

# BELPRES CHURCH

## **Sermon Title: A New Covenant**

**Icebreaker Question:** What is a specific scent that always triggers a memory for you of a certain person, time or place?

**Opening Question:** Looking back to last's week's sermon and scripture...How did you live differently or practice what we talked about in your life this week? What did you do and how did it go?

**This week's scripture:** Hebrews 8:6-13

<sup>6</sup> But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

<sup>7</sup> For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. <sup>8</sup> But God found fault with the people and said<sup>[a]</sup>:

"The days are coming, declares the Lord,  
when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel  
and with the people of Judah.

<sup>9</sup> It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,  
and I turned away from them,  
declares the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel  
after that time, declares the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds  
and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.

<sup>11</sup> No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,'  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest.

<sup>12</sup> For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more."<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>13</sup> By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

**For Further Study:** Genesis 15; Genesis 18:19. See also [www.belpres.org/justice](http://www.belpres.org/justice).

**Scripture Reflection Questions:** Read this week's scripture together and discuss the following:

- What do we learn about God (e.g., traits, personality, what matters, priorities) in this passage?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

**Sermon Reflection Questions:** Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:

- God always keeps his covenants, but people don't always do that well. Can you think of a covenant that you have been part of that has been hard to keep? What have you learned about God in this process? What have you learned about yourself?
- Whether you own or rent, if you were to create a new covenant for your home, what would you include?

**Closing Question and Application:** Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you to apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week? Who might you share this with?

**Closing Group Prayer:** Spend a few minutes together in your group sharing prayer requests and then praying together for each other. Thank God for the time together, the conversation shared, the other people in the group, and for encouragement in the week ahead.