

TESTIMONY, Vocabulary of Faith

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LESSON 3: Covenant, God in Relationship

Teaching Proposition: Covenant is the primary way in which God relates to humanity through the work of the Spirit, binding us together into community so that we may experience the inbreaking of God's grace and love in our lives.

PRAYER

God of the ages and God of today, to our utter amazement you yearn to be in relationship with us. Your continuing and amazing grace beckons us to greater faithfulness, and for that and so many other things we are deeply grateful. Open us to the presence of your Spirit in this moment that we may hear and understand your wisdom in new and renewing ways. Then, Holy One, quicken within us a desire to live in ways that reflect the gift of your grace, your amazing love and our continuing covenantal relationship. Amen

OPENING DISCUSSION

- So, what is a covenant?
- Likely synonyms?

SCRIPTURE CONNECTIONS (How does Scripture define the term 'covenant?')

Let's look at five major covenant connection examples.

- Noah Genesis 6:5-22 and 9:8-17
- Abraham Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6; 17:1-22
- Moses Exodus 2:23-25; 6:2-8; 19: 3-8 and Joshua 23: 11-16
- David 2 Samuel 7:14-17
 - 1 Chron. 17: 7-14
- Psalm 136

FURTHER DISCUSSION

1. What are the pressure points of living within God's Covenant?
2. How do we see those promises played out in our church: consider baptism, the welcoming into membership and ordination of Deacons and Elders?
3. How does God's steadfast covenant love affect how you live your life? Consider the life in the church?

CLOSING PRAYER