



C O V E N A N T

G O D ' S E N D U R I N G P R O M I S E S

K A Y A R T H U R

Sample Session

Overview Week 1, Day 5 along with the contents page (attached) to consider how a group study could work in your church or with small groups. Get a taste of covenant for yourself. Familiarize yourself with Kay's inductive Bible study approach to teaching. Invite other women to experience covenant!

Available resources:

Covenant: God's Enduring Promises member
(item 005207282)

Covenant: God's Enduring Promises kit (item 005189424)



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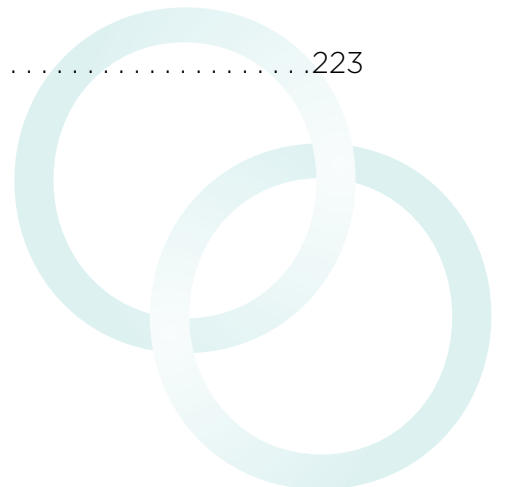
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About the Author

Since founding Precept Ministries International (www.precept.org) with her husband, Jack, in 1970 with the vision to establish people in God's Word, internationally known Bible teacher and award-winning author Kay Arthur has written more than 100 books and Bible studies.

Personal and passionate, engaging and knowledgeable, Kay will lead you on a rich journey of discovery and relationship with our covenant-making, covenant-keeping God.

This is Kay's third women's Bible study with LifeWay Christian Resources, with others including *Lord, Teach Me to Pray: Practicing a Powerful Pattern of Prayer* and *Return to the Garden: Embracing God's Design for Sexuality*. She joins Beth Moore and Priscilla Shirer in Deeper Still LifeWay women's events held around the country.

Kay is the teacher and host of "Precepts for Life," a radio and television program that reaches a worldwide viewing audience of more than 94 million people, teaching them how to discover truth for themselves.

Through training workshops and Bible conferences; through Bible studies in local churches and small-group studies; through television, radio, and online media; through Bible study tours to biblical sites; and through international efforts in approximately 150 countries and 70 languages—Precept Ministries International is establishing people around the world in God's Word.

Kay serves as Executive Vice President and shares the office of Precept CEO with Jack. The Arthurs live in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

DAY FIVE

Covenant Works

You are in the home stretch for this week. What a foundation you have laid for the exciting weeks ahead! When you look back, you are going to be so thankful you have given yourself diligently to this week's study.

We have seen what Genesis says about covenant. Now we move to Exodus where we find the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in bondage to the Egyptians. What did they do? The answer is in the text of Exodus 2:23-25.

Read these verses carefully. Mark any key words you've marked previously—the most important being *covenant* since that is our topic of study!

Exodus 2:23-25

- 23 Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God.
- 24 So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- 25 God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.

Awesome, isn't it! Covenant works! God remembered! God remembered and moved on the one He had been preparing: Moses.

In Exodus 3 we see how God called Moses at the burning bush and told him he was to be the deliverer of the children of Israel. They would be coming out of bondage.

In Exodus 6:1-9 watch what God did. As you read the text printed for you on page 30:

1. Color-code the references to *the Lord*.
2. Color any references to the descendants of Abraham, just as you colored Abram, in blue.
3. Double-underline all references to the land in green.
Remember, this is the land affirmed by covenant in Genesis 15.
4. Of course, mark *covenant*.

Exodus 6:1-9

- 1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for under compulsion he will let them go, and under compulsion he will drive them out of his land.”
- 2 God spoke further to Moses and said to him, “I am the LORD;
- 3 and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, LORD, I did not make Myself known to them.
- 4 “I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they sojourned.
- 5 “Furthermore I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.
- 6 “Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, “I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.
- 7 “Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
- 8 “I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am the LORD.”
- 9 So Moses spoke thus to the sons of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses on account of their despondency and cruel bondage.

God made the covenant. It was unconditional. God was keeping the covenant! But look at verse 9: “but they did not listen to Moses on account of their despondency and cruel bondage.” Isn’t that sad?

Instead of listening to God, believing God, clinging to God and His covenant promise, the Israelites were caught in the bondage of their circumstances.


Isn't that often the way with so many people today? It breaks my heart, as I know it does yours, to watch people who could walk in peace and joy to live in despondency. We don't have to, beloved. We too are in a marvelous covenant, one that you will see today and explore in greater depth beginning next week.

Back to Exodus! By the time of the circumstances of Exodus 15 Moses and the children of Israel were singing a song of triumph. They were out of Egypt, and God had drowned Pharaoh and his army in the sea that He had parted. They were on their journey to the land promised by God through covenant.

In Exodus chapters 19–20 Moses and the Israelites camped at the foot of Mount Sinai. Moses went up the mountain to talk with the Lord.

Exodus 19:3-9 is printed for you. Once again, I want you to observe the text for yourself.

1. Mark the references to *the Lord*, to the children of Israel, and to *covenant* as you did before.
2. Also mark the phrases *the words* and *all the Lord has spoken*.

I draw the Bible in purple, the color of royalty, and color it green, symbolic of growth.  You may do whatever appeals to you; just don't miss what He is saying to you.

Exodus 19:3-9

- 3 Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel:
- 4 "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself.
- 5 "Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;
- 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

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- 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him.
- 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.
- 9 The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever." Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

Look where you marked *the words* and *all (that) the Lord had spoken*. Make a list of what you learn from the text about these words and the people's response to them.

The words that the Lord spoke are recorded in Exodus 20. What are those words? The Ten Commandments! What are the Ten Commandments part of? Hang on! Here we go!

Read Exodus 24:3-8 and Exodus 34:27-28 and:

1. Mark references to *the words* and any synonyms just as you did previously.
2. Mark **covenant**.
3. Color in blue the words *the people*, in the same way you color-coded *Abram* and *Abraham* previously.

Exodus 24:3-8

- 3 Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!”
- 4 Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.
- 5 He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD.
- 6 Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.
- 7 Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!”
- 8 So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Exodus 34:27-28

- 27 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”
- 28 So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

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What do you learn from marking *the people*? List your insights here. Then fill in the chart you are keeping on covenant (p. 36).

What did you learn about this covenant? It's two-way, isn't it? God gave the Law, and the people obligated themselves to keep it! There ought to be a heads-up on this one. Pay attention! This is not like the unconditional covenant with Abraham. This is the Law, also known as the Old Covenant! Hey, that's what the first 39 books of the Bible are called: The Old Testament.

But this was Israel thousands of years ago! Does it have anything to do with us today? We still hear a lot about the Ten Commandments, don't we? Some go to great lengths to keep the Commandments before society while others try to obliterate them.

How does this covenant impact you and me? We will see and I can't wait! What a seven weeks we have left! Let's wrap up our week with yet another covenant—one we will touch on and then explore in great depth.

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament; Matthew, the first book of the New Testament. Watch what God says about covenant in Malachi 3:1. Read it in your Bible and mark every occurrence of *covenant*.

Who is coming? How is this one described?

Finally, let's go to the New Testament, specifically to Matthew. (Remember, *testament* is another word for *covenant*.) Jesus was in the upper room celebrating His last Passover meal with His disciples.

Read Matthew 26:26-29 in your Bible and mark the key word *covenant*.

Jesus was about to be betrayed and crucified, and what did He do?

What do you learn about *covenant*, and what did the benefactor of this covenant receive?

Oh, beloved, could anything be more wonderful than to know that your Creator has forgiven all your sins? The condemnation is gone. And it's because of a covenant in the blood of the Son of God.

Fall on your face in awe!

1. Kay Arthur. *Our Covenant God*, (Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 1999), 49-50.

C O V E N A N T

A CURSORY CHART ON COVENANTS

Scripture	Who Makes Covenant and with Whom?	What Is the Promise or Agreement?	What Else Takes Place?