



3RD - 5TH

15.3
God Promised a
New Covenant



CONNECT TIME

Greet kids by name and play table games as kids arrive. Be sure to welcome any new families. Ask kids:

If you could make anything you own brand new again, would you? What would you choose to make new? Maybe a toy, bike, or art supplies?



DO YOU SEE AND UNDERSTAND?

Start by 9:20/10:45

Form kids into four groups and hand each group a heart shaped paper. Ask groups to read their sentences aloud. The font should be small enough that kids cannot read the sentences. Then give each group a magnifying glass. Invite kids to use the magnifying glass to read their sentences. Discuss how the magnifying glass helped them see so they could begin to understand what was on the paper.

Today, we will learn that our hearts cannot always be trusted because they are sinful. We don't always understand why we have certain desires or behave the way we do. But God always knows our hearts. He doesn't need a magnifying glass to be able to see and understand what is in our hearts. We'll learn that when we look to Jesus and trust in Him, God forgives our sin and gives us new hearts that want to follow Him.

START BY
9:30/10:55

REVIEW **3** BE, LISTEN, FOLLOW



LARGE GROUP

SMALL GROUP



BIBLE REVIEW

Distribute Bibles and guide kids to open their Bibles to Jeremiah 31. **Jeremiah is in the Major Prophets division of the Old Testament because it is larger in size. Jeremiah is known as the "weeping prophet" because he was so sad over Judah's sin and the coming judgment of God. The book of Jeremiah does give hope: God's love is forever and a new covenant would be made.** Choose a volunteer to read aloud Jeremiah 31:33 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

What does it mean that God's words are written on His people's hearts? It means people who trust in Jesus love God and want to follow His commands. God changes their hearts so they desire to obey Him.

Does obeying God's commands save us from sin? No. We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus. Obeying God does not earn our salvation; instead, our obedience shows that God has changed our hearts.



DISCUSSION

Why do Christians desire to obey God's commands? Believers have changed hearts and now recognize God's love for them through Jesus. They rightly see how God's commands are for their good and how following God's commands shows they love God. (Option: Read Psalm 119:127-128)

Have you ever heard the saying 'trust your heart'? Is this good advice? What does the Bible say about trusting our heart? Our hearts are deceitful, and we can't always trust them. Our hearts sometimes lead us to think what we want or desire is good when it really isn't. God does change our hearts to want to obey Him, but we must ultimately rely upon the Word of God and the Holy Spirit for true understanding. (Option: Read Mark 7:21-22.)

Why is the new covenant good news? Under the new covenant people can find forgiveness of sins. Under the old covenant, God required complete obedience to every one of His laws. The bad news is we can never obey God perfectly. We are sinners who fall short of His perfect standards. However, under the new covenant, Jesus perfectly obeyed the law for us. Now, when we trust in Him, we not only find forgiveness of our sin, but we are counted as if we lived perfectly like Jesus. Through faith in Jesus and the Holy Spirit, Christians obey the law to love God and people, but not as a way to be saved. (Option: Read Galatians 3:23-24.)



KEY VERSE

Before the session, on a dry erase board, write the words of the key passage in random order all over the board. Then add in words that are not found in the key passage. Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 145:9 together.

Our key passage reminds us God is good and merciful. We don't deserve the forgiveness given to us through the new covenant, but in His mercy and goodness, He did.

Invite a volunteer to come to the dry erase board, find, and circle the first word of the key passage. Repeat for the remaining words. Play again as time allows, adding in new words in each time.



Take prayer requests and allow kids to pray.



Match parent pick-up numbers, with child name tag numbers.
Build relationships with parents, encourage them to take a picture of the parent recap page to go over on the ride home.