



Dgroup Discussion Guide for October 25, 2015

## The Covenant God

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 16

In verses 1 -6, we see that Abram and Sarai take matters in their own hands. Sarai tells Abram to go in to her maid, Hagar. When Hagar conceives they then start blaming each other. So Abram tells Sarai, that Hagar is her maid she should deal with her. Sarai then decides to mistreat Hagar forcing her to run away. But in verses 7 -12, An angel of the Lord appears to Hagar and tells her to return to her mistress and submit herself to her. At this point, God also promises Hagar , ***"I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count."***

Most of the time, we like Abram and Sarai take matters into our own hands. Even though we know of God's promises we still opt to do things our own way and not waiting for God to move in our lives. We forget that God's promises are His covenant to us.

### God's Covenant

What is a covenant?

1. **Noun.** It is an agreement, usually formal, between two or more person to do or not to do something specified.
2. **Law.** It is a formal agreement of legal validity, especially one under seal.
3. **Ecclesiastical.** A solemn agreement between the members of a church to act together in harmony with the precepts of the gospel.
4. **Scripture.** The promises (unconditional or conditional) made to humanity by God, as revealed in Scripture.

In a covenant three parties are involved: (Herbert Carson)

1. parties contracting together
2. promises involved
3. conditions imposed

He stresses that between God and man can never be as between equals, but must be imposed from above.

In the Old Testaments there are some important covenants:

1. Adamic Covenant (innocence in the garden) & grace
2. Noahic covenant – Rainbow covenant
3. Abrahamic covenant – father of many nations and Israel
4. Mosaic covenant – blessings and curses
5. Davidic covenant – throne forever, promised seed

A covenant can be conditional or unconditional for example the Israelites getting the land was an unconditional gift but to remain in the land was conditional, dependent on the Israelites obedience. We see this in John 1: 1-3. God had reminded the Israelites that He is giving them the land to them but God did not say it was going to be easy. God does not just drop everything in our laps, He prepares us to receive the gifts that He has promised.

### New Covenant

The new covenant is both conditional and unconditional. It is unconditional because it is between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is the covenant of Salvation. God did not make the procurement, the ability of salvation to happen between HIM and us because HE did, we would always fall short. God however did make the receiving of the covenant of salvation between HIM and us – this is where our part comes in.

The unconditional portion of the covenant was made between the Father, the Son and the Spirit. They were going to make a plan for redemption and salvation. This is the new covenant: ***For God so loved the world, that He gave His <sup>[a]</sup>only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*** Hebrews 10:1-10 further tells us that sacrifices made to fulfill the Law, the blood from the bulls and goats will never be enough to take away our sins it merely covers it. But when Jesus came into the

of the body of Jesus Christ. That is why Philippians 2:5-8 tells us that Jesus emptied Himself to take the form of the bond slave. He did not lose His deity but instead He emptied Himself of His deity, His right to act as God that is why when on the cross, Jesus cried “ My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me?” It was in those three hours of darkness that sin was poured out on Jesus and there was a break in the connection between God the Father and the Son. That is why we cannot do this on our own.

What are the agreements of this covenant?

1. Sin must be paid for. (Ezekiel 18:4, Hebrews 9:13-14, Hebrews 9:22, Hebrews 9:27-28)
  - It was done by the Triune God. The only way that sin could be forgiven is with a death.
2. My Salvation is non-revocable. (John 14:16, Hebrews 13:5)

The conditional part of the covenant between God and believers is that we have to ask for and to accept the gift of Salvation.

Included here are:

1. Answered prayers. (John 15:7)
2. Our needs met ( Matthew 6:33)
3. Cleansing of guilt and restoration of fellowship (1 John 1:9)

These are the key issues of the conditional part of the covenant: OWNERSHIP and ACCOUNTABLE.





**Ownership.** When we accept God’s unconditional covenant of Salvation, we no longer own ourselves but rather we become God’s property. (1 Cor 6:19-20).

**Accountable.** When we accept God’s unconditional covenant of Salvation, we are free to live as we wish and we are held accountable for it. ( Hebrews 12:5-6)

**APPLICATION:**

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

Read 1 Cor 3:10-15. *According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.<sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. UNCONDITIONAL SALVATION<sup>12</sup> Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, [e]precious stones, wood, hay, straw,<sup>13</sup> each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test [e]the quality of each man’s work. CONDITIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY<sup>14</sup> If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.<sup>15</sup> If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

	<p>Personal: Have you entered into the new covenant? Do you really understand what this covenant means? Do you understand what the payment was to ensure this covenant?</p>
	<p>Family: Are you as a family being good stewards of your eternal rewards? Do we as a family truly understand the gift of salvation? Are we living in the new covenant?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Do I understand the concept of God’s ownership of my life? Do I hold myself accountable for the choices and the decisions I make?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Look back at the list of people you want to share the gospel with. Make an effort this week to invite them to our Weekend Encounter on October 31 and November 1. Pray for our church event and for the people who will come to attend.</p>

**PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.