



K - 2ND

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:

Have you ever made a promise you couldn't keep? What happened?



CAN YOU BE TRICKED?

Start by 9:20/10:45

Display three cups on a table. Place a small object, like a cotton ball, under one of the cups while the kids watch. Shuffle the cups around slowly at first, then increase the speed as the game progresses. Ask a kid to guess which cup has the object. Play several rounds, inviting different kids to guess where the object is. Consider allowing a kid be the cup-mover.

The Bible says in Jeremiah 17:9 our hearts can trick us. We might think we're doing right, but we can't always trust our hearts. Just like this game tricked our eyes, our hearts can fool us. Today, we'll learn how we need God to change our hearts so we can follow His ways.

START BY
9:30/10:55

REVIEW **3** BE, LISTEN, FOLLOW



LARGE GROUP

SMALL GROUP



BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Distribute Bibles and guide kids to find Jeremiah 31. Jeremiah is in the Major Prophets division of the Old Testament because it is larger in size. Read Jeremiah 17:9-10 aloud.

Have you ever heard the phrase 'follow your heart?' Responses will vary.

Can we always trust our hearts to make the right choices? No. Because we are sinners, our hearts can lead us to choose our own way instead of God's way. But God is always trustworthy, and His Word is always true.

How can our hearts be made new? Jesus always obeyed God perfectly. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins and changes our hearts so we want to obey Him. We will still make mistakes, but God sees us as forgiven and right with Him because of Jesus.



DISCUSSION

How does God write His law on our hearts? God does not write on our hearts with a marker or a pen. When we turn to God, He permanently changes the desires of our hearts. As believers, we will want to obey God's law not because of written rules, but because we have a transformed heart that loves Him (Romans 6:17).

Why should we obey God? We obey God because He loves us. We don't obey God to earn His love, because through Jesus, we already have it. Because of sin, our hearts want to do what we want instead of what God wants. We can try to obey God perfectly, but we will sin. Through the new covenant, God promised to save us through Jesus and to change our hearts to help us obey Him.

The people in the Old Testament broke the old covenant because they did not keep all of God's laws. Why can't the new covenant be broken? The new covenant cannot be broken because God Himself accomplished it. When Jesus came to earth, He obeyed every one of God's laws perfectly. Jesus always did what the Father commanded. The new covenant was completed when Jesus died on the cross. His blood washes away the sin of those who trust in Him. Before Jesus died on the cross, He said, "it is finished." Jesus did what God sent Him to do so people could have forgiveness of sins.



PROMISE PASS

Lead kids to sit in a circle. Direct kids to pass around the ball while the music plays. When the music stops, the kid holding the ball answers a question about the promises found in the Bible story or completes a phrase you say, such as: • Who said God would make a new covenant? (Jeremiah) • God's new covenant means... (God loves us.) • God will write His law on... (our hearts.) • What did God promise to forgive? (our sin)

Jeremiah told about a day when God would forgive sin and change people's hearts. Jesus made these words come true. Just like the people of Judah, we need a heart change so that we can obey and follow God.



As time allows, pass out crayons and pencils for kids to work on the activity sheet.



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.