

## *Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 6 The New Covenant*

**Purpose of study:** *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

### **Lesson 6: The New Covenant** (Day One) *Mercy Seat*

Studying the major covenants gives us an outline of God’s character and His purposes for mankind and the world that He created. God’s love and purpose are intertwined like a beautiful vine throughout Scripture. Lesson 5 ended with King Solomon’s understanding of this truth: *there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below-- you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way* (1 Kings 8:23).

God’s character is seen through His *unfailing love* and *mercy*. He bestows this love and mercy on us, in us and through us. God meets our needs with loving-kindness on every level. He is a giving God.

**Definition:** Hesed (חֶסֶד) is a Hebrew word used in the Old Testament to describe God’s unfailing and steadfast love for us. The word describes God’s kindness and His loving-kindness in condescending (bending to a lower status) to the needs of His creatures. God gives us His goodness and favor.

Specifically regarding loving-kindness, God had redeemed us from enemies and troubles. Therefore men and women should trust in His hesed; rejoice in it; hope in it. God has preserved our life from death and has quickened our spiritual life. God has redeemed us from sin and has kept the covenants, with Abraham; with Moses and Israel; with David and his dynasty; with the wife Zion.<sup>1</sup>

Hesed is translated in a variety of ways in our various English Bible translations, such as unfailing love, mercy, kindness, and love. English does not have a word that completely captures the meaning of the Hebrew word hesed (חֶסֶד). The word encompasses our divine God who gives of His time, resources and majesty for His creature’s benefit even though we do not deserve it. He is One who makes and keeps covenants to profit and help others who are immeasurably below His stature (importance).

God gives of Himself because that is His nature. His loving and merciful character does not detract (reduce importance) from His holy and righteous character. God is loving, merciful,

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<sup>1</sup> BibleWorks 6; wife Zion – metaphor for the people of Israel and people of God; God is the husband.

forgiving, holy, righteous and just all at the same time. In addition, He has other characteristics that make up His Supreme Being and yet, they are all actively part of what it means to be God.

One of the best examples of God's amazing nature is the atonement cover or mercy seat of the Mosaic or Old Covenant. The Hebrew word kapporeth (כַּפֹּרֶת) which means to cover over sin is translated in a variety of ways depending on the English Bible translation: atonement cover, mercy seat, cover of ark, and propitiatory (appease, pacify). My personal preference is mercy seat and therefore I will use this name to bridge us into the New Covenant.

The mercy seat was the solid gold covering placed on top of the ark of the covenant. At 45 inches by 27 inches, it was the same size as the ark. Attached to this solid gold piece were the two cherubim (angels) with their wings touching. The mercy seat symbolized the throne of God, His presence and rule of Israel.

**Definition:** Atonement is defined as compensation for a wrong or injury. The Hebrew word translated atonement in the Bible is kaphar (כָּפַר). It means to cover over, pacify, propitiate (appease) the wrath of a king (e.g. by a gift). It also means to cover over and atone (reconcile, make amends) for sin.

**Definition:** Mercy is the kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly. The merciful care for the needs of others and help those in distress.

**Read Leviticus 16:2-3 and answer question 1-3:**

*The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover."<sup>3</sup> "This is how Aaron is to enter the sanctuary area: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering."*

Leviticus 16:2-3

1. Could the high priest Aaron go to the Most Holy Place in front of the atonement cover (mercy seat) whenever he decided to? Yes No (Circle One)

**\*\*See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.**

2. Why was Aaron told not to enter, *whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the cover of the ark* (v. 2)?

3. How was Aaron, the high priest, supposed to enter into the sanctuary (v. 3)?

**Read Leviticus 16:13-16 and answer question 4-6:**

*He is to put the incense on the fire before the LORD, and the smoke of the incense will conceal the atonement cover above the Testimony, so that he will not die.<sup>14</sup> He is to take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover.<sup>15</sup> "He shall then*

*slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it.<sup>16</sup> In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been. He is to do the same for the Tent of Meeting, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness. Leviticus 16:13-16*

4. Why did Aaron put incense on the fire before the Lord to conceal the atonement cover (v. 13)?
5. What was sprinkled on the atonement cover (mercy seat) (vs. 14-15)?
6. Explain in your own words why atonement cover or mercy seat is an accurate translation for the Hebrew word kapporeth (כַּפֹּרֶת) and the purpose for which it was made (vs. 15-16):

God's holy presence resided above the atonement cover. In love, He was revealing to His people that rebellion and sin separates us from Him. If we were to enter His presence, we would die. However, because God is merciful and did not want to inflict death and punishment on the Israelites, He gave them the sacrificial system through the Mosaic covenant. It is a covenant that points to God's perfect New Covenant in and through His perfect son, Jesus Christ.

God's mercy seat is one that is active and living and now residing in Christ. God does not patronize His people with platitudes (empty words) but rolls up His holy sleeves and gets involved in our lives. Jesus lowered Himself and became man to die and shed His blood for our rebellion and sin. God's covenants are truly covenants of love, hesed (חֶסֶד).

*Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. Deuteronomy 7:9*

7. Read Deuteronomy 7:9. God, the faithful God, keeps His covenant of love to a thousand generation of those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him and \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_.

In Lesson 5 we learned about David and the Davidic covenant. David had faith in the above verse. He often called on God and relied on His unfailing love and favor. The word translated love in Psalm 109:26 below is hesed (חֶסֶד).

*Help me, O LORD my God; save me in accordance with your love.<sup>27</sup> Let them know that it is your hand, that you, O LORD, have done it. Psalm 109:26*

8. Read, meditate and ask God to speak to you through Psalm 109:26. What did God say to you?

*The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. Psalm 25:14*

9. Read Psalm 25:14. In whom does the LORD confide and to whom does He make His covenant known?

### **Lesson 6: The New Covenant (Day Two) Relationships**

Relationships were addressed in Lesson 3 of this study, and you might want to review those pages. We are a relational people; God made us this way (Genesis 3:18 and Revelation 3:20). Therefore as a discipler, your relationships with those you are discipling are an important way of honoring God.

God has work for us to do in sharing the gospel and making disciples, but we are never to objectify (treat as objects) those involved in our work. They are not things to be used for our own goals or satisfactions, but are living beings with feelings, challenges and dreams. Primarily, God wants us to *love* and *serve* them.

In the book of 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul is writing a letter to the church at Corinth. He is addressing questions and problems with the members. In chapter 12, Paul explains that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts as He desires for the common good. Their special knowledge, powers or gifting are to be used to build up the church, the body of Christ.

Paul then explains the importance of every member of the body. There should be no division, but each member should care for the other. When one suffers humiliation, all suffer. When one honors God, all rejoice.

You and your disciple will have different gifts, strengths and personalities. Neither is better than the other. All are equally valued in God's eyes and in His church. We strive for gifts to humbly serve, not to place ourselves on a pedestal.

Paul then goes on to explain that the right way to exercise your gifts is in love. It is the *most excellent way*. In fact, love is a sieve (strainer) through which all gifts, talents and even life itself must pass through.

**Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 and answer questions 10-13:**

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.*

<sup>2</sup> *If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

<sup>3</sup> *If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

<sup>4</sup> *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

<sup>5</sup> *It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

<sup>6</sup> *Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

<sup>7</sup> *It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.* 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

**10.** If you teach your disciple with wonderful and powerful words and are able to make him understand the Bible, yet have no love, what are you (vs. 1-2)?

**11.** If you give everything you have to the poor and even die for Christ, but have no love in your heart, what do you get or achieve (v. 3)?

**12.** The definition of love is given in the last verses of the passage (vs. 4-7). From the fifteen descriptions of love, list two that you struggle with:

If you had trouble picking just two, you are not alone. Personally, I could use help with all of them. Love is difficult because we are fallen creatures. We like to have our own way and are prideful enough to believe we deserve it.

Truthfully, the only thing we really deserve is death for our sins against God and our fellow human beings. It is really good news that God is merciful and does not give us what we deserve. Instead, He gives us a New Covenant through His Son Jesus Christ so that our transgressions can be forgiven.

Through Christ we are also given the ability to love God and our neighbor; we can and will be a loving discipler. Through Christ we can be wholly pleasing to God and live out the definition of love given in 1 Corinthians 13. Through Christ we have a new agreement with God that surpasses the old agreement in every way. It is the source of our love, power and...life.

However, because we have the ability to love, it does not mean we do not have to work and discipline ourselves to see the results. It is like any natural ability or gift that goes unattended. An intelligent person admitted to a prestigious university can easily fail without studying and doing the assignments. An athlete who does not exercise and train will be a poor contender (competitor). A teacher or speaker who does not plan and prepare lessons will not mold minds effectively and purposefully.

Therefore, receive your gift and take your ability to love seriously. Study, train, practice and work hard at loving others. Nothing will change another or the world like living your life through Christ's love. It *is* worth the effort

### **Lesson 6: The New Covenant (Day Three) *Jesus***

#### **Seventh Covenant: New Covenant**

Six Previous Covenants we studied: 1. Edenic, 2. Adamic, 3. Noahic, 4. Abrahamic, 5. Mosaic Covenant (Law Covenant and the Sinaitic Covenant), 6. Davidic.

David was not perfect but he was obedient and sought to understand God and His covenants. God chose David to continue His pact (promise, agreement) with His people. Through David (Davidic Covenant) would come a Son and heir to the everlasting throne. This Son, Jesus Christ, is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

Jesus was, is, and always will be perfect. He was obedient and sought God's will and purpose in all He did on earth. He taught us submission to God the Father. He did not die so that we could go our own way; He died so that we could go God's way.

**Read Hebrews 10:9-12 and answer questions 13-15:**

*Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second.<sup>10</sup> And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.<sup>11</sup> Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.<sup>12</sup> But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.*  
Hebrews 10:9-12

**13.** Jesus says "*Here I am, I have come to do your will*" (v. 9). With a clear conscience and sincere heart, can you say this to God the Father? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer.

The first or Old Covenant has been set aside because Jesus has established the second or New Covenant. All of God's covenants were contracted and sealed in love but the New Covenant is the ultimate, the pinnacle (high point) of that love. The Bible tells us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). and "Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down His life" (John 15:13).

**14.** What has the love of the triune God done for you (v. 10)?

Under the Old Covenant, the high priest had to stand and perform his duties over and over again. The standing signifies a job not finished. He could not sit down from his labors because they never ended. The people continued to sin and, therefore, sacrifices had to be continually made. The sacrifices only covered the sin, it did not take it away completely.

**15.** What is the significance of Jesus, our high priest, sitting down at the right hand of God (vs. 11-12)?

God reveals His faithfulness in the New Covenant by fulfilling previous covenants. Jesus, the Messiah, fulfills all of God's promises perfectly. The fulfillment has been completed but we are still awaiting certain events to take place. Jesus will return to set up His kingdom, and the dead will rise. The nation of Israel will turn to Him and Satan will be cast into the lake of burning sulfur. However, our intention is not to look at future events but on the importance of knowing our God of covenant right now.

As to our failures (sin), we are not to take them lightly; however God in His great mercy and love gives us a way back to Him. With the New Covenant, we confess in godly sorrow and are restored. God has always been willing to forgive.

**16.** Read the book of Hebrews at one sitting or at one time. Mark passages about the New Covenant. Contemplate (meditate, think deeply) on those passages that you marked or underlined. Share one or two things that you learned or that God impressed upon you:

The Sinaitic Covenant was made at Mount Sinai with Moses mediating (working with both parties). God made a conditional pledge with Israel after He brought them out of Egypt. He

would be their God to protect and bless them *if* they set themselves apart from the world and lived by His commandments or rules.

Israel broke their covenant with God over and over again. He would punish and discipline the nation in various ways, including conquest by hostile nations and even exiling them into another land. Then a righteous remnant (part of the whole) would call out to God and He would forgive and return to aid them.

**Read Jeremiah 31:3-4 and answer questions 17-18:**

*The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.<sup>4</sup> I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt, O Virgin Israel. Again you will take up your tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful.*  
Jeremiah 31:3-4

17. How has God loved Israel (v. 3)?

18. How has God loved you (v. 3)?

**Read Jeremiah 31:31, 33 and answer question 19:**

*"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. Jeremiah 31:31*

*"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Jeremiah 31:33*

19. What is the New Covenant that Jeremiah is prophesying about?

Recall that in the ancient Near East making a covenant was called *cutting* a covenant. An animal was actually slaughtered and cut into pieces for the parties to walk through (Genesis 15:9-21). As they walked through the body parts, they would be agreeing that if they broke their promise they would accept the same fate as that of the dead animal.

When God confirmed the Sinaitic Covenant, bulls were sacrificed on the altar (Exodus 24:4-8). Moses sprinkled half the blood on the altar and the other half on the people. *Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words" (Exodus 24:8).*

**Read Matthew 26:28 and Luke 22:20 and answer questions 20-23:**

*This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*  
Matthew 26:28

*In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. Luke 22:20*

20. What does Jesus mean when He says, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood"?
21. How was Jesus' blood poured out for you?
22. What do you think *your* part of the New Covenant agreement is (John 14:15, 21)?
23. Why would Jesus pour out His blood for you?

**24.-26. Self-Awareness on Love:**

**\*\*\*See answer sheet to record your responses to these exercises.**

**Lesson 6: The New Covenant (Day Four) *Terms and Promises***

**Definition:** Terms is a plural noun meaning the provisions (requirements) that determine the nature and scope of an agreement. They are the conditions that outline a relationship.

**New Covenant Terms and Promises:** Go to page 15 and read God's Terms carefully. Look up some of the Bible citations and think about what God desires of you. We have placed the New Covenant Terms and Promises on pages 15-16 so you can keep a single sheet for reference and encouragement.

The New Covenant is appropriated by faith in God and His Word. In other words, Christ died for all humanity but in order to partake of the promises of the New Covenant, we must accept it by faith and live by that faith. Now that Jesus has appeared on earth, trusting in God means following Christ and aligning our lives with His.

**Note:** We are covering the terms and promises of the New Covenant for the *individual* believer. There are parts of the covenant that pertain to Israel and end times that we are not going to address. If this is of particular interest to you, please do a self-study and/or pray for the study materials you need. And of course we know that eternal bliss is saved for a future time. In this world we will have trouble (John 16:33).

Notice that all of God's Terms of the New Covenant are based on faith. Even when we feel weak and do not have the strength to keep God's Terms, He promises to give us the grace (enablement) to succeed. Our part in this agreement is to believe, trust and obey. God wants us to put our confidence and faith in Him and His Son.

*For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Romans 1:17*

27. Read Romans 1:17. Since God's Terms are all based on your faith, what will you do if you feel your faith is lacking, small, weak or faltering at times?

Faith is not any different from any other thing that we are lacking. If we, or someone we love, lack faith, we should go to God who promises to meet all of our needs in Christ Jesus (Mark



9:24; Ephesians 3:16-19 and Philippians 4:19). If we need faith, God will provide. Of course we need to ask with the right motives: desiring to believe in, follow and honor God.

God is faithful and will help you to trust and believe in Him and His Word. The Holy Spirit will help you pray for faith and in understanding the Bible. Reading or hearing God's Word will also increase your faith (Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 10:17 and Acts 20:32).

God's Word is a giver and builder of faith. So no matter whether your faith is lacking, small, weak or faltering at times: pray to God for help and read your Bible. Remember, Jesus told us that we only have to have faith as small as a mustard seed and nothing will be impossible for us (Matthew 17:20).

By the way, faith is not just a one-time occurrence. The righteous *live* by faith. It is an ongoing process until we reach our *Heavenly Home* and see God face to face. In addition, our faith may be strong in some areas or circumstances and weak in others. Therefore, prayer is important to cover every aspect of our lives and shore up what is lacking.

*But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.<sup>21</sup> Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.* Jude 1:20-21 (Present participle verbs are used in v. 20 to explain that faith and prayer are continuous and progressive actions.)

**28.** Memorize Jude 1:20-21.

As we turn to God's Promises, it is **vital** that you bring your faith with you. God's promises are guaranteed (assured) through faith. We must believe His promises and act upon them. God is not pleased with whining, self-absorption and inactivity. If God says you can, do not say you cannot. Believe and step out in *God's will*.

**Definition:** Promises is also a plural noun meaning assurance that some things will or will not be done. A promise is a pledge, vow or guarantee.

**Promises** (See page 16 for a partial list of God's Promises)

Love is not simply an emotion that makes you feel good; it is a steadfast commitment. Jesus did not have a warm, fuzzy feeling on the cross. He was in excruciating pain and throbbing heartache. But His unending love kept Him unselfish and loyal to the end. The people who deserted Him, those who were spitting and cursing Him, were not endearing in the least. There was nothing in the people's character that made them loving or worthy of love. It was Jesus who rose above the hatred, anger and fear around Him and gave His life. This is love. This is Jesus.

Jesus was the living embodiment of both God's love for us and our love for God. As fully God, Jesus sacrificed Himself for us. As fully human, Jesus sacrificed Himself for God. Jesus is a living example of keeping covenant with the Holy One of Israel, who is also the Holy One of the Universe.

This lesson is about God's love for you and your love for God. The disciple's life is not one of uncontrollable emotion – good or bad. It is a decision, a disciplined effort to give unselfishly of oneself to God and to those He made. Circumstances and another's character do not affect your capacity to love. Jesus always loved the Father and the people He came to save.

**29.** If things do not go your way, if people do not love you, if sickness strikes, or catastrophe falls, will you still love and trust God? Definitely I'm not sure I hope so (Circle One)

**30.** Explain your answer to question 29:

**31.** If family members do not love you, if friends turn their back on you, if folks mistreat you, will you still love these people God created? Definitely I'm not sure I hope so (Circle One)

**32.** Explain your answer to question 31:

Jesus knew His path would lead to a painful death. He accepted His course as a way to bring us the New Covenant and with it all its amazing promises. The New Covenant does not promise that we will never suffer or never have to go through painful trials or situations while on this earth. It does promise that God will be with us to help us persevere, endure and succeed. We may even go through affliction or hardship that we do not understand; there seems to be no solid reason for our trouble. Nevertheless, we must trust God and know that He is working it out for our good and His glory. When God is glorified, we are fulfilled both now and forevermore.

Lay hold of the covenant promises. Do not let go. Struggle like Jacob who would not let go until God blessed Him (Genesis 32:24-32). Now I'm not saying that you have to fight or struggle for what God has promised, but it is biblical to strenuously believe and go after (seek) God and His Word (Deuteronomy 4:29 and Psalm 119:58, 131-132). Remember, Jesus is not pleased with mediocrity (average, ordinary) and spits the lukewarm out of His mouth (Revelation 3:16).

More importantly, God's character and reputation are at stake. Our lack of trust or belief reveals to others that we do not think God will keep His word or promises. It is not humble to question your worthiness to receive such phenomenal promises but disrespectful to the Lord. By not living in God's New Covenant promises you and I are disrespecting the triune God.

God is faithful to His covenant for His Name's sake. You might remember this next section from the CLI Leadership Bible Study, Lesson 7. However, I want you to be refreshed in this area.

*He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.* Psalm 23:3

**33.** Read Psalm 23:3. God guides you in paths of righteousness for His \_\_\_\_\_ sake.

Our allegiance and responsibility to God's name is significant. He guides you and me in paths of righteousness for the sake of, on account of, His name. God aims to keep you on the right path to protect His character and reputation. He will strengthen you and help you walk an upright and moral life. God desires that you are holy as He is holy.

Just as a person's name was descriptive of his character in ancient times, so too the names of God illustrate His character. Thus God's identity is attached to His names. Throughout the Bible, God and His names are used interchangeably.

God is in charge of guarding His reputation and that of His family. He knows best how to preserve the honor and praise of His name (Isaiah 48:9-11). He knows best how to teach you to honor and praise His Name.

**Read Ezekiel 20:9 and fill in the blanks for question 34:**

*But for the sake of my name I did what would keep it from being profaned in the eyes of the nations they lived among and in whose sight I had revealed myself to the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt. Ezekiel 20:9*

**34.** God says that for the sake of His \_\_\_\_\_ He did what would keep it from being \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the nations that they (Israelites) \_\_\_\_\_ among and in whose \_\_\_\_\_ I had \_\_\_\_\_ myself to the Israelites.

God does not want His name to be treated irreverently or without respect (profaned). God had revealed Himself to the Israelites and other nations as a God of purpose, power and truth. Even when the Israelites went after false gods and betrayed their Savior, he did what was necessary to keep His promises.

When there was nothing in the Israelites to ingratiate (gain favor) themselves to their Creator, God provided reasons to help them. One reason was to correct their dreadful behavior. God did not want the nations to get the wrong idea about His character and the truth of His word.

**35.** As a Christian, are you engaging in any kind of behavior that would give others the wrong idea about God's character and the truth of His word? Yes No (Circle One)

**36.** If you answered "yes" to question 35, please share what steps you will take to change this behavior. Also, write how your CLI Discippler may pray for you.

God has given Christians promises to combat bad habits and sin. He tells us that we have victory over the bondage and power of sin. We are promised that we *can* obey God in holy living. Review number 2, 5 and 7 and the Bible references under God's promises on page 16.

It is biblically correct to remind God of His promises. We may ask Him to respond to a promise for the sake of His name (Daniel 9:15-19 and Jeremiah 14:7, 21). On the other hand, it *is* also biblical for you and me to suffer for the sake of Jesus' name (Matthew 19:29; Acts 9:16 and Revelation 2:3). *You will be wise if you understand both realities and keep them in perspective.*

With Jesus' death and resurrection, He established the New Covenant whereby we say that we are no longer enemies, criminals, addicts, sinners or losers (Luke 4:16-21). We are fresh and new, with streams of living water flowing through us (John 7:37-39). We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a new life in joy and freedom.

**Read 2 Corinthians 1:20 answer questions 37-39:**

*For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 1:20*

**Definition:** Amen is used both in the Old Testament (Hebrew) and in the New Testament (Greek). It is a word used to express agreement and the truth of a statement. It means "so be it" and "truly." Amen is also one of the names of Jesus. *These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. Revelation 3:14b*

**37.** How do you appropriate (take for your use) the promises God has made to us in the Bible?

**38.** Write and say "Amen" to the fact that all of God's promises are available to us in Christ Jesus!

**39.** How do you glorify God by affirming, believing and trusting in His promises?

**Lesson 6: The New Covenant (Day Five) *Presumption, Faith or Sin?***

**Warning about God's Promises**

**Definition:** Presume is defined as doing something that you do not have the right or permission to do. It also means to take for granted.

We are neither to presume on God's promises nor to manipulate them for our own selfish interests. That is the devil's turf and one of the ways he tried to make Jesus sin. Recall, Satan wanted Jesus to throw himself off the highest point of the temple in order for Him to claim God's angelic protection. Jesus was not tempted into sin but told the devil not to test the Lord.

In the same way, do not put yourself in unnecessary danger presuming God will protect you. Certainly, if God has called you to a task that is dangerous, you must do it. Then it is proper to claim His protection. But God's protection may be in a different form than you expect. God always keeps His promises, but His ways are different and far superior than our ways.

Another misuse of God's promises is to name and claim a promise for worldly items such as big houses and new cars. God is not about lining our pockets with gold. He is about meeting our needs so that we may glorify Him and bless others. So by all means, if you or your family need transportation, trust in God to provide it but do not look for unnecessary grandeur for self-aggrandizement (increase power, wealth or status).

*Then they despised the pleasant land; they did not believe his promise.<sup>25</sup> They grumbled in their tents and did not obey the LORD.<sup>26</sup> So he swore to them with uplifted hand that he would make them fall in the desert,<sup>27</sup> make their descendants fall among the nations and scatter them throughout the lands. Psalm 106:24-27*

**40.** Read Psalm 106:24-27. What caused the Israelites to fall in the desert and among the nations (v. 24-25)?

*If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,<sup>27</sup> but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.<sup>28</sup> Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.<sup>29</sup> How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?*

Hebrews 10:26-29

**41.** Read Hebrews 10:26-29. What will cause people to have a fearful expectation of judgment and raging fire (v. 26)?

The writer of Hebrews does not mean that every sin or every time that we do something wrong we are in danger of judgment. He is talking about the person who sins on purpose, without caring about Jesus and His blood sacrifice of the New Covenant. No matter how many professions of faith someone has made publicly, unless the heart changes and he follows and respects the Lord, this person is in serious danger of the fires of hell.

There is an erroneous belief that has been widely circulated. The fallacy: just say the prayer of salvation and you are saved for life. That is not in the Bible. We are safely and securely in the hands of God when we love Jesus and follow Him. Then... no one can snatch you from the Father's hand.

Now, we are not talking about every sin or wrong that we commit because we are sinners and have to confess daily. We are also not talking about every wrong path or detour you make in your Christian walk. However, for your sake, it better be a short detour. We are talking about the person who is living and acting like they are not saved. There is no fruit and no evidence of the Lord in their lives. Most likely, if they are acting like they are not saved, they are not saved.

However, we are not here to judge, but to help others understand God's unfailing covenant of love. We can do this by helping them with the truth of Jesus Christ and loving them. And we can love others, but it is not our love but God's. Here is the promise to trust and claim: *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.* Romans 5:5

*Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God.<sup>5</sup> Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.<sup>6</sup> He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-- not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.* 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

**42.** Read 2 Corinthians 3:4-6. How do you know that you are a competent (capable and proficient) minister (servant and helper) of the New Covenant?

*His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; <sup>11</sup> the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. Psalm 147:10-11*

**43.** Read Psalm 147:10-11. What delights or brings joy to the LORD (v. 11)?

With all God has given us, how do we give back to Him? Or how do we make God happy? As Psalm 147:10-11 tells us, we delight God when we do not trust in ourselves but in Him. We please God when we fear Him and put our hope in His unfailing love.

God's unfailing love is engraved forever in Christ Jesus. The New Covenant, the treaty of unfathomable (immeasurable) love, was actually cut and ratified in Christ's body. He was, is and will always be the Lamb of God who was slain for mankind.

**Definition:** Ratify means to sign or give formal consent to a treaty, contract, or agreement, making it officially valid.

**44.** Review and meditate on *God's Terms*. Pray and ask God to increase your faith and to help you in keeping all of His terms. Share how your CLI Discipled might pray for you in keeping God's Terms in faith:

**45.** Review and meditate on *God's Promises*. Choose one that you might need to lay hold of for a more vibrant, joyful and empowered life. Pray and ask God to help you in trusting Him for all of His promises and especially the one you chose. Please share the promise so your CLI Discipled can join you in prayer:

*For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 1:20*

**46.** Memorize 2 Corinthians 1:20.

God's Terms and Promises are made to bring you and others into divine community with Him and others. Our God is relational and wants us to live by His terms in order to be holy and set apart in Christian groups. We call these Christian groups, church.

Church is not a building or a certain denomination, but the global body of Christ followers who use their gifts to glorify God and help others. We are connected by one, holy and perfect Spirit of God. No one is better than another. The Spirit has given us gifts and abilities to further the kingdom of God while we work and fellowship in divine community.

Therefore seek unity and friendship with other believers wherever God has placed you. Do not let minor theological differences malign (slander, smear) God's good name. God sent Jesus for love and relationship. Our sins have been taken away so we could be in relationship with God and each other. Let us honor Christ by being like-minded and reaching others with the truth of the gospel. Together, in the Spirit's power, let us reach the world for Christ and God's honor.

**Next: Lesson 7: Worship in Christ**

## New Covenant Terms and Benefits

The New Covenant was made (cut) into Christ's sacrificial body as He shed His blood and died on the cross for the sins of humanity, accepting God's righteous wrath for those sins and recovering the repentant from Satan's power.

*"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,<sup>7</sup> to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness."*  
Isaiah 42:6-7

### God's Terms

1. By faith, acknowledge (recognize) God and your need of Him (Psalm 19:1-4, 62:5-8, 72:12-13, 73:25-26; Proverbs 3:5-6; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Isaiah 12:4-5, 55:3; Hosea 6:3,6; Acts 14:17; Romans 1:17-21; and Ephesians 2:12-13, 4:17-18).

2. By faith, accept that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died a sacrificial death for your rebellion and sin, was buried and on the third day rose from the dead (Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 10:32-33; John 6:27-29, 20:26-31 and Romans 3:21-26,10:9-13).

3. By faith, confess your sins and repent (Leviticus 5:5-6; 2 Chronicles 6:36-42; Isaiah 59:20; Matthew 4:17; Acts 2:38, 26:20; James 5:16; 1 John 1:8-10 and Revelation 3:19).

4. By faith, accept God's Word and align (bring into line) yourself with the truth within it (Deuteronomy 8:3; Luke 8:21; John 5:24, 14:21, 17:17; 2 Corinthians 2:4; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:14-17 and 1 Peter 2:21).

5. By faith, fear the triune God, obey Him and follow Christ (Deuteronomy 10:12-13, 28; 1 Samuel 12:15; Psalm 147:10; Proverbs 1:7; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Jeremiah 42:6; Isaiah 11:1-3a, 24:1-25; Matthew 10:28; 19:17, 22:36-40, 22:36-40; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 12:4-5; John 14:15; Acts 5:28-29, 9:31; Romans 15:18-19; Hebrews 5:8-9; 1 John 2:3-6, 5:1-4 and Revelation 12:17, 14:2, 15:4).

*All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.* Psalm 25:10 (2 Chronicles 6:14 and 1 Kings 8:23)

\* Fear of the Lord is defined as a mix of reverence, dread and wonder. It is fearful veneration or respect. Fear of the Lord is trusting, serving and worshipping God with all our hearts while recognizing our accountability (1 Corinthians 5:10-11). Its archaic (ancient, old) use meant it was the power to inspire reverence or fear. Fearing the Lord also means being afraid of offending God. Fear of God originates in love. We care for the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit so much that we want to serve Him and we experience true anxiety in failing Him.

\* Faith is defined as our trusting commitment or dedication to God.

### **Believers' Covenant Benefits (God's Promises)**

*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.<sup>4</sup> Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 2 Peter 1:3-4*

- 1. Redemption: all rebellion and sin forgiven (Isaiah 49:5-9; Acts 10:43; Ephesians 1:7-8; Colossians 1:13-14 and Hebrews 10:10-14). Freedom from condemnation and guilt (Psalm 34:22, 109:31; Romans 8:1-2; and Hebrews 7:25-26, 10:22).**
- 2. Relationship: sons (male and female) of God and heirs of Abraham (Romans 8:14-15; Galatians 3:26-29, 4:6-7; Ephesians 1:4-6; Hebrews 12:5-8 and 1 John 5:20). Fellowship with God and other believers (John 17:20-23 and 1 John 1:3-4, 7). Fellow citizens with God's people and part of the covenants (Ephesians 2:11-22) Prayers answered (John 15:7-14 and 1 John 3:21-24); Recognize God's voice (John 10:14) and Listen to God (John 10:16b).**
- 3. New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 6:15). Identity in Christ (Colossians 3:3 and Galatians 3:26). Law and commands written on heart (Jeremiah 31:33; John 15:7; Colossians 3:16 and Hebrews 10:16-22). Like Christ: righteous with right attitudes and motivations (Romans 8:9-10, 28-29; 1 Corinthians 2:16; 2 Corinthians 3:9-10; Galatians 5:24-25; Ephesians 4:22-24 and 1 John 2:6, 3:2-3). Ability for: Love (Roman 5:5, 8 and Ephesians 3:16-19), Unity (Ephesians 4:13), Peace (Romans 5:1), Wisdom (Daniel 2:21; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Ephesians 1:17 and James 1:5) and Joy (1 Peter 1:8). Forgiving others (Matthew 6:14; Luke 6:37, 17:4, 23:34; Mark 11:25; Philippians 4:13 and Colossians 3:13), Humility (Philippians 2:3-8).**
- 4. Victory over the Bondage and Power of Sin/Addictions: ability to obey God in holy living. (Ezekiel 36:25-27; Romans 6:6-14, 8:1-14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 9:8; Hebrews 6:18 and 1 John 3:9, 5:4-5, 18). Protection from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:3).**
- 5. Holy Spirit: for guidance, empowerment, help, fruit, comfort and counsel (Isaiah 59:20-21; John 3:34, 14:26; Acts 1:8, 2:4; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:22-23 and Hebrews 2:4, 4:16, 13:5).**
- 6. True Worshipper (Psalm 95:6-7; John 4:23-24, 14:6-7; Philippians 3:3; Hebrews 10:1-18 and Revelation 4:10-11). Royal Priest (1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 5:10). Fear God (Jeremiah 32:39-40).**
- 7. Grace: More than a Conqueror (Romans 8:3-5, 37-39; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 and 2 Timothy 1:8-10). Good Works (Psalm 138:8; 1 Corinthians 1:7-8; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 1:6 and James 2:17-26). Proclaim God's message; prophesy (Joel 2:28-29 and Acts 2:16-18).**
- 8. Healing: emotional and physical (Isaiah 53:5, 60:1,19; Malachi 4:2; Luke 1:78-79; Acts 3:16 and 1 Peter 2:24). Remember it is always about God's glory (John 9:1-3) and all have an appointed time to die (Psalm 139:16 and James 4:13-15).**
- 9. Not Abandoned (Deuteronomy 31:6; Matthew 28:20; John 6:37-40, 10:28-29 and Hebrews 13:5). Not Stumble or Fall (Psalm 55:22; Proverbs 11:28; Philippians 1:5-6 and Jude 1:24)**
- 10. Eternal Life (John 3:15-16; Hebrews 9:15 and Revelation 7:17, 21:4)**



**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 6**  
CLI Disciple of Christ Study: The New Covenant

**Return your answers to your Discipler for discussion and review.** Include your own personal letter and comments with your answers. The Disciple of Christ ministry is designed to forge a close, yet professional, friendship between you and your Discipler. Letters or short notes help bridge the distance and connect hearts in Christ.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 6: The New Covenant (Day One) *Mercy Seat***

1. Could the high priest Aaron go to the Most Holy Place in front of the atonement cover (mercy seat) whenever he decided to? Yes No (Circle One)

2. Why was Aaron told not to enter, *whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the cover of the ark* (v. 2)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How was Aaron, the high priest, supposed to enter into the sanctuary (v. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why did Aaron put incense on the fire before the Lord to conceal the atonement cover (v. 13)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What was sprinkled on the atonement cover (mercy seat) (vs. 14-15)? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Explain in your own words why atonement cover or mercy seat is an accurate translation for the Hebrew word kapporeth (כַּפֹּרֶת) and the purpose for which it was made (vs. 15-16):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Read Deuteronomy 7:9. God, the faithful God, keeps His covenant of love to a thousand generation of those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him and \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Read, meditate and ask God to speak to you through Psalm 109:26. What did God say to you?

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9. Read Psalm 25:14. In whom does the LORD confide and to whom does He make His covenant known? \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 6: The New Covenant** (Day Two) *Relationships*

10. If you teach your disciple with wonderful and powerful words and are able to make him understand the Bible, yet have no love, what are you (vs. 1-2)? \_\_\_\_\_

11. If you give everything you have to the poor and even die for Christ, but have no love in your heart, what do you get or achieve (v. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

12. The definition of love is given in the last verses of the passage (vs. 4-7). From the fifteen descriptions of love, list two that you struggle with: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Lesson 6: The New Covenant** (Day Three) *Jesus*

13. Jesus says "*Here I am, I have come to do your will*" (v. 9). With a clear conscience and sincere heart, can you say this to God the Father? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Explain your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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14. What has the love of the triune God done for you (v. 10)? \_\_\_\_\_

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**15.** What is the significance of Jesus, our high priest, sitting down at the right hand of God

(vs. 11-12)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**16.** Read the book of Hebrews at one sitting or at one time. Mark passages about the New Covenant. Contemplate (mediate, think deeply) on those passages that you marked or underlined. Share one or two things that you learned or that God impressed upon you:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**17.** How has God loved Israel (v. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

**18.** How has God loved you (v. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

**19.** What is the New Covenant that Jeremiah is prophesying about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**20.** What does Jesus mean when He says, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood"?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**21.** How was Jesus' blood poured out for you? \_\_\_\_\_

**22.** What do you think *your* part of the New Covenant agreement is (John 14:15, 21)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**23.** Why would Jesus pour out His blood for you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**24.** Define love in your own words: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. How does *your* life reflect love for God in the same way Jesus reflected His love on the cross? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

26. Will you make any changes in the way you think and consider your love for God and others? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) If so, what changes? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 6: The New Covenant** (Day Four) *Terms and Promises*

27. Read Romans 1:17. Since God's Terms are all based on your faith, what will you do if you feel your faith is lacking, small, weak or faltering at times? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

28. Write Jude 1:20-21 from memory without referring to notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

29. If things do not go your way, if people do not love you, if sickness strikes, or catastrophe falls, will you still love and trust God? Definitely I'm not sure I hope so (Circle One)

30. Explain your answer to question 29: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

31. If family members do not love you, if friends turn their back on you, if folks mistreat you, will you still love these people God created? Definitely I'm not sure I hope so (Circle One)

32. Explain your answer to question 31: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

33. Read Psalm 23:3. God guides you in paths of righteousness for His \_\_\_\_\_ sake.

34. God says that for the sake of His \_\_\_\_\_ He did what would keep it from being \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the nations that they (Israelites) \_\_\_\_\_ among \_\_\_\_\_ and in whose \_\_\_\_\_ I had \_\_\_\_\_ myself to the Israelites.

35. As a Christian, are you engaging in any kind of behavior that would give others the wrong idea about God's character and the truth of His word? Yes No (Circle One)

36. If you answered "yes" to question 35, please share what steps you will take to change this behavior. Also, write how your CLI Discipler may pray for you. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

37. How do you appropriate (take for your use) the promises God has made to us in the Bible?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

38. Write and say "Amen" to the fact that all of God's promises are available to us in Christ Jesus! \_\_\_\_\_

39. How do *you* glorify God by affirming, believing and trusting in His promises?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 6: The New Covenant** (Day Five) *Presumption, Faith or Sin?*

40. Read Psalm 106:24-27. What caused the Israelites to fall in the desert and among the nations (v. 24-25)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**41.** Read Hebrews 10:26-29. What will cause people to have a fearful expectation of judgment and raging fire (v. 26)? \_\_\_\_\_

**42.** Read 2 Corinthians 3:4-6. How do you know that you are a competent (capable and proficient) minister (servant and helper) of the New Covenant? \_\_\_\_\_

**43.** Read Psalm 147:10-11. What delights or brings joy to the LORD (v. 11)? \_\_\_\_\_

**44.** Review and meditate on *God's Terms*. Pray and ask God to increase your faith and to help you in keeping all of His terms. Share how your CLI Discipler might pray for you in keeping *God's Terms* in faith: \_\_\_\_\_

**45.** Review and meditate on *God's Promises*. Choose one that you might need to lay hold of for a more vibrant, joyful and empowered life. Pray and ask God to help you in trusting Him for all of His promises and especially the one you chose. Please share the promise you chose so that your CLI Discipler can join you in prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

**46.** Write your memory verse 2 Corinthians 1:20 without looking at the Bible or notes:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Next: Lesson 7: Worship in Christ**

Rev 4/11/2016

