



INTRO SKIT

THE COVENANT CODE

CHARACTERS:

Professor, Assistant

[If possible, dress like explorers with magnifying glass/binoculars etc and prepare a scroll-like object. For younger kids, you can cut up a picture of David for the kids to reassemble like a jigsaw as your intro to the lesson.]

Note: If it's not possible to do a skit with two teachers, you can still act it out with one teacher interacting with the kids.

Professor and his assistant (you can name them) have travelled back in time to explore the covenants of the Bible.

ASST: Wow Professor. We are in the city of David.

PROF: This is amazing.

ASST: Oh look! What is this? [points at partially hidden scroll]

PROF: Let's take it out and have a look. It looks like a ... a secret message. [show on screen]

ASST: t-n-a-n-e-v-o-C c-i-d-i-v-a-D ... What does it mean?

PROF: Hmm ... let's ask the kids. They are smart. Am sure they can help us.

ASST: Hi kids ... can you help us decipher this secret message?

[Give kids chance to respond. Answer: *Davidic Covenant*. You may want to use a mirror to reflect the word to show the answer.]

PROF: That's brilliant, kids. Thank you! Well ... looks like we have to turn to the Bible and read what God promised David.

ASST: That's right. Professor ... I think a good place to start would be the book of Psalms.

PROF: Let's take a look at it now!



LESSON

Let's turn to **Psalm 89**. It's a long psalm, but we'll look at the first part (vs 1-4).

(kids version from <http://www.psalmsforkids.com/about/psalms/psalm-89/>)

Lord, I will sing about your great love forever.

For all time to come, I will tell how faithful you are.

I will tell everyone that your love stands firm forever.

I will tell them that you are always faithful, even in heaven itself.

You said, "Here is the covenant I have made with my chosen one.

Here is the promise I have made to my servant David.

I will make your family line continue forever.

I will make your kingdom secure for all time to come."

Wow! This David really likes God. He really knows who God is and how great His love and faithfulness is. And David was God's chosen one, his bff.

What did God make with David? (v3)

A Covenant

What did God promise? (v4)

That David's family line/descendants will continue forever; that his kingdom will have no end



GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID

[for older kids]

That's a great promise. Let's see when God made this promise to David.

Let's do a quick read through **2 Samuel 7:1-18**. Listen carefully ... there will be a pop quiz!

[Since it's long, good for the teacher to read through quickly, with emphasis on key words etc. You can also print out the verse and questions for the kids to answer as an exercise. Prepare some small prizes if needed.]

After King David moved into his new house the Lord gave him some relief from all of his enemies around him. 2 King David said to Nathan the prophet, "Look, I am living in a fancy house made of cedar wood, but God's Holy Box is still kept in a tent!"

3 Nathan said to King David, "Do whatever you want to do. The Lord will be with you."

4 But that night, the Lord's word came to Nathan:

5 "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: You are not the one to build a house for me to live in. 6 I did not live in a house at the time I took the Israelites out of Egypt. No, I traveled around in a tent. I used the tent for my home. 7 I never told any of the tribes of Israel to build me a fancy house made from cedar wood.'

8 "You must say this to my servant David: 'This is what the Lord All-Powerful says: I chose you while you were out in the pasture following the sheep. I took you from that job and made you the leader of my people, the Israelites. 9 I have been with you every place you went. I have defeated your enemies for you. I will make you one of the most famous people on earth. 10-11 And I chose a place for my people, the Israelites. I planted the Israelites. I gave them their own place to live so that they will not have to move from place to place anymore. In the past, I sent judges to lead my people, but evil people gave them many troubles. That will not happen now. I am giving you peace from all of your enemies. I promise that I will make your family a family of kings.

12 "When your life is finished, you will die and be buried with your ancestors. But then I will make one of your own children become the king. 13 He will build a house for my name, and I will make his kingdom strong forever. 14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will use other people to punish him. They will be my whips. 15 But I will never stop loving him. I will continue to be loyal to him. I took away my love and kindness from Saul. I pushed Saul away when I turned to you. 16 Your family of kings will continue—you can depend on that! For you, your kingdom will continue forever! Your throne will stand forever!"

17 Nathan told David about that vision. He told David everything God had said.



David had just become king. He had survived wars and running away from Saul. And God gave him rest.

1. What did David want to do for God? (v5) *Build a temple*
2. Where had God been staying? (v6) *In a tent*
3. Who will build God's house for him? (v12-13) *David's son – Solomon*
4. What did God do for David? (v8) *Made him king over His people*
5. Where has God been? (v9) *Everywhere David has been*
6. What has God done? What will He do? (v9) *Defeated all David's enemies; make David one of the most famous people on earth*
7. What will God do after David dies? (v11) *God will establish David's family and his kingdom.*
8. How long will David's family and kingdom last? (v16) *Forever*

[for all kids]

A FOREVER KINGDOM

It's quite amazing ... to have a legacy and kingdom that lasts forever.

The world's longest dynasty is the Dulo Clan in Bulgaria. It reigned from 2137 BC until 753 AD – 2,890 years! The Imperial House of Japan is also one of the longest – 2,669 years and counting – but it's slowly dying out because there are not many heirs to the throne.

But God promised David that his kingdom will have no end. How was this possible?

In **Acts 13:22-23**, Paul told the people in Antioch:

After removing Saul, God made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

"From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.

Who is the descendent of David mentioned? *Jesus*

That's right! Jesus is a descendent of David; He is the promised Saviour and the promised King who will rule forever.

How cool is that! God made a promise to David many, many years ago. And He still keeps His promises every day. **Jesus is our forever king**, and He reigns on the throne in a kingdom that will never end!

Adapted from: Cracking the Covenant Code for Kids



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GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Get the children to share what it means to have Jesus as our forever king. Pray for each other.



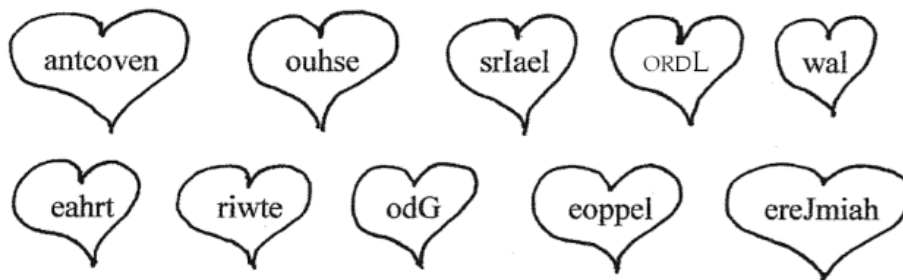
HOOK

SCRAMBLE THE CODE [for older kids]

Prepare cards (or worksheets) with these words below. You may want to prepare two sets and break the kids into two groups to work on it together.

Good morning kids! We are continuing our adventure mission to discover more about God's covenants with His people.

Today we have a special coded message. Let's unscramble each word and fill in the blanks to read our special message.



"But this is the _____ which I will make with the _____ of _____ after those days," declares the _____. "I will put My _____ within them and on their _____ I will _____ it; and I will be their _____, and they shall be My _____."

_____ 31:33

Let's read through this a few times and try to remember it (use simple actions if necessary).

What is this? This is the covenant that God will write on the house of Israel! Let's find out more.



LESSON

Last week, we learned about God's covenant with David – that he will have a forever kingdom.

Who was the descendent of David who is the forever king? *Jesus*

GOD'S LAWS BROKEN

But it wasn't easy to see that promise fulfilled. After David died, his son Solomon became king. King Solomon built God a magnificent temple, but in his old age, he started worshipping many other gods. So his kingdom was split into two.

And that began lines of many kings who did not follow God's words or ways. They did evil and worshipped idols. They broke God's law (the 10 Commandments), God's Covenant, God's heart. Because of their evil actions, they were attacked and brought into slavery.

Is there any hope for them? Is there any hope for us?

[for all kids]

GOD STILL KEPT HIS PROMISE

As we learned last week, God promised David: *"When [David's descendants] sins, I will use other people to punish him. They will be my whips. 15 But I will never stop loving him. I will continue to be loyal to him."* (2 Samuel 7:14)

Even though the people rejected God, God never forgot them. Even though they broke God's Old Covenant, which brought disaster and punishment on them, God decided to make a New Covenant, as He said through His prophet Jeremiah.

"This is the covenant I will make with the people 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.

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,"

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Jeremiah 31:33-34)



GOD WILL

Let's take a look at the differences in the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT
Written on stone tablets	Written on our minds and hearts
All about what we should not do "You shall not ..."	All about what God will do "I will ..." [Get kids to read out all the "I will" statements]
Shows us our sins	Forgives our sins
Law: Right or Wrong	Relationship: Father-Son

The New Covenant does not depend on our performance, but on what Jesus has done for us on the Cross.

This New Covenant is possible because Jesus came to die for us and to take all our punishments for our sin. Because of Jesus' finished work on the cross, we can enjoy the benefits of the New Covenant:

- The Holy Spirit is in us to teach and guide us (not a rule book)
- We belong to God
- We will know God intimately and personally
- Our sins, past, present and future, are forgiven completely

Thank you Jesus for Your finished work on the Cross!

Adapted from: Cracking the Covenant Code for Kids



ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Get the children to share what it means to have Jesus in our hearts. Pray for each other.

MATCHING GAME

Prepare 2 posters — 1 grey in shape of tablets of stone; 1 red in shape of heart.

Prepare 10 “You shall not”s in black; Prepare “I will” in red with accompanying pix.

Get kids to match the “You shall not”s to the grey tablets; and the “I will”s to the red heart.



HOOK

CAIAPHAS' HOUSE

Come on kids! Let's continue our exploration back in time to places and events that were recorded in the Bible!

Look at this huge house. It's somewhere in Jerusalem. And it is believed to belong to a very important man called Caiaphas.

Caiaphas was the High Priest during Jesus' time. Jesus was brought to this place after He was arrested in the garden. (Matthew 26:57-75) Peter followed behind and waited in this courtyard. When a servant girl recognised Peter as a disciple of Jesus, he denied that he knew Jesus.

Inside the house: The whole council of elders were trying to find fault with Jesus so they could put Him to death. But they couldn't find anything wrong.

"I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God," Caiaphas asked.

"You have said so," Jesus replied. *"But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

Caiaphas tore his clothes and accused Jesus of blasphemy. Others spat in His face, hit Him and slapped Him.

It is believed Jesus was thrown into this dungeon in Caiaphas' house for the night before His crucifixion.

Can you imagine what it was like for Jesus to go through all that humiliation and beatings and death on the cross? Why did He agree to do that? Let's find out a bit more today!





LESSON

[simplify/summarise for younger kids]

Let's take a look at **Hebrews 10:1-10**.

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. 2 Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. 3 But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. 4 It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

*“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;
6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.*

*7 Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.’”[a]*

8 First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. 9 Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. 10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

What is the Law (Old Covenant)?

A shadow of good things to come; cannot make anyone perfect.

What is a shadow? This is a shadow of a sweet. Is it the real thing?

Can you eat the sweet? No! But when you see a shadow, usually it means the real thing is near. [produce a similar looking sweet and show the kids]



[point to the shadow] The Law/10 Commandments/Old Covenant is good because it is God's law. It tells us how good and perfect God is. But it cannot save us. It cannot help us to be good.

[show the sweet] When Jesus came, He was the real thing. He was the One who could save us and give us a new life.

Then what are the sacrifices of the bulls and goats for?

An annual reminder of sins. Every year, it tells you how bad you are and how much you have failed. It was impossible for the sacrifice to take away our sin.



What did Jesus come to do?

He came to do God's will. He came to set as side the first (the Old Covenant) to establish the second (the New Covenant). So that by His sacrifice, we can be holy once for all.

Jesus knew that the sacrifices and offerings were not enough, that it couldn't pay for the sins of the world, and that sin was blocking people from coming freely to God as His sons and daughters.

Jesus fulfilled all the requirements of the Law and took all our punishments. He passed the test of God's high standards perfectly.

And because He passed, He could start a New Covenant, one where all of us can be part of His family, holy forever, once for all.

Isn't that a wonderful reminder that we all belong to Jesus! Isn't it wonderful that He loved us soooo much that He was willing to be humiliated and beaten and spat and slapped and thrown in a dungeon and whipped and cruxified ... just so that we can be part of His family? Thank you Jesus!

CONCLUSION

And as we learnt last week, while the Old Covenant was all about demands on what we have to do, the New Covenant is about what God will do for us.

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