

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

*****Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.*****

Why Do We Need a New Covenant? Part Two

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

3 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **What is the New Covenant?**
- **Jesus & the New Covenant**
- **What it means to be a New Covenant People**

I. What is the New Covenant?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.

- What are the promises of God that are listed out in the passage from Jeremiah? How do these promises make the new covenant better than the old?
 - *Leader Cheat: The old covenant required obedience to an external law while the new covenant promises obedience will come from the law being written on our hearts.*
- How are the new covenant promises fulfilled today? What aspects of these promises are we still looking forward to?
- How could trying to obey the law make a person more willing to receive Christ? What can Christ do for sinners that the law cannot do?
- In what ways do you or modern believers try to adhere to a law today? How is this fruitless?
- **Read Exodus 34:6-7.** How are these characteristics of God displayed in His covenantal relationship with Israel?
- When have you been tempted to think that not following God would be easier or better?

II. Jesus & the New Covenant

- How does Christ fulfill the Old Testament covenant? Use the following passages for clues: (Leaders: Do not feel pressure to have your group read every verse, these are for your reference.)
 - Abrahamic Covenant: Matthew 1:1, Luke 1:54-55
 - Mosaic/Old Covenant: Luke 22:20, Romans 10:4, Ephesians 2:14-15
 - Davidic Covenant: Matthew 1:1, Acts 2:30-36, Revelation 22:16
- How does Jesus fulfill each promise of the new covenant? Reread Jeremiah 31:33-34 as a reminder of the promises.
- Jesus promises a “Helper” in John 14:16. Who is this helper and why do we need him? *Leader Cheat: Ezekiel 36:26-27 can help with this discussion.*
- How is the sending of the Holy Spirit important for believers today? What are some ministries of the Spirit?
Leader Cheat: See 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Isaiah 11:2, Ephesians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 2:10-13 for some ministries.

III. What it means to be a New Covenant People

- How does the new covenant extend even to Gentiles? Read Galatians 3:5-9 and 3:23-29.
- One theologian said, “It is the privilege of every Christian to enjoy the confidence of final salvation. This is not because our faith is great; sometimes it is meager. It is because Jesus is a great Savior, whose death, resurrection, and ongoing intercession keep us saved.” How is this comforting for believers? What does this say about works?
- As new covenant believers, we are still called to follow the commands of Christ (John 14:15). Read Matthew 22:37-40 and Matthew 28:19-20 for these commandments. What is Jesus commanding his followers to do?
- How can you follow these commands better? What are some obstacles to you better following Jesus’ commands?

Closing Prayer:

O God, we pray again fulfill that covenant promise, “I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.” May we be very tender toward you; may we feel your faintest admonition; may even the gentlest breath of your Spirit suffice to move us; may we not be “as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding; whose mouth be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto us,” but may we be as

children obedient to a father – may we yield our members cheerfully to the instruments of righteousness; may we have a natural desire wrought in the new nature toward everything that is pure and honest, unselfish and Christlike.

- Charles Spurgeon