



HILLSIDE STUDENTS


Covenant

CONNECT

 Set out snacks! Add new students to the groups app! Take Attendance!

 Play Levels! Levels is a rock, paper, scissors game where everyone in the group starts on level 0. Then, everyone will play one round of the game. Whoever wins moves up to the next level and whoever loses moves down one level. The first person to reach level 10 wins!

WATCH

 **Set up Discussion:** Think of a time someone made you a promise. Did they keep their promise, or did they end up breaking it? As people, even when we try our hardest or have the best intentions, we struggle to keep promises and to do what we say we will do. Today, we're talking about covenants – a form of promise that we see often in the Bible. How do our promises hold up compared to God's covenants? Let's find out!

 Pre-Video Question: Have your group answer one or both questions below!

- If you could only communicate using dance moves, what would your go-to move be?
- Would you rather be chased by a mini angry gorilla or have to catch a giant rat?

Split up into smaller groups and navigate the discussion below:

READ + DISCUSS

- What stood out to you from the video this week?
- In your own words, what is a covenant?
- **Read Genesis 15:5-18.** Retell this story in your own words! (Who is in the story? What's happening? And what's the outcome?)
- What is the promise that God makes Abraham and why is that important for the rest of God's story?
- **Read Matthew 26:26-30.** What is the promise (covenant) that Jesus makes? How does this covenant still impact us today?
- How does it feel to make an important promise to someone who probably won't keep it?
- **Read Matthew 28:18-20, Hebrews 13:8, Jeremiah 31:33-34, and 2 Corinthians 1:20.** How do these truths give us confidence in God's promise? How does that change how you live out your faith?

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Covenant

All throughout Scripture, God makes promises to His people in the forms of covenants. Covenants lay out for us God's provision, our role in the stipulations, and are often signified by a sign. Foremost, however, covenants reveal to us God's desire to be in relationship with His people and give us a picture of exactly what that should look like.

In Genesis, God establishes a covenant with Abraham, promising blessings for him and his descendants. He declares that through Abraham, all nations will be blessed (Genesis 12:3). Paul later connects this promise in Galatians, showing that it is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham, through whom people in all times and places are blessed.

In every covenant God makes, He remains faithful to His promises, all of which ultimately point to Christ. Jesus Himself talks about a "new covenant" (Luke 22:20), sealed by His blood through His death and resurrection. This new covenant offers the promise of eternal life to all who believe in Him as Lord and follow His commands: this is the covenant we get to enter into, and like Abraham, we are given a sign that we are sealed in covenant with God – the sign of baptism. Because we are members of this promise, we also are called to live a life that reflects Christ and to trust the promises He has already made to us.

Leaders, as you guide students towards the truth of Scripture, provide opportunities for application and discussion about what it might look like for them to daily live as members of the New Covenant.

Read Matthew 26:26-30 *"²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."*

Read Matthew 28:18-20 *"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Read Hebrews 13:8 *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

Read Jeremiah 31:33-34 *"'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.'³⁴ 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."*

Read 2 Corinthians 1:20 *"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God."*

Genesis Reading Plan

Week 6 | Genesis 21:1-7; 22

Day 1 – Genesis 21:1-7

Day 2 – Genesis 22:1-5

Day 3 – Genesis 22:6-8

Day 4 – Genesis 22:9-12

Day 5 – Genesis 22:13-14

Day 6 – Genesis 22:15-18

Day 7 – Catch Up/Memorize/Nothing