Hebrews 8

*“A Better Covenant”*

**Scripture:** Hebrews 8:1-13

**Memory Verse:** *“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”* Hebrews 8:12

**Lesson Focus:** God gave us a new promise of new life through Jesus Christ.

**Activities and Craft:** Coloring Page, Work Sheet

Craft for 1st & 2nd Graders: “A Dream of Heaven stand Up” Have the kids color and cut out their picture. Help them tape it together so that it will stand up.

**Introduction:** “Keeping Promises” Tell the kids that you are going to state some situations and they are to tell you if the person “kept their promise?

1. Bobby’s promised Peter that he would keep his secret. But later he told his friend James. Did Bobby keep his promise?
2. Janet promised her mom that she would never lie again. But when her little sister was bugging her she pinched her and told her to leave. When Janet’s mom asked if she pinched her sister – Janet said no. Did Janet keep her promise to her mom?
3. The coach promised that everyone would get equal playing time. But when the score got close to the other team he kept the same guys on the field. Did the coach keep his promise?

Tell the kids, today we are going to talk about promises. Many times we do not keep our promises and even adults around us do not keep their promises. We have a God who keeps His promises. We have a God who kept the most important promise for the whole world.

**Bible Study:**

**Hebrews 8:1-2:** *“The Main Point”*

√ What is a main point? What is the main point here?

The main point is that Jesus is our High Priest. He is sitting at the right hand of God and serves in the holy of hollies that was set up by God and not by man. Jesus is greater than any priest that ever was on earth. The point that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God shows that Jesus’ work is complete. His sacrifice was given freely by His death on the cross for the sins of mankind. Jesus sits in the majesty of heaven. Right before Jesus died on the cross, His prayer in the garden was this, “*I have glorified You on earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”* John 17:4-5

Jesus returned to the “majesty” in the heavens, to the place that He was in before the world is created.

√ What do you think heaven is like? How is it majestic?

Revelation 4 gives us a small picture:

“*Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in Heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightning’s, thundering’s, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal…*

The small picture of Heaven is glorious and beyond what we can imagine. All of the focus is on Jesus. He is who the angels sing to. In Revelation 5:12, 13 this is what they sing, “*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.” “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever.”*

Hebrews 8:2 says that Jesus is a minister or that He is serving in the sanctuary.

√ How is Jesus serving us?

Hebrews 7:25 told us how Jesus still serves us daily as our High Priest. He is **continually** making intercession for us. He is praying for us.

**Hebrews 8:3-5:** “*A Shadow*”

The important words here in these three verses are found in Hebrews 8:5. They are

“copy” and “shadow.” When Moses was told to build the tabernacle in Exodus 25:40, He was building something what would remind the people of where God dwells. God’s dwelling is in heaven, it is where Jesus is. When Moses was on the mountain God gave Moses the pattern and specific instruction how to build the ark, the table, the lampstand and these where all part of the tabernacle. The tabernacle was a copy or a example of what was to come. The tabernacle was a shadow or the reality of what we would find in Jesus.

√ What is a shadow? Is it the real you? In the same way the tabernacle was not the reality of who God was but it was the shadow of what was coming in the person of Jesus. (Colossians 2:17)

**Hebrews 8:6-13: *“****Something New”*

√ What is a covenant? (a promise of God)

√ How is Jesus’ ministry better?

1. A Better Covenant
2. Better Promises

New Promise:

God made a covenant or a promise with the nation of Israel that He would be their God and they would be His people. He would give them a land to dwell in and they would obey Him. But they did not obey God. And God knew that He would make a new promise to all of the people of the earth.

New Covenant or Promise: In the book of Jeremiah we see a prophecy that God would give us a new covenant. The book of Hebrews quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34, *“I will put My laws in their minds and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be My people.”*

The Old Covenant had laws to follow. You followed God by obeying outward laws.

The New Covenant would be internal. God’s laws would be written on our hearts and minds. It would be an internal relationship with God made possible through Jesus. John Courson says, “grace would put into us everything God wants out of us.”

When we know Jesus as our Savior we are made new. “*Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.”* We still have the same heart but through Jesus it is made new.

New Relationship: Hebrews 8:10-11

√ How are we made new?

Jesus said in John 14:16-17; *“And I will pray that Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – The Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you.”* We are made new through believing in Jesus and then by the filling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives inside of us and guides us every day.

Relationship: When God says, “I will be their God and they shall be my people in Hebrews 8:10, the verse is saying “He gives Himself to us and He takes us to Himself. Through Jesus we have a relationship with God. What a gift, to know God! Jesus said it this way, “*Now this is eternal life; that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, who you have sent.”* John 17:3

New Forgiveness: Hebrews 8:12

*“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”* This is exactly what the Old Testament could not do. Under the Old Covenant, a person’s sins where never entirely forgiven or forgotten, they were only covered. But through the New Covenant, Jesus paid the price for our sins and God choses to forgive and forget our sins because of the work of Jesus. The new covenant brings total forgiveness. The new covenant shows us the grace of God. The new covenant is a gift given to us because of Jesus.

Total forgiveness does not mean that I can be as bad as I want to and God will forgive me. He does forgive, but only when the heart is broken and repentant.

But total forgiveness does mean that God knows who I am. He knows that I am selfish and that I do many things that are not in obedience to God. When He reveals these sins to me and when I repent – God is ALWAYS ready to forgive.

**Conclusion:** (for teachers back in their rooms.)

1. Does God ever break a promise? How does that help you trust Him?
2. Why did God make a new covenant with mankind?
3. How is the new covenant better than the old?
4. What is the new covenant?
5. How does Jesus give us a new relationship with God?
6. How are we made new? Who lives inside of us? How do we follow the Holy Spirit?
7. Do you believe that Jesus is praying for you right now? How does that make you feel?