

SERMON NOTES FOR PASTORS

SERMON ILLUSTRATION SUGGESTIONS:

DEAR PASTOR!

Thank you for showing your church family the importance of involving children in the church service and giving your kids the opportunity to lead! The Pastor's Note section has suggestions and options you might include as a short homily in follow-up to the children's program. We know that every pastor has different methods within their preaching, so we suggest that you adapt the materials as needed or prepare a sermon that aligns with the theme of "God's Faithfulness in keeping his promises". These materials are best used at the end of the full program and will help provide further application of its theological points.

Jesus also said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20). What does your gathering place look like? A small brick building or maybe a new building. Maybe you are using the church school or a house church.

Wherever you are, families are involved, and most important He is there! God is fiercely faithful and is with you as you do the important work of helping people in your church and community come to know, love, and serve Jesus.

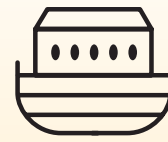
We are praying for you as you disciple the children, youth, and adults in your church to be faithful to Him!

NAD Children's Ministries

TIMELINE OF EVENTS – Set up a visual timeline to help families follow along with the different covenants of scripture. Use a whiteboard, draw a line, and put different points on the timeline as you preach. If you are artistic, you can draw pictures on the timeline, or you can print out simple icons to illustrate each event so that younger children may follow along. At the end of the sermon, you would draw an arrow pointing from the new covenant to creation: demonstrating how Christ is the fulfillment of each covenant promise.



Creation



Ararat



Abrahamic



Mosaic



Davidic



New

CONTRACT AGREEMENT – Have several examples of contractual agreements. You may use pictures or have document copies. You can use examples such as a marriage license, Deed to a house, Work Contract etc. Emphasize the importance of the signature line, and what it means to sign a contract with your own hand.

RAINBOW PRISM – Take a prism and show a rainbow shining on the wall. The rainbow symbolized God's promise to Noah and his family.

WRITING OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS A COVENANT?

Did you know that everything God does is based on covenant? The Greek word for covenant in the New Testament is *diatheke*. It's pronounced dee-athay'-kay and means "a contract." The Hebrew word for covenant in the Old Testament is *beriyth*. It's pronounced ber-eeth'. It is a "compact" made by passing through pieces of flesh. When God makes a covenant it is a lifelong promise that can never be broken. There are 5 major examples of Covenants in the Bible. These form a greater picture of God's saving action through Scripture, beginning with Noah and coming to fruition in the new covenant fulfilled by the sacrifice of Christ.

COVENANT AT ARARAT – Genesis 8-9

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT – Genesis 12, 15, 17

MOSAIC COVENANT – Deut 28, Ex 31

DAVIDIC COVENANT – 2 Sam 7, Ps 72, Ps 89, Ps 132

NEW COVENANT – Jer 31:31-34, Ez 36:22-32

CONCLUSION

The covenants progressively build upon one another, forming a complete redemptive storyline. God preserved the world through Noah, initiated redemption through Abraham, established the nation of Israel through Moses, Promised an eternal shepherd – king through David, and fulfilled all of these promises through Jesus.

SUGGESTED READING MATERIALS FOR FURTHER STUDY

John Murray, *The Covenant of Grace*

Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*

Paul R. Williamson, *Sealed with an Oath*.

Thomas R. Schreiner, *Covenant and God's Purpose for the World*

Michael Horton, *God of Promise*.

Peter Golding, *Covenant Theology*.