



Dear Champion Fellowship parents,

We are so thankful for your participation in the Champion Fellowship family. We want you to know how much we enjoy your children and the opportunity to partner with you to train them in the way of the LORD. One of our goals this year is to strengthen our partnership with you in this task. We have recognized that the most effective way for a child to learn the Bible and how to live by it is to learn it at home from parents – and we believe the LORD designed it this way. So, to help you do this with your children, we intend to provide you with valuable resources each week that will help you reinforce what your child is learning at church.

Every Sunday following services, we will send you the basic teaching outline from the morning's lesson along with several questions and answers that you can practice with your kids to help them learn and retain the story of the Bible. We will also attach our Teacher Tips video that our classroom teachers watch to prepare for the lesson. This will help you to better understand the content so you can feel more confident discussing it with your children.

We hope that this is a blessing to you as we steadily take steps from partnership toward ownership in our family ministry. Our dream is to see parents as the primary disciple-makers in their kids' lives and this is a big step in that direction. Please don't hesitate to provide any feedback on how we might better prepare you to do this important job.

In Christ,
Alex Wolfe
Family Pastor



The LORD disciplines those He loves

Lesson Summary

Over the last few weeks, we watched as the LORD is raising up Israel to become the great nation the LORD promised they would be. God purposed for Israel to be a kingdom of representatives, therefore, they must learn how to be like Him so that they can reflect Him to the nations. Through the Law, they will see that they are sinful, that is, they do not have God's character. When Israel recognizes their sin, this will drive them to faith in the coming true Image-Bearer to pay for their sin, which was practiced outwardly by the animal sacrifices at the Tabernacle. This makes them recipients of mercy and grace. Now then, since they have received mercy, they ought to reflect it to others. It is in this way that Israel will come to represent God to the nations. Now, in this agreement with God, if they keep themselves from worshipping other gods and they show mercy to their brother, they will be given blessings to help them be a light to the nation. However, if they go after other gods or make a mockery of the LORD's character, they will be cursed until they return to the LORD alone.

Story of the Bible Chart

We are still in the "looking for the Messiah" part of the chart and the expectation of the Messiah is becoming clearer as the story is on the move. Today we see that Israel must continue on trusting in the LORD to send the true Image-Bearer. If they continue to walk by faith, they will get a down-payment of the blessing to come until the Messiah comes to bring the full blessing. If they don't walk by faith, they will experience curses which only the Messiah can remove by bringing them to repentance.

Story of the Bible Chart picture of the day:



THIS WEEK

LAST WEEK

NEXT WEEK



A Sinful People
Approaching a Holy God
Leviticus Summary

Blessings and Curses
Leviticus 26

Preparing to Take the Land
Numbers 1-12



LESSON INTRO

Terms and Definitions

This week we learn about God's Covenant with Israel and the blessings and curses that come with the Covenant. The story introduces us to three new words this week:

Covenant: an agreement or contract between God and His special nation, Israel.

Sabbath/Rest: Just as the LORD rested on the seventh day after creating everything, Israel is to rest on the seventh day and the seventh year, which shows their trust in the LORD's provision. The seventh day and year are called the Sabbath day and Sabbath year.

Foretaste: This is a preview and a tiny sample of what is coming later in the Story.

Words we are still using in this part of the story are holy, kingdom of priests, idols.

Holy: is to be set apart

Kingdom of Priests: is to represent God to the other nations by doing what is good and right in God's eyes and to pray for the nations to leave the serpent's team and join God's Team.

Idol Worship: taking things that are not God and treating them as if they are God.



Israel's Covenant with the LORD

Use this intro to grasp the concept, then tailor your explanation of "covenant" to the kids you teach.

Israel entered into a covenant (contract/agreement) with the LORD to be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests - In other words, they were to live by faith in the LORD to bring His Promised True Image-Bearer and they were to proclaim that good news to the nations. Below are some helpful explanations:

1. A covenant is a contract which outlines the benefit one receives when they honor the deal and also the penalty one receives for not honoring the deal.
2. If per the contract / covenant, Israel lived by *faith in God's promise* (that He would send the True Image-Bearer who would ultimately restore all of the blessings that were lost at the fall in Genesis 3), then Israel would get to experience a **foretaste** of that coming blessing as proof of the truth of their message to the nations
3. However, if they rebelled against the LORD and went after other gods (gods who were not able to remove the curses placed on creation at the fall), then the LORD would magnify the curses of the fall on Israel in order to cause them to return to faith in the LORD and His Promised One / True Image-Bearer.
4. "Keeping the commands, statutes, and ordinances" meant that Israel was to live in accordance with the actions and instructions given in the Law which were given to keep them dependent upon the grace and mercy of the Lord and pictured His true Image-Bearer who would be the ultimate sacrifice for sin.

Lesson Outline

The LORD disciplines those He loves

LESSON OUTLINE



According to the covenant/contract Israel entered into with the LORD:

- A. If Israel lived by faith in the LORD and His coming Messiah (demonstrated by engaging in the sacrificial system and keeping of the Sabbath) then they get the benefit of 26:1-13:
- Entering into their land
 - Receiving rest from their enemies in their land
 - Prospering in their land
 - The LORD dwelling and walking among them in the land forever
- B. If Israel rejected the LORD and went after other gods, if they defiled or rejected the sacrificial system, or if they rejected the Sabbath (a temporary expression of the ultimate rest that was to come in Messiah) then Israel would suffer the curses of 26:14-39:
- Take away the prosperity of their land
 - Cause their enemies to destroy them in their land (no rest from their enemies)
 - Drive them out of the land to foreign lands

****These are the stipulations within the covenant, but because the LORD is loyal to keep His Word, the LORD will never void the covenant (Lev 26:40-46).**

“Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God. ‘But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the LORD” (Lev 26:44-45).



Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.

Age 3-5 Lesson Questions

1. How many teams are in the story? Two teams
2. Which team is Israel on? God's team
3. Who is coming through the nation of Israel? The True Image-Bearer
4. How long will God keep His promises to Israel? Forever
5. Why does God bring curses on Israel? So that they will stop worshiping false gods and return to the LORD
6. When Israel keeps their promises to God, what does God do? Gives Israel many good things to show the even better things that are coming later.

Grades 1-6 Lesson Questions

1. From the story, what do we know so far about the nation of Israel?
 - a. Israel is the only nation on God's Team.
 - b. The Promised Messiah, the Seed of the Woman, is coming through the nation of Israel.
 - c. God set Israel apart (made Israel holy) to be a kingdom of priests (to represent God) to all the nations.
2. What does the story tell us this week about the nation of Israel?
 - a. God made a covenant, or contract, with Israel that includes blessings and curses.
 - b. What is a blessing, what is a curse? Blessings are good things and Curses are terrible things done to Israel by God's hand.
 - c. In the covenant with God, Israel promises to keep the Sabbath and agrees not to worship idols and God promises to bless Israel in the land for keeping their promise or to curse Israel if they do not keep their promise.
3. If Israel keeps their promise with God what will the foretaste, or tiny sample, of what is coming later in the story look like?
 - a. God will bless Israel with physical blessings in the land including plenty of food so they will eat and be satisfied, no harm from the nations on the serpent's team (their enemies) or from wild beasts, and no sickness.
 - b. God promises to dwell with His people just as Messiah will do later in the story.
 - c. The blessings showed the rest of the nations how Israel was set apart and how their God was like no other god.
 - d. These blessings were a foretaste or preview of what life will be like when Messiah comes and restores all that was lost in the beginning of the story.
4. What did God agree to do if Israel did not keep their part of the Covenant?

God agreed to curse Israel with sudden terror, sickness, plagues, no produce from their crops or trees, harm from their enemies who would capture Israel and take them away from their land.
5. What was the purpose of God's curses on Israel?

The curses gave Israel a reason to return to the LORD so that the LORD would remove the curses which is also a foretaste or preview of what will happen when Israel does return to the LORD at the end of the story and Messiah removes all the curses, especially death, and brings eternal life to all on God's Team.
6. How long will God keep His promises of His covenant with Israel? Why?
 - a. Forever
 - b. Because the LORD is loyal to keep His word, He will always keep His covenant with Israel, it will never go away (Leviticus 26:44-45).