



Covenant PPT #2

Welcome to this section of the module in which we will be discussing God's covenant in scripture. How do we learn about our relational God?

We learn through reading and scripture study. Covenant is a foundational theme that runs throughout the entire Bible from creation and through the stories of people such as Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and David.

We seek God initiating a relationship with human beings and calling them again and again, to renew their covenant with God and live as faithful people through the life of Jesus.

The gospel writers show us the fulfillment of God's new covenant. This new covenant is for the whole world. It invites believers to join covenant community with God and other believers.

The book of acts describes how the new church lived in community with each other, worshiping God praying for each other and sharing what they had to care for.

Those in need. The epistles of the New Testament were written to covenant communities or to individuals in those communities to help them with ethical and moral dilemmas to encourage them to live within the covenant relationships they had made and to praise them for their faithfulness throughout the Bible.

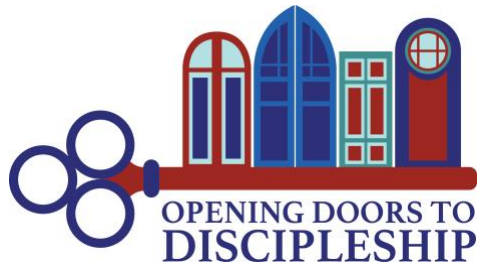
We see God's faithful. Never-ending covenantal love for human beings. We also see that we as human beings are fallible, sinful creatures, constantly failing to keep the covenant yet through the grace and reconciling love of Jesus Christ and the power of the holy spirit.

We are forgiven, renewed and reminded that we are children of God and always will be. Lamentations. Chapter three, verses 22 to 23 says, quote, the steadfast love of the Lord, never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning. Great. Is your faithfulness and quote God's covenant with the Israelite community was established by the DECA log.

Also known as the 10 words or commandments on Mount Sinai. The story is told twice in the Bible in Exodus 20 verses one through 21.

And again, in Deuteronomy five, the stone tablets of which these words were written were a physical reminder to the Israelite people of the covenant that God had made with them.

They were no longer slaves in Egypt, but God's free people. The commandments gave them clear boundaries for relating in relationship with God and with other people, they were essentially rules for healthy living.



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They were a gift from God. The first four commandments define people's relationship with God. The last six focus on humans, relationships with one another.

The 10 commandments were the foundation of a larger covenant between God and Israel, which is described throughout the rest of Exodus.

And again, in Deuteronomy chapter six, through 30 people of the ancient middle east, such as the Assyrians and the Hittites had collections of laws, similar to many of the laws found in the Torah.

None though resemble inform our content. The laws of the 10 commandments Israel's laws found in Deuteronomy more closely resemble ancient middle east treaties made between unequal parties, such as a ruler and a group of people living on the land controlled by the ruler.

These treaties known as suzerainty treaties were not a contract between parties, such as two tribes or two nations who would equally benefit from the treaty.

The suzerainty treaties contain demands for loyalty and particular ways of interacting with the sovereign, but also contained blessings and protections for those under the sovereign Walter J Harroldson describes the parts of this type of treaty in this way, quote, treaties often open with a preamble that describes what the ruler has done for his subject.

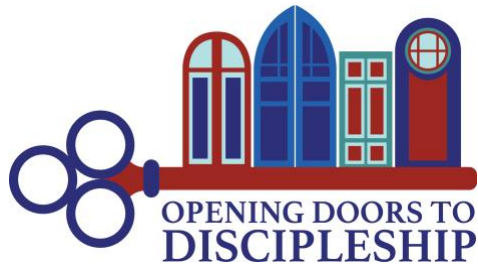
Peoples sets out the terms of their new relationship, warns them of the consequences of disobedience and sketches. The blessings that will follow from compliance such treaties often end with the list of those who have signed as witnesses to the treaty.

The 10 commandments themselves are not a complete treaty as described in the previous slide, but they have elements of this kind of agreement between two unequal parties.

They are a covenant between God and God's people as sovereign. God acted first loved us first and invites us to be in covenant relationship.

The 10 commandments, spell out the terms of the covenant and give us clear boundaries for living in covenant with God God's covenant with God's people never has an expiration date, nor does it ever become no.

And void scripture shows us though that God's covenant is ever expanding. The covenant was first made with a family. Then with the Israelite people and has now expanded to include the whole world.



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The gospel writer of the book of Matthew tells us that Jesus, when asked which commandment in the law was the greatest answered quote.

You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind, this is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself on these two commands, all hang all the law and the prophets and quote, these two commandments are perfect summary of the 10 commandments, but who is included in this covenant as our neighbor, just those we know and love, or is it wider than that?

Does this include people we don't even know? And maybe those we don't like or don't understand the writer of the gospel of Luke records.

Jesus's parable of the good Samaritan to demonstrate that the old rules about, Hey, who's in and who's out, have been removed.

And that this covenant relationship is available to all people. Our neighbors are those we know and love as well as those.

We've never met people who live down the street. And those on the other side of the world, people who look different from us have different views than we do.

And even those we do not like at all God's covenant love is for all people. Thank you for spending time learning about God's covenant in scripture, you're encouraged to continue exploring this module, uh, with the following reading and reflection exercises.