to the people of Judah. Because of the people's sin, God told them through the prophet Jeremiah that they would be taken away to live in Babylon for 70 years. We talked about Daniel and his friends, as well as Ezekiel, who were all in Babylon.

Today our lesson is about another prophecy God gave to Jeremiah about a special promise of God called the new covenant. This message gave the people hope while they were living far from home. But guess what! This special promise Jeremiah was talking about so long ago is also for us today. So we're going to look at the old covenant the people already knew and see how it was different from the new covenant they looked forward to, which would come many years later.

To get started, we'll play a game of "Old and New." I'm going to hold up some pictures, and I want you to tell me if each item is old or new (current) and which one is better. Ready? Hold up Illustrations, one at a time, and have students call out the answer. You may discuss some of the unfamiliar items with the class and how technology has changed or improved. If you brought items from home (e.g., old keys, VHS or cassette tape, DVD, vinyl record, old camera, smart phone), show those to the class and discuss.

Many of these old things have been replaced by newer, better things, haven't they? Let's talk about how God replaced the old covenant with a new one.

### The Two Covenants

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Remember that a covenant is a serious promise. God made a covenant with his people, the Israelites, when he gave them laws, including the Ten Commandments. These laws told the people how to worship God and how to live right. They believed God would bless them if they obeyed these laws. We call this the old covenant.

But there was a problem with this. You see, it was impossible for any person to keep all the laws of the old covenant because of sin. The Israelites kept disobeying God, and he had to punish their sin. But did you know that we can't keep all God's laws either? This seems kind of hopeless, doesn't it?

But God sent his prophet Jeremiah to tell about his plan of a new and better covenant. It included promises that would bring everlasting hope, not only for the people at that time—but for everyone to come, including you and me!

### Jeremiah 31:33

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We're going to read from the book of Jeremiah. Listen to God's plan for this new covenant. Have the student with the Bible bring it up and turn to the sticky note. Read Jeremiah 31:33.

God said he would make this new covenant with his people, the Israelites.

- In this new covenant, where was God going to write his law, on the people's what? *On their hearts.*

That meant the new covenant would be a personal promise between God and his people. He would forgive them of their sins, and each person would want to obey God from his heart.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The Ten Commandments were part of the old covenant. They were laws that were written on stone tablets. But God promised that the new covenant law would be written on people's hearts.

God is holy; he hates sin and must punish sin. But in the new covenant, God promised to forgive the sins of all those who believe in the Savior—someone God would send to save people from the punishment for their sin. When Jeremiah wrote about the new covenant, the people didn't know who the Savior would be yet.

But we know now that Jesus Christ is the Savior. Only Jesus could save people from sin's punishment because he is God and has no sin. Jesus lived a perfect life then died and rose again to save all who will believe in him. And he gives them the promise of forgiveness and eternal life in heaven.

- Does that mean we have to pay God back somehow by working to do as many good things as possible? *Allow discussion.*

### Ephesians 2:8–10

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's see what the Bible says about that. Listen while I read from the New Testament book of Ephesians. Read Ephesians 2:8–9.

- How are we saved? By what? *By grace.*
- By grace through what? *Through faith.*
- What is this grace? Do we have to work for our salvation to buy it? *No. It's a gift of God.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Jesus already took our punishment for sin when he died on the cross. The new covenant of salvation through Jesus is a gift of God. When someone gives you a gift, do you pay them for it? What about on your birthday or at Christmastime? Do you have to pay your mom and dad back for the gifts they give you? Of course not! It's the same way with salvation from sin.

We cannot earn salvation by doing good works either. If we could do that, we would all be going around boasting and saying silly things like, "Jesus saved me 'cause I'm so great and I've done great things."

Now listen to verse 10. Read Ephesians 2:10.

When we have put our trust in Jesus to save us from sin, we should do good works to show our love for God. He has special things he wants his children to do, and we should obey and do them.

### The Perfect High Priest

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Let's look at another big difference between the old and new covenants. The old covenant, before Jesus came, included lots of different priests. Their job was to offer animal sacrifices for sin. But since the high priests were sinners just like anyone else, God told them they had to make sacrifices to cover their own sins as well as the sins of the people. These sacrifices weren't enough. They had to be made over and over because the people kept sinning over and over.

- When the priests of the old covenant made sacrifices, what were they sacrificing? Do you see it on the Flip Chart? *Animals. Sheep. Lambs.*

But guess what! As part of the new covenant, Jesus is our high priest. But he didn't sacrifice an animal; he gave himself! Jesus died on the cross and used his own blood to save us from sin.

- How many times did Jesus have to die on the cross? *One time.*

Right. Jesus only had to die once to take the punishment for all sin. Do you see how the new covenant is so much better than the old covenant? Under the old covenant, the priests had to keep killing animals to cover sin. The new covenant is different. Jesus came as our perfect high priest and made one sacrifice for all by shedding his blood and dying on the cross. Then he conquered death by coming back to life!

That is the new covenant—God's promise of forgiveness as a gift through Jesus. Now, all who trust in him and turn from their sins will be forgiven and saved from the punishment of sin.



# Old Covenant



God's promise of forgiveness is a **GIFT** through Jesus.

# New Covenant

