

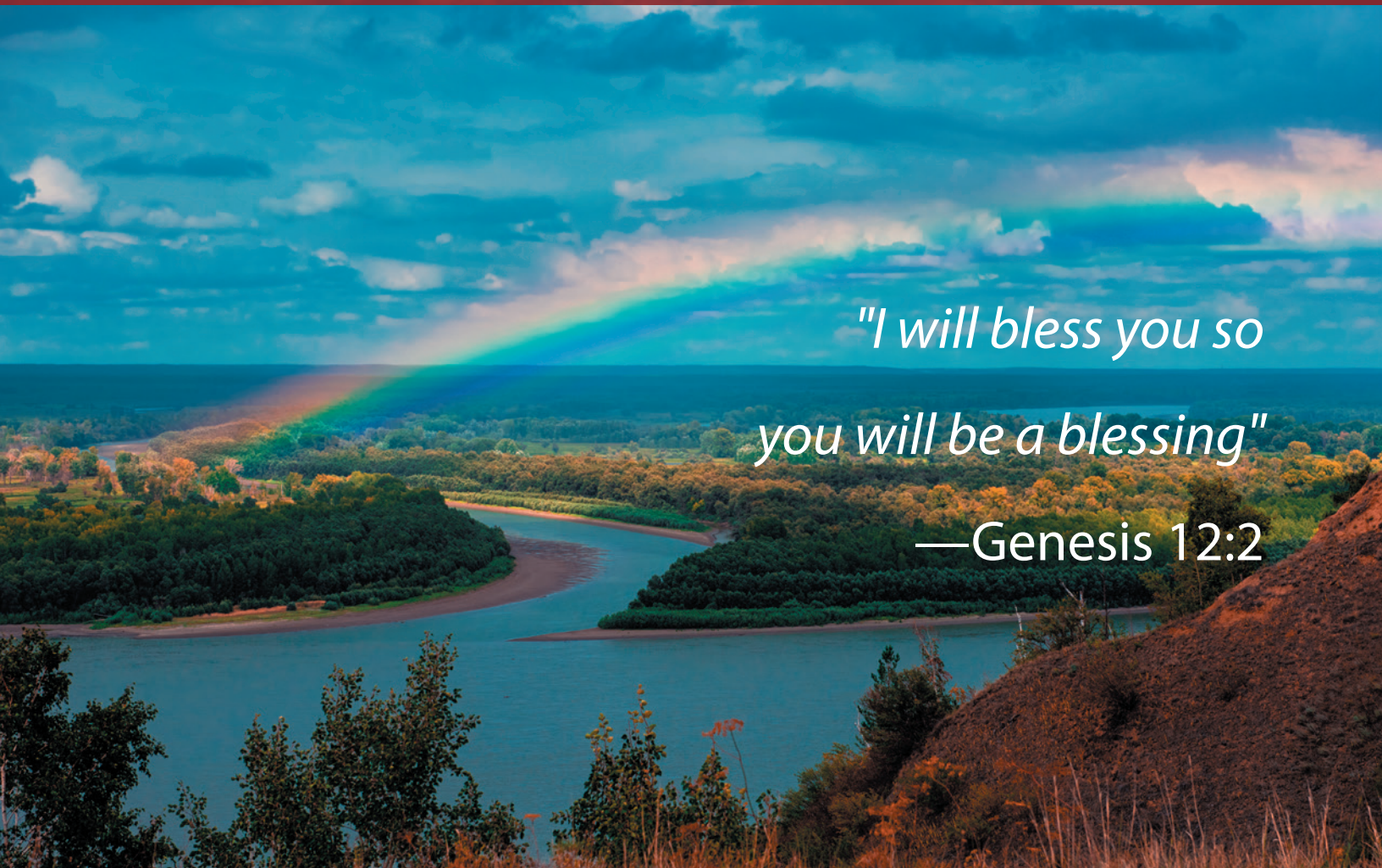


All for Jesus

LIVING WATERS MINISTRY

The Covenant

Retreat/ Group Companion WORKBOOK



*"I will bless you so
you will be a blessing"*

—Genesis 12:2

THE COVENANT

Retreat/Companion **WORKBOOK**

RICHARD T. CASE



Acknowledgments

I wish to dedicate this course to and thank all of the leaders of our Ministry: **All For Jesus—Living Waters** for walking together with my wife, Linda and I into this Covenant Life! These leaders faithfully have processed with us to receive that the life of God will all His children is the Covenant—blessed to be a blessing: always a flow through process whereby we receive all the promised blessings of the Covenant life and then are asked to give it away to others; and that those that join us (bless us) are blessed and those that do not join us (curse us and oppose us) are not, but we need not be burdened by that but leave that all up to God and thus can live in freedom always in all our relationships—a key part of the Covenant. Our leaders have fully embraced this and are being blessed as they give it away—and literally hundreds of others are now receiving it and giving it away. Why the Covenant is so important to the church—God’s way of multiplication of His beautiful life—one life at a time. Thank you all:

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Further, it is a joy for me to share this Covenant life with my wife, Linda, and family who together are enjoying the fruits of the Covenant. What an honor and a privilege for us.

THE COVENANT COMPANION WORKBOOK

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THE COVENANT



INTRODUCTION



*"I will bless you so
you will be a blessing"*

—Genesis 12:2



A vibrant rainbow arches across a dramatic, cloudy sky over a coastal landscape. The rainbow's colors are clearly visible, transitioning from red on the left to violet on the right. The sky is filled with large, dark, textured clouds, suggesting a recent or ongoing storm. Below the horizon, a calm body of water stretches across the middle ground. In the foreground, a grassy field with some low-lying vegetation and a few small trees is visible. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and tranquility after a storm.

[illegible]

INTRODUCTION

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

LESSON 1:

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE COVENANT



"Throughout this study we will come to understand that we are to be blessed to give that blessing away and be a blessing to others"

1. WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF THE COVENANT (THE FATHER'S AGREEMENT)?

Read through Genesis 12:1-3 and write out the essence and elements of the covenant:

The Call of Abram

12 Now the Lord said^[a] to Abram, "Go from your country^[b] and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."^[c]

The covenant is an agreement between the Father and His children, and it is very simple: He will bless us to make us a blessing; and He will bless those who bless us and curse those who curse us. Throughout this study we will come to understand that we are to be blessed to give that blessing away and be a blessing to others; and will further understand the importance of blessing those who bless us and cursing those who curse us. The covenant is all this. Keep this in mind throughout the course as we go into the depth of all that this means.

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2. WHY IS THIS COVENANT THE BASIS OF THE FATHER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS CHILDREN HERE ON EARTH?

There are eternal reasons why the covenant is the basis of the Father's fundamental relationship with His children here on Earth. It is our role to understand the overarching reason why the covenant defines this relationship:

REASON ONE: To glorify Himself.

Read through 1 Chronicles 16:8-30 and write out all the purposes or aspects of why God gives His people the covenant. How do we fulfill this as we experience the covenant?

David's Song of Thanks

⁸ Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

⁹ Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!

¹⁰ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

¹¹ Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually!

¹² Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,

¹³ O offspring of Israel his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

¹⁴ He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.

¹⁵ Remember his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

¹⁶ the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,

¹⁷ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

¹⁸ saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan,
as your portion for an inheritance."

¹⁹ When you were few in number,

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of little account, and sojourners in it,
²⁰ wandering from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another people,
²¹ he allowed no one to oppress them;
he rebuked kings on their account,
²² saying, "Touch not my anointed ones,
do my prophets no harm!"
²³ Sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Tell of his salvation from day to day.
²⁴ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
²⁵ For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and he is to be feared above all gods.
²⁶ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
²⁷ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and joy are in his place.
²⁸ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
²⁹ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him!
Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;^[a]
³⁰ tremble before him, all the earth;
yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.

LESSON 1:

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REASON TWO: To elevate our life to the spiritual: live in heaven while on Earth, which is under the control of the enemy, bear witness to the truth and covenant

Read through Ephesians 1:3-6, 1:13-14 and write out what happens to our life as we experience the covenant. How does this happen, and to what will we bear witness to and why?

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us^[a] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee^[a] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,^[b] to the praise of his glory.

LESSON 1:

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Read through and write out what the church's (we believers) true purpose is in living out the covenant. To whom do we demonstrate this? Thus, what has to happen in order for this to be demonstrated, and what are we in turn experiencing?

Read Ephesians 3:8-13 and write out what they say to you.

⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in[a] God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Read Deuteronomy 28:13 and write out what they say to you.

¹³ And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them...

LESSON 1:

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Read through Genesis 12:3 and write out the bigger reason we are receiving of God's blessings. Why? What then does this mean is always part of the covenant?

³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."^[a]

Read through and write out who actually becomes the covenant. What happens when others receive what we give away in our covenant life? By definition, what does that mean we are experiencing? Read Isaiah 42:6-7.

⁶ "I am the Lord; I have called you^[a] in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

LESSON 1:

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE COVENANT

Read through 1 Peter 2:9-10 and write out what these verses say about all of our roles as followers of Christ. What does this specifically mean? How do we carry out this role in everyday life?

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

3. WHO IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE COVENANT? HIS SPECIAL PEOPLE—HIS TREASURE.

Read through Deuteronomy 7:6-11 and write out to which people the verses are referring. What does this mean in relation to how the Father views us? Why is that important to us?

⁶ "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples,⁸ but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,¹⁰ and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face.¹¹ You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.

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Read through Romans 8:12-17 and write out those privileges we are given as one of His children. How should we then be relating to God our Father and viewing His desire for us to live in the covenant?

Heirs with Christ

¹² So then, brothers,^[a] we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons^[b] of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

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4. WHERE DOES THE COVENANT OPERATE? HIS SPECIAL PLACE— HIS KINGDOM.

Read through Luke 1:30-33 and write out your understanding of what Christ brought when He came to the world to demonstrate God’s love and life for all of us, His creation. What does this mean, and why is this important to us as we now are walking with Him and living in this world?

³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Read through Luke 11:1-3 and write out what Christ tells us to ask for in our prayer life. Why is this so important to understand in relation to receiving His covenant life?

The Lord’s Prayer

11 Now Jesus[a] was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”² And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread...^[b]

LESSON 1:

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE COVENANT

Read through Luke 8:9-10 and write out what we are privileged to receive in the Kingdom of God. Why is this so important as we are to receive God's covenant life?

The Purpose of the Parables

⁹ And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰ he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'"

Read through Psalm 93:1-2 and write out who reigns and has all the power in the Kingdom. Why is this so important to us to have settled and then be motivated to live in the Kingdom to let this power deliver to us the life of the covenant?

The Lord Reigns

93 The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.
2 Your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.

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Read through Deuteronomy 15:5-6 and write out the benefit of being in the Kingdom and experiencing Him reigning. (Who else gets to reign?)

⁵ ...if only you will strictly obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all this commandment that I command you today. ⁶ For the Lord your God will bless you, as he promised you, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow, and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you.

Read Romans 5:17.

¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.



LESSON 2:

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE COVENANT



"We can be assured that our enemies will be defeated, regardless of how strong they seem to be. Remember that the Lord will cause this."

5. WHAT PRIVILEGES ARE WE GIVEN THROUGH THE COVENANT?

As you now move into this section, you will work through all of the specific benefits that are given to us as part of the covenant.

Protection/Safety/Enemies Defeated:

When we mention that we will receive protection, safety, and the defeat of our enemies, we know these are things we need because:

1. We have an enemy (Satan and the principalities and powers) and his ability to bring human enemies against us.
2. We are living in an unsafe world and will encounter trouble.

So, this does not mean we are taken out of these issues but rather that we will be given protection and victory when we do encounter the trouble and battles of life.

Read through Deuteronomy 28:7 and write out those privileges that are promised as a recipient of the covenant? What do they mean to us today?

⁷ The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

LESSON 2:

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE COVENANT

Read Psalm 91:1-16 and list all the benefits.

My Refuge and My Fortress

91 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say[a] to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

⁸ You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.

⁹ Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge[b]—

¹⁰ no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

¹² On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

¹⁴ "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.

¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.

¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

LESSON 2:

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE COVENANT

Read Exodus 23:22-24 and write out what they say to you.

²² But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

²³ When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I blot them out, ²⁴ you shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, nor do as they do, but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars in pieces.

Goodness: His Good Treasure:

Goodness is the excellent, the best, the great life that God has planned out to give us. The world is one of steal, kill, and destroy and wants us to accept a life of mediocrity and constant failure. God assures us that although you will encounter trouble, His plan is for us to live in goodness—beauty, freedom, joy, peace—He is offering His best and none better.

LESSON 2:

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Read Deuteronomy 28:11-12 and write out what they say to you.

¹¹ And the Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. ¹² The Lord will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

Read Psalm 25:9-14 and write out what they say to you.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
¹¹ For your name's sake, O Lord,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.
¹² Who is the man who fears the Lord?
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.
¹³ His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.
¹⁴ The friendship^[a] of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.

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Read Psalm 85:10-13 and write out what they say to you.

- ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- ¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- ¹² Yes, the Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

Peace:

Peace is shalom. It is not the absence of conflict but rather a much deeper understanding of how God defines this: abundant favor, prosperity, completeness, health. This broader definition is a significant part of the covenant promise. These verses each define an element of this deeper meaning:

Read Ezekiel 34:25 and write out what they say to you.

The Lord's Covenant of Peace

²⁵ "I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild beasts from the land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods."

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Read Isaiah 54:10 and write out what they say to you.

¹⁰ For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,”
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

Read John 14:25-27 and write out what they say to you.

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

LESSON 2:

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE COVENANT

Read John 16:33 and write out what they say to you.

³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Abundance:

Abundance contrasts the difference between God's best with mediocrity. The covenant will be giving us things that are excellent and superb and wonderful versus average or something by which we barely get by. Realize this high standard and never accept mediocrity.

Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14 and list all blessings.

Blessings for Obedience

28 "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. ³ Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out.

⁷ "The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. ⁸ The Lord will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving

LESSON 2: THE PRIVILEGES OF THE COVENANT

you.⁹ The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. ¹⁰ And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. ¹¹ And the Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. ¹² The Lord will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. ¹³ And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them, ¹⁴ and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-3 and write out what they say to you.

The Greatest Commandment

6 “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules^[a]—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ² that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

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Read Genesis 39:5-6 and write out what they say to you.

⁵ From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶ So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.



LESSON 3:

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE COVENANT (CON'T)



"Many who are beginning to understand the covenant are in places where they have lost things, ruined things, experienced difficulty and hardship."

As in Lesson 2, continue to read through each set of verses writing out the privileges that are promised as a recipient of the covenant. What do they mean to us today?

Restoration:

Many who are beginning to understand the covenant are in places where they have lost things, ruined things, experienced difficulty and hardship. They wonder if the covenant still applies now, from this place of loss and ruin? The answer is an emphatic "YES" and is a critical part of the covenant life. It is from now forward. How about now?

Read Ezekiel 36:33-36 and write out what they say to you.

³³ "Thus says the Lord God: On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt. ³⁴ And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. ³⁵ And they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' ³⁶ Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the Lord; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it.

LESSON 3:

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE COVENANT (CON'T)

Read Psalm 40:1-3 and write out what they say to you.

My Help and My Deliverer

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

40 I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.

³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord.

Read Joel 2:21-27 and write out what they say to you.

²¹ "Fear not, O land;
be glad and rejoice,
for the Lord has done great things!

²² Fear not, you beasts of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit;
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³ "Be glad, O children of Zion,
and rejoice in the Lord your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,

LESSON 3: THE PRIVILEGES OF THE COVENANT (CON'T)

the early and the latter rain, as before.

²⁴“The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ I will restore^[a] to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent among you.

²⁶“You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Wisdom and Knowledge:

One of the great privileges of living in the covenant is receiving the wisdom and knowledge of God—and seeing things as God sees them. This is not just from the natural world, which is limited, but from the spiritual and from many dimensions. This will give us insight as to what His greater purposes are, that which He wishes to fulfill and do, and how He wants us to step along the path. We then will trust our steps because we can be confident that He knows what’s ahead and around the corner—which we do not.

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Read 2 Chronicles 1:9-12 and write out what they say to you.

⁹O Lord God, let your word to David my father be now fulfilled, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. ¹⁰Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can govern this people of yours, which is so great?" ¹¹God answered Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked for long life, but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may govern my people over whom I have made you king, ¹²wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like."

Read 1 Corinthians 1:30 and write out what they say to you.

³⁰And because of him^[a] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption...

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Establish in Us Good Works:

Our good works will be strictly the assignments given by Him. They are not what we determine are good ideas or worthwhile acts of service, but rather any work that He has called us to. This is to be carried out day by day and not looked at as programs or ministries; so, it can include taking a vacation or time of recreation, taking time with a grandchild, spending time with our spouse, etc. However He wishes us to spend our day, this is His good work for the “now.” It will include our vocation and our ministry work but is not exclusive of those. Remember that all of that is not of our choosing but instead His assignments for us—and within those assignments are specific activities that He designates for the now. They are His plan, not ours.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16 and write out what they say to you.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace...

Read Hebrews 13:20-21 and write out what they say to you.

Benediction

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us^[a] that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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Covenant/Promise(s):

Inherent in the covenant, which is that we will be given blessings (in order to be a blessing), we will be given promises. These are Rhema words that are specifically given to us and that are unique to us.

Read Galatians 3:10-18, 3:26-29 and write out what they say to you.

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."^[a] ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit^[b] through faith.

The Law and the Promise

¹⁵ To give a human example, brothers:^[c] even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. ¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. ¹⁷ This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave^[a] nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

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What Does He Promise?

Read Psalm 111:5-9.

- ⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.
- ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.
- ⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;
- ⁸ they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
- ⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

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Read Psalm 23:6 and write out what they say to you.

⁶ Surely^[a] goodness and mercy^[b] shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell^[c] in the house of the Lord
forever.^[d]

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:24 and write out what they say to you.

²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Commands Blessing:

He wants us to understand that the covenant will be a life of Him commanding blessing (it will happen), which we can count on, and not wonder if it will happen. It will because it will be commanded.

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Read Deuteronomy 28:8 and write out what they say to you.

⁸ The Lord will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Read Psalm 133:1-3 and write out what they say to you.

When Brothers Dwell in Unity

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

133 Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity![a]

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore.



LESSON 4:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT



"Our first call is to follow God's instructions and do what we know is right in His eyes. "

6. WHAT ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE AGREEMENT?

Now that we have discussed the benefits of the covenant, and we have an understanding that a covenant is an agreement where both sides have responsibility for the agreement, we now will discuss what those responsibilities are.

Do What Is Right and Hate Evil:

Our first call is to follow God's instructions and do what we know is right in His eyes. This means we are to rid our lives of anything that is not pleasing to God or takes away the power of the life of God.

Read through the following verses in Chronicles noting those actions of the kings who were deemed "good and right in the eyes of the Lord." How would we translate these into what would be good and right in the eyes of the Lord in our lives? What specifically is God asking you to do that is good and right, right now?

Read 2 Chronicles 14:2-6, 26:4-5, 31:20-21 and write out what they say to you.

^{2 [a]} And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God. ³ He took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim ⁴ and commanded Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, and to keep the law and the commandment. ⁵ He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense altars. And the kingdom had rest under him. ⁶ He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the Lord gave him peace.

⁴ And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. ⁵ He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God, and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper.

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²⁰ Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God. ²¹ And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered.

Read through Philippians 1:27-30 and note what it means to be worthy of walking of the Gospel. What does that mean to you, and how might God be calling you to adjust your life right now?

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy^[a] of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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Read through Matthew 10:34-39 and note how Jesus defines who is worthy of following Him. What does that mean for you, and how He is calling you to respond to Him right now?

Not Peace, but a Sword

³⁴ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Be Separate:

We must understand what being separate really is all about: Jesus has not taken us out of the world nor has He asked us to completely separate from the world per se. This discussion is about being separate from influences that would dominate or have decision-making control over us: our closest friendships, advisers, partnerships, inner circle, etc. So, this is not about having relationships with unbelievers (we are called to spread the good news) but rather about who we spend most of our time with, namely our inner circle.

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Read through Psalm 1:1 and write out what this verse says about how we are to respond to those who are not willing to walk with God.

The Way of the Righteous and the Wicked

1 Blessed is the man^[a]

who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers.

Read through 2 Corinthians 6:11-18 and note the truth about those relationships that reside in the darkness. What does that mean about relating to unbelievers/those who are not walking with God versus being in partnership and yoked to unbelievers/those who are not walking with God? What is the difference, and why is this so important to our life with God?

¹¹ We have spoken freely to you,^[a] Corinthians; our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. ¹³ In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

The Temple of the Living God

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial?^[b] Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,

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and they shall be my people.

¹⁷Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,
¹⁸and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”

Read through 1 Corinthians 15:33-34 and write out the impact that the ungodly can have on us if we spend too much time in relationship with them as a normal way of life? Why is this so important as to how we then live in our walk with God?

³³ Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”^[a] ³⁴ Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

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Obedience/Faithfulness:

As God gives us promises, He will give us instruction regarding the steps of following His will to receive these promises, and these will be delivered supernaturally. He needs to move us to the right place, at the right time, with the right people for Him to fulfill His purposes and thus His grand plan and the privilege for us to experience His wonderful promises to us. Our role is then to follow His instruction, to be obedient to what He tells us.

Read through Deuteronomy 28:1-2 and write out the conditions to receiving the blessings promised in the covenant. What does that mean is critical to us in the process?

Blessings for Obedience

28 “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.

Read Deuteronomy 30:9-20.

⁹The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers, ¹⁰ when you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

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Word Meanings:

The Choice of Life and Death

¹¹ “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹⁴ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God^[a] that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules,^[b] then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

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Read through Matthew 25:14-30 and write out what we are called to do as servants of the Master. What does that mean? How are we to carry this out, and what is the key to the process in carrying this out?

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants[a] and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents,^[b] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.'²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'^[c] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.'²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.'²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.'³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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Read through 2 Timothy 2:1-7 and write out the call to us as “soldiers of Christ.” What are we to be careful of? What does that practically mean? What things in your life might you be entangled in that need to be adjusted or dropped?

A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus

2 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men,^[a] who will be able to teach others also. ³ Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵ An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷ Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

Ponder the Path of Our Feet:

Read through Proverbs 4:26 and 5:21 and write out what is important to you as you walk forward in life. What exactly does this mean, and how would you fulfill this practically? Why is this so important?

²⁶ Ponder^[a] the path of your feet;
then all your ways will be sure.

²¹ For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord,
and he ponders^[a] all his paths.

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Read through Isaiah 30:20-22 and write out how you process with God. What is He doing, and what do you do? Why is this so important versus just trying to figure things out on your own with your own sight and logic?

²⁰ And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹ And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. ²² Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"

LESSON 4:

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Read through Psalm 86:11-12 and write out the important aspects of walking in God's path for us. How would you practically carry these out, and why are they so important to us?

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.

¹² I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.



LESSON 5:

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**"As we learn to believe
in the covenant, we
must be faithful in what
we pursue, accept, and
stand on."**

HOW DO WE WALK ALONG GOD'S COVENANT PATH FOR US? GAIN WISDOM/LISTEN/DELEGATE/BE TAUGHT.

As we now go deeper, we ask the question, "How do we receive God's will?" The answer is by receiving His wisdom through listening and being taught.

Read through Psalm 34:11-14 and write out the keys to receiving wisdom from God and desiring the covenant life of God. What does this look like to us in our life now? How would you apply this to your life today?

- ¹¹ Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- ¹² What man is there who desires life
and loves many days, that he may see good?
- ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
- ¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

LESSON 5:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Read through Psalm 143:8-12 and write down how we are to pray to God to give us wisdom for our everyday life as we abide in His Word and seek His will.

⁸ Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,
for in you I trust.

Make me know the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.

⁹ Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!
I have fled to you for refuge.^[a]

¹⁰ Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God!

Let your good Spirit lead me
on level ground!

¹¹ For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

¹² And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies,
and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,
for I am your servant.

LESSON 5:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Read through Exodus 18:17-27 and write out the truths about delegating. How are we to carry this out, and why is it so important in our life? In what practical ways can we fulfill this now in the things of our lives today?

¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. ¹⁹ Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, ²⁰ and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. ²¹ Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²² And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. ²³ If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace."

²⁴ So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. ²⁵ Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²⁶ And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves. ²⁷ Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his own country.

LESSON 5:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Wait on the Lord:

Waiting on the Lord is a big deal as we walk along the path and receive the promises of the covenant. We must remember that everything comes in His timing and not our own. This may be difficult as we wait or face what feels like a long delay. When promises are not fulfilled quickly (we always want the short term, or the immediate, and we expect things to happen instantly), we tend to take over and decide our own path. Waiting is critical to living in the covenant. He will deliver what He promises—but He is working all things according to His bigger story and His multiple dimensions. This is why He asks us to wait and not to take things in our own control and prevent what He is doing. The covenant life will happen. Trust and wait.

Read through Psalm 62:1-2, 62:5-8 and write out why it is so important to wait upon God showing us His way and His will in our lives. What does it mean to wait? What does He ask me to believe as I wait? Why?

My Soul Waits for God Alone

To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

62 For God alone my soul waits in silence;

from him comes my salvation.

² He alone is my rock and my salvation,

my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

⁵ For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,

for my hope is from him.

⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation,

my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

⁷ On God rests my salvation and my glory;

my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people;

pour out your heart before him;

God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

LESSON 5:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Read through and write out what I can expect if I wait for God to act versus taking things in my own hands? Why is this going to be the better way to go? How can I live this out in my life now? Read Psalm 40:1-5.

My Help and My Deliverer

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

40 I waited patiently for the Lord;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² He drew me up from the pit of destruction,

out of the miry bog,

and set my feet upon a rock,

making my steps secure.

³ He put a new song in my mouth,

a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear,

and put their trust in the Lord.

⁴ Blessed is the man who makes

the Lord his trust,

who does not turn to the proud,

to those who go astray after a lie!

⁵ You have multiplied, O Lord my God,

your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;

none can compare with you!

I will proclaim and tell of them,

yet they are more than can be told.

LESSON 5:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Hope:

As we wait, it is particularly important that we live with hope, with the expectation for the covenant to be delivered to us—an expectation for good. Without it we will get discouraged, and God knows this, which is why He wants us to stay in hope throughout the process of waiting.

Read through Psalm 33:18-22 and write out how you would define hope, and why this is important in living out the life of the covenant. What specific areas of your life are you seeking hope?

- ¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
¹⁹ that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.
²⁰ Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.
²¹ For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
²² Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

LESSON 5:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Read through Romans 4:17-21 and note out how Abraham experienced hope. What did he trust, and what occurred in his life as a result? What was the role of hope in all this? Why is that important to us?

¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be."¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness^[a] of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Read through Romans 15:13 and write out the elements of our prayer as we seek hope. What can we believe that God will provide, and what can we expect in our lives?

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

LESSON 5:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Trust:

Waiting in hope fully depends on trust. Do I believe God, what He speaks, and that He will deliver the covenant life as promised?

Read through Proverbs 3:1-15 and write out all the truths about what we are to do to build trust in God; and what God promises as we build trust in God.

Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart

- 3** My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments,
2 for length of days and years of life
and peace they will add to you.
3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
4 So you will find favor and good success^[a]
in the sight of God and man.
5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
6 In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
7 Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.
8 It will be healing to your flesh^[b]
and refreshment^[c] to your bones.
9 Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
10 then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.
11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

LESSON 5:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Blessed Is the One Who Finds Wisdom

¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets understanding,

¹⁴ for the gain from her is better than gain from silver
and her profit better than gold.

¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.

Read through Psalm 20:7-8 and write down the choice we have in whom we can trust. As we trust in God, what will be the result? Why is this so important to us?

⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

⁸ They collapse and fall,
but we rise and stand upright.



LESSON 6:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)



**"Peace only comes
from Him, as our
mind and soul are
stayed (kept) on
Him."**

STAY IN, OFFER PEACE.

As we have learned, a key aspect of receiving the covenant is to be living in the Kingdom; and living in the Kingdom means we are living in peace (shalom). Since our lives involve other people, those who are not living in the Kingdom, this can be quite the challenge. One of the big strategies (schemes) of the enemy is to use self-centered, ungodly people to draw us out of the Kingdom to steal our peace and captivate us through our anger, envy, unforgiveness, jealousy, etc. Here, we are going to go into a deep discussion of this important understanding of how to stay in the Kingdom where we can offer peace to others so that we remain in the Kingdom and receive the benefits of the covenant.

Read through Isaiah 26:2-5 and 26:12 and write out the role of peace and how we stay in peace. How do we live this out right now in the issues of our life?

- ² Open the gates,
that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.
- ³ You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.
- ⁴ Trust in the Lord forever,
for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.
- ⁵ For he has humbled
the inhabitants of the height,
the lofty city.
He lays it low, lays it low to the ground,
casts it to the dust.
- ¹² O Lord, you will ordain peace for us,
for you have indeed done for us all our works.

LESSON 6:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Read through Isaiah 53:3-6 and write out on what basis can we receive and live in peace. Is there anything we can do to earn it? What then is the key to staying in peace?

³ He was despised and rejected^[a] by men,
a man of sorrows^[b] and acquainted with^[c] grief,^[d]
and as one from whom men hide their faces^[e]
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

LESSON 6:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Read through Colossians 1:15-23 and write out the position of Christ regarding our world and our circumstances. Then note what you see is His heart toward our life circumstances. What can we then expect and receive? Why?

The Preeminence of Christ

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by[f] him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation[g] under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

LESSON 6: OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Read through Philippians 4:6-7 and write out the keys to receiving and staying in peace. As you consider your life situations right now, put these to practice and write out what is going to bring you peace.

⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Read through Romans 12:9-20 and write out the keys to handling conflict with those who oppose you. How would you interpret what it means to bless those who curse you? Would you hope for God's wrath? Or have the feeling that "vengeance is mine, sayeth the Lord?" These all go together and are important in how we handle those who are against us, hurting us, opposing us. How would you remain in peace (in your heart level, not through some task) in the middle of all this?

Marks of the True Christian

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit,^[a] serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.^[b] Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable

LESSON 6:

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in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it^[c] to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

Read through 2 Timothy 2:20-26 and write out what God asks us to do with people who have not only come against us but who are not willing to work things out with us and are continuing to hurt and oppose us? Why is this important to our heart and maintaining our positive life with God?

²⁰ Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable,[a] he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

²² So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant[b] must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

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OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Read through Luke 10:1-13 and write out how we are to work things out with people with whom we have conflicts and who oppose us. Why is this important to our heart and maintaining our freedom and our life with God?

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two^[a] others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Woe to Unrepentant Cities

¹³ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

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OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

As we continue to have a desire to stay in process with people who are in conflict with us or who oppose us, we are to determine who is worthy to continue that process. Read through Colossians 1:9-12 and write out how we determine who is worthy and thus would give us the encouragement to stay in process.

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks^[d] to the Father, who has qualified you^[e] to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

LESSON 6:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Read through Colossians 3:15 and write out how we use peace to determine our decisions and whether we are walking with God in His Kingdom or in self and not following Him? How does this work practically for us?

¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

LESSON 7:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)



"We thus need to be careful what we are sowing—since we are always sowing something."

UNITY.

Read through Psalm 133 and write out the benefit of dwelling and living in unity. What happens there? Why? Who is unity with? What does this mean for our lives?

When Brothers Dwell in Unity

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

133 Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!^[a]

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore.

Sowing/Reaping:

Another interesting principle of the covenant life is that we are to be sowing certain things (a very active process) that contribute to the reaping and are part and parcel to receiving the blessing. We thus need to be careful what we are sowing—since we are always sowing something.

LESSON 7:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Read through Genesis 26:12-14 and write out the basic principle of sowing and reaping. Why is that important for us to understand in our lives?

¹² And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him, ¹³ and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. ¹⁴ He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him.

Read through Psalm 97:11-12 and write out the various things we are to sow (define what these mean) and the benefits we are to reap. What will these mean to us in our lives?

¹¹ Light is sown^[a] for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.
¹² Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

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One thing we are universally called to sow is a tithe of our income. We are to trust God and do so generously and out of our heart. If we sow generously, we will reap generously, but if we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly. The Lord shows us the truth of all this further with 1 Chronicles 29 and Malachi 3.

Offerings for the Temple

29 And David the king said to all the assembly, “Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the Lord God. ² So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble.³ Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God: ⁴ 3,000 talents^[a] of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house,^[b]⁵ and for all the work to be done by craftsmen, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver. Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself^[c] today to the Lord?”
⁶ Then the leaders of fathers’ houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the officers over the king's work. ⁷ They gave for the service of the house of God 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics^[d] of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze and 100,000 talents of iron. ⁸ And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, in the care of Jehiel the Gershonite.⁹ Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

David Prays in the Assembly

¹⁰ Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.¹¹ Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹² Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³ And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

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¹⁴ “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵ For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding.^[e] ¹⁶ O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. ¹⁷ I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. ¹⁸ O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. ¹⁹ Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision.”

20 Then David said to all the assembly, “Bless the Lord your God.” And all the assembly blessed the Lord, the God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and paid homage to the Lord and to the king. ²¹ And they offered sacrifices to the Lord, and on the next day offered burnt offerings to the Lord, 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams, and 1,000 lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel. ²² And they ate and drank before the Lord on that day with great gladness.

Solomon Anointed King

And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and they anointed him as prince for the Lord, and Zadok as priest.

²³ Then Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord as king in place of David his father. And he prospered, and all Israel obeyed him. ²⁴ All the leaders and the mighty men, and also all the sons of King David, pledged their allegiance to King Solomon. ²⁵ And the Lord made Solomon very great in the sight of all Israel and bestowed on him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.

The Death of David

²⁶ Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. ²⁷ The time that he reigned over Israel was forty years. He reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. ²⁸ Then he died at a good age, full of days, riches, and honor. And Solomon his son reigned in his place. ²⁹ Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the Chronicles of Samuel the seer, and in the Chronicles

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of Nathan the prophet, and in the Chronicles of Gad the seer,³⁰ with accounts of all his rule and his might and of the circumstances that came upon him and upon Israel and upon all the kingdoms of the countries.

3 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.^[a]⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Robbing God

⁶ “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.⁷ From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’⁸ Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions.⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.¹¹ I will rebuke the devourer^[b] for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts.¹² Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.¹³ “Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’¹⁴ You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts?¹⁵ And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evil-doers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

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The Book of Remembrance

¹⁶Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. ¹⁷“They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Read through 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and write out why it is so important to tithe and with what kind of heart are we to give financially. How does this serve God’s purposes and what does it illustrate about our heart? Why is the principle of sowing and reaping in our life of the covenant so important?

The Cheerful Giver

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[a] will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency^[b] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By their approval of this service, they^[c] will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

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Re-read 1 Chronicles 29:10-20 and write out the kind of hearts that God seeks from His children regarding trusting Him as we consider giving. Why will He test us in this? As you consider your heart, how would you evaluate the state of your heart toward generosity and giving? Why?

David Prays in the Assembly

¹⁰ Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹ Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹² Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³ And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

¹⁴ "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵ For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding.^[a] ¹⁶ O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. ¹⁷ I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. ¹⁸ O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. ¹⁹ Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision."

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²⁰Then David said to all the assembly, "Bless the Lord your God." And all the assembly blessed the Lord, the God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and paid homage to the Lord and to the king.

Re-read Malachi 3:10-12 and write out those promises God makes to us as we tithe (there are more than one). Though we are told throughout Scripture to never test God in anything, what are we allowed to do regarding this promise? Why? What will he do?

¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. ¹¹ I will rebuke the devourer^[a] for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. ¹² Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

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Read through Galatians 6:7-10 and write out the outcomes of sowing the flesh versus sowing to the Spirit. What is the difference between the two? How would we sow the Spirit daily so that we reap its benefits?

⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Read through James 3:13-18 and write out why it is so important to sow (as we have learned above) a life of peace? If we do, what kind of wisdom will we receive, and how will we know the difference? Why is this so important to how we live the covenant life?

Wisdom from Above

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

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Build Fortified Cities:

Read through 2 Chronicles 14:2-8 and write out what Asa did after God had given him rest from battles. What was the purpose of this? How can you apply this in your life?

² And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God. ³ He took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim ⁴ and commanded Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, and to keep the law and the commandment. ⁵ He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense altars. And the kingdom had rest under him. ⁶ He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the Lord gave him peace. ⁷ And he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the Lord our God. We have sought him, and he has given us peace on every side." So they built and prospered. ⁸ And Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, armed with large shields and spears, and 280,000 men from Benjamin that carried shields and drew bows. All these were mighty men of valor.

LESSON 7:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

Read through Nehemiah 2:17-20 and write out what Nehemiah did as he was called to rebuild the ruined city. In what ways did he trust God, and why was this so important to the building process? What did he expect through the building process? Why?

¹⁷ Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." ¹⁸ And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. ¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" ²⁰ Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim^[a] in Jerusalem."

Read through 1 Corinthians 3:9-16 and write out that which we are to build upon. Why? What does this practically mean as we are building out the things of our lives? What are the consequences if we do and if we do not?

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.
¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled^[a] master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the

LESSON 7:

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AGREEMENT (CON'T)

foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you^[b] are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?



LESSON 8:

CALLED TO GIVE IT AWAY (BE A BLESSING)



**"We are to let Him lead
and guide only. We
are never to question
His assignments and
especially the size, what
we might consider the
importance, etc."**

GIVE IT AWAY.

Since the essence of the covenant is to be "blessed to be a blessing," we are called to "give it away."

Read through Luke 1:67-80 and write out the very reasons that Christ came to mankind. How are we to join Him in this purpose in our lives?

Zechariah's Prophecy

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people

⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;

⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us[a] from on high

⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in
the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

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Read through John 20:19-23 and write out what Jesus said to His disciples (and thus to us) as to how we are to carry out His purposes here in this world. How does this exactly work? What precisely does this mean in your life now?

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews,^[a] Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

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Read through Acts 1:5-8 and write out Jesus' command for all of us regarding our assignment for the Kingdom of God. How is this to be carried out? What does this mean to us practically right now?

5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with[a] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The Ascension

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Read through Acts 2:40-47 and write out how the early church "gave it away" as they gathered together. Why were people attracted to what they were doing and experiencing and thus what happened daily? How might we practice this today with our Christian gatherings?

⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe^[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling

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their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Read through 2 Timothy 2:1-2 and write out what Paul instructed us to do in sharing what we are learning with others. How do we carry this out? With whom in our lives can we begin to share what we are learning?

A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus

2 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men,[a] who will be able to teach others also.

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REMEMBER, HE WORKS BOTH SIDES OF THE AGREEMENT!

Now that you have walked through all of the requirements of what is our part of the agreement, we now reinforce that God works both sides of the agreement. It really is not our work on our own, but rather because He lives in us, it is His work. These verses will show us the power of this.

Read through Jeremiah 31:31-34 and write out the truths about the role of the Holy Spirit. What does He promise to do as work to carry out our part of the covenant agreement? Why is this such an important truth and so critical to our meeting this condition?

The New Covenant

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

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Read Jeremiah 32:37-42.

³⁷ Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. ³⁸ And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹ I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. ⁴⁰ I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

⁴² "For thus says the Lord: Just as I have brought all this great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them.

AND: WE RECEIVE THE DESIRES OF OUR HEART!

As we walk with Him in the Kingdom and enjoy the benefits of the covenant, He will give us the desires of our hearts. The circumstances of our life will line up to thrill our hearts as He so made us and that are unique to us. Remember, these are not to be chased because He will give these to us. He has a lifetime to give these, and since they are from Him, He will refine the depth and profound understanding of what they truly are so our desires are truly met. It will be a lifetime of surprises and giving us circumstances and things that thrill us and excite us—all part of the covenant blessings.

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Word Meanings:

Read through Psalm 37:3-8 and write out what is promised if we delight ourselves in God (meet the conditions of the covenant). What are these conditions as stated here? Where do you need to adjust to meet these conditions to delight yourself in God?

- ³ Trust in the Lord, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.^[a]
- ⁴ Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
- ⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.
- ⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!
- ⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.

Read Psalm 21:1-7.

The King Rejoices in the Lord's Strength
To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

- 21** O Lord, in your strength the king rejoices,
and in your salvation how greatly he exults!
- ² You have given him his heart's desire
and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah
- ³ For you meet him with rich blessings;
you set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

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- ⁴ He asked life of you; you gave it to him,
length of days forever and ever.
- ⁵ His glory is great through your salvation;
splendor and majesty you bestow on him.
- ⁶ For you make him most blessed forever;^[a]
you make him glad with the joy of your presence.
- ⁷ For the king trusts in the Lord,
and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved.

Read Psalm 20:1-6.

Trust in the Name of the Lord Our God
To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

20 May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble!

May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

² May he send you help from the sanctuary
and give you support from Zion!

³ May he remember all your offerings
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! Selah

⁴ May he grant you your heart's desire
and fulfill all your plans!

⁵ May we shout for joy over your salvation,
and in the name of our God set up our banners!
May the Lord fulfill all your petitions!

⁶ Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed;
he will answer him from his holy heaven
with the saving might of his right hand.

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Read through Psalm 145 (OUR MISSION) and write out all the details required of our mission of living out the covenant of God. How are we to adjust our lives to carry out this mission?

Great Is the Lord

^aA Song of Praise. Of David.

145 I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.

⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.

⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,

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and all your saints shall bless you!

¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,

¹² to make known to the children of man your^[b] mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

[The Lord is faithful in all his words
and kind in all his works.]^[c]

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶ You open your hand;
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.

¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.

²⁰ The Lord preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

