

## Session #2: Covenant with God

**Group Discussion:** 15 minutes

*Discuss Improvement Goals from Homework*

**Teaching:** 30 minutes

### **Why do I need a passion?**

Your passion for each other was culminated with your marriage covenant. We want to use your marriage to help you understand what God means by covenant. This should help you grow your intimacy with God and each other.

**Read John 17:3 in the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition**

**3** And this is eternal life: [it means] to know (to perceive, recognize, become acquainted with, and understand) You, the only true and real God, and [likewise] to know Him, Jesus [as the] Christ (the Anointed One, the Messiah), Whom You have sent.

The word **“KNOW”** is a verb that means “to come to KNOW, learn, and realize, through personal experience.” In Luke 1:34, Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not **know** a man?” This “knowing” describes intimacy.

With that in mind, let's discuss examples of your wedding day.

- *Wedding ring*
- *White dress*
- *Signed contract*
- *Ceremony*
- *Veil*
- *Feast*
- *Friends / Family*
- *Pronouncement name change*

**Keep this list in front of you for TWO weeks. Make note of anything you learn from the Bible about covenant (especially when it comes to Jesus) that reminds you of this list.**

## **What is covenant relationship in the Bible?**

*Just like our passion for our spouse started with a marriage covenant and focuses on a growing relationship, so too, our passion for God starts with a covenant relationship and is meant to grow as we get to know Him better. A covenant is a chosen relationship in which two parties make binding promises to each other and obligate themselves to one another. Most covenants have both conditional and unconditional elements, but not all. These covenants are usually accompanied by **signs, sacrifices and solemn oaths**, that seal the relationship with promises of blessings for keeping the covenant, and curses for breaking it.*

*Biblical covenants:*

- **Adamic:** A seed - (Son)
- **Noahic:** Preservation - Rainbow
- **Abrahamic:** Land, seed, blessing - Circumcision
- **Mosaic:** The law - Sabbath Rest
- **Davidic:** One on the throne -
- **New:** Baptism - Lord's Supper

**Discuss:**

- *Covenants with nations: A treaty or alliance.*
- *Covenants with government and citizens: Constitution - Laws we promise to obey.*
- *Covenants with friends: A pledge, agreement or promise.*

*The theme of this study will revolve around these four covenants:*

- **Noahic**
- **Abrahamic**
- **Mosaic**
- **New Covenant**

\* *The Greek word for covenant is "diatheke" (contract or testament) which we will talk more about next week.*



**HOMEWORK: Abrahamic Covenant: Week #1****Read Genesis 15 as a Couple**

Focus on verses 15:18, read the verses below and then discuss the questions below

**Read Genesis 17:1-22 as a Couple**

Focus on verses 17:4-7 and 5-16 and discuss:

- Who established the covenant?
- Was it only for Abraham?
- Are we Abraham's decedents?
- Was it conditional or non-conditional?
- What is the sign?
- How long is the covenant?
- Is there a name change?
- What happened to people not of the covenant?
  - \* When the animals were cut in half, as God passed through (as the flaming torch or smoking oven), the inference of the covenant was that, "May I be like these animals if I break the covenant?"
  - \* This covenant was confirmed by God to Abraham's son Issac in Genesis 26: 23-25 and Issac's son Jacob in Genesis 28:10-22.

**HOMEWORK: Mosaic Covenant: Week #2****Read Exodus 20 (Ten Commandments) as a Couple**

- Read each commandment together and talk about how you apply them to your life.
  - \* Are you living them out? What needs to change? How will you change?

**Read Exodus 24:1-18 as a Couple**

Focus on verses 24:3-8

- Moses is speaking of the sacrificial system that was rooted in the Ten Commandments.
  - \* What did Moses build? What did Moses do with the blood and why?
  - \* **How does this relate to the covenant God made with Abraham that you reviewed last week?**
    - \* God required animal sacrifices to provide a temporary covering of sins and to foreshadow the perfect and complete sacrifice of Jesus Christ ([Leviticus 4:35](#), [5:10](#)). Animal sacrifice is an important theme found throughout Scripture because "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" ([Hebrews 9:22](#)). When Adam and Eve sinned, animals were killed by God to provide clothing for them ([Genesis 3:21](#)). Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to the Lord. Cain's was unacceptable because he brought fruit, while Abel's was acceptable because it was the "firstborn of his flock" ([Genesis 4:4-5](#)). After the flood receded, Noah sacrificed animals to God ([Genesis 8:20-21](#)).