

- Why did the Lord see the need for a new covenant? (the people had not kept the old covenant)
- How would this new covenant be different from the old covenant? (it would be internal, written on their minds and hearts; it would be characterized by intimate fellowship between the people and God; it would include total and irrevocable forgiveness of sin)
- What is the point of verse 13? (This is not an additional covenant but a replacement covenant; the old one is obsolete and would soon disappear. In 70 A.D. the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans. Since that time there have been no Jewish animal sacrifices. The old covenant disappeared, just as the Book of Hebrews said it would.)

Wrapping It Up

- **Through Jesus, God has offered us something new, something better. No longer do we have to go to a temple in Jerusalem to worship God. No longer do we have to go through some human high priest who is just as sinful as we are. No longer do we have to offer animal sacrifices, day after day and year after year, to cover our sin. Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross, has opened the way for us to be forgiven our sin and to have intimate fellowship with God.**
- Call on someone to lead the class in prayer.

Making It Personal

Group discussion

- Use the following questions to guide a group discussion.
 - Where does the old covenant – God’s law written on stone tablets – come up short? Why is it inadequate?
 - Why does trusting Jesus as Savior and Lord transform us internally in a way that the old covenant could not?
 - What is the difference between an unbeliever doing what God says and a Christian doing what God says? What is the difference in motivation? In behavior? In attitude? In relationship with God?



Faith at Home

Lead your family in a discussion of what separates Christianity from other religions. Be sure to cover these ideas: saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, rather than by doing good works to earn God’s favor; the Holy Spirit enters us and empowers us for holy living; Jesus is alive and is coming back; through Jesus we have a personal relationship with God.

Teacher’s Toolbox

*Getting your class into God’s Word
and God’s Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com **Bible Series**

Hebrews 8
October 26, 2014

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HOW TO USE TEACHER’S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher’s leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.



Faith at Home – A specific application of today’s Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.



Getting Started

Thought question

- **Which is better, old or new?** Wait for responses.
- **In some areas, we could make an argument that old is better – perhaps higher quality workmanship, better materials. There was a used furniture store in Maryville, Tenn., that once used this as their theme song (display and read aloud Item 2):**
*“Old” doesn’t mean a thing, except that it’s seen more of life than you.
“Used” only means that someone else wanted it, too.
Sometimes “old” is better and “used” is more comfortable.
Visit Williams Furniture, the “old” and “used” specialist
In Downtown Maryville.*
- **Sometimes old is better. Some people fill their homes with antiques. But we recognize that something new is usually better than something old. It is improved and has the latest features. That’s why people**

rush to get the latest model of a smart phone, tablet, or computer.

- Today we are going to see that the “new is better than old” principle also applies to God’s promises and covenants. If God offers to update His relationship with people, then we don’t want to insist on living in the past. We want to embrace the new thing that God is making available to us. Once there was an old covenant, but God promised He was going to make a new covenant with His people. That new covenant is available to us today through Jesus Christ.

Exploring God's Word

Getting “the point”

- Have someone read aloud Hebrews 8:1-2. Write on the chalkboard, “The point of what we are saying is this.”

- Here the writer takes a deep breath and says, “Here’s what I’m getting at.” What does he say is the primary thrust of his writing to that point? (“We do have such a high priest”)

- What kind of high priest does he say we have? Refer learners back to Hebrews 7:26-28 and have them call out the qualifications of the kind of high priest we need, which is exactly the kind of high priest we have in Jesus Christ. (holy; blameless; pure; set apart from sinners; exalted above the heavens; not having to offer sacrifices for his own sins; having offered himself as a once-for-all sacrifice for the people; perfect; forever)

- What do these two verses tell us about where Jesus is and what He is doing today? (sat down at

the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, serving in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord)

- The earthly tabernacle is only a representation of the heavenly tabernacle where Jesus ministers continuously.

Charting a passage

- Erase the chalkboard and divide it into two columns. Head the left column, “Earthly Tabernacle.” Head the right column, “Heavenly Tabernacle.”

- Have someone read aloud Hebrews 8:3-6.

- In the left column, write the words “copy” and “shadow.” In the right column, write, “the real thing.”

Contrasting the inferior to the superior

- Just as he has been doing since the opening chapter of this book, the writer of Hebrews is making a case that Christianity is superior to Judaism:

- Judaism has the written word

of God; Christianity has the living Word of God.

- Judaism has the prophets through whom God spoke; Christianity has God speaking through His own Son.

- Judaism looks to angels as the closest thing to God; Christianity recognizes angels are created beings sent to serve but Jesus is the Son sent to reign.

- Judaism has a high priest who sins and who dies; Christianity has Jesus Christ, the great high priest, who never sinned and conquered death to live forever.

- Judaism has gifts and sacrifices offered repeatedly to cover sin; Christianity has Jesus offering Himself as the ultimate sacrifice to totally pay the sin penalty once and for all.

- Judaism has the earthly tabernacle; Christianity has the heavenly tabernacle after which the earthly tabernacle was modeled.

- Judaism has the covenant of law; Christianity has the new covenant which is better, founded on better promises.

- Have someone read aloud Hebrews 7:22 and 8:6-7.

Comparing a New Testament passage with an Old Testament passage

- Have learners find Jeremiah 31:31-34 and follow along as you read aloud the quotation of that

passage in Hebrews 8:8-13.

- Then switch and have the class follow along in Hebrews 8:8-13 as you read aloud Jeremiah 31:31-34.

- Ask the class to tell similarities and differences they noticed. They may mention:

- In Jeremiah, God said the people “broke my covenant though I was a husband to them.” In Hebrews, God said the people “did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them.”

- The Hebrews passage has an introductory statement: “But God found fault with the people and said”

- The Hebrews passage has a concluding statement: “By calling this covenant ‘new,’ he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.”

Matching activity

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of Item 1. Ask them to draw lines connecting each phrase with either “Old Covenant” or “New Covenant.”

- Allow a minute or two, then have them share their answers.

Questions and answers

- Ask the following questions, waiting for responses.

- What did the Lord promise He would do for Israel and Judah? (make a new covenant with them)

Old
Covenant

A national covenant
A personal covenant
Written on stone tablets
Written on a person's heart
Covenant entered by birth
Entered by commitment
Continual sacrifices required
Sins forgiven completely
External
Internal
Can be broken
An eternal relationship

New
Covenant

Old
Covenant

A national covenant
A personal covenant
Written on stone tablets
Written on a person's heart
Covenant entered by birth
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Williams Furniture Theme Song

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