



We've learned some really important things in the first two parts of this series:

1. A **covenant** is a **relationship** based on **promises**
2. God established a special relationship with Abraham and promised to bless "all the families of the earth" through him and his descendants
3. God is holy and he takes covenants very seriously

Sadly, the Old Testament is full of examples of how unfaithful Abraham's family line was to their covenant with God. Frequently, God allowed them to suffer the consequences of their foolish choices. But, God was always faithful. Even in the darkest of times, he invited:

"Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may \_\_\_\_\_; and I will make with you an everlasting \_\_\_\_\_..." (Isa 55:1-3a, 6-9)

What would this new and better covenant be like?

Jeremiah 31:31-34 provides a great preview:

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a \_\_\_\_\_ covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah ... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their \_\_\_\_\_. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will \_\_\_\_\_ their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Even though people were making a real mess of things, thankfully, God never gave up on his promise to bless the world through Abraham's family line.

#### For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's revisit what God told us about himself in **Isaiah 55:8-9**. Why is this really good news?
- Even though his people had been unfaithful, God wasn't giving up. But, according to **Isaiah 55:6-7**, what would they have to do? What can we learn about God and covenants from these verses?
- Let's think carefully about the way God described the new covenant that he would make in **Jeremiah 31**:
  - "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts." How would this be **better** than laws written on tablets of stone?
  - "No longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD.'" Why not?
- So why shouldn't we go back to that old covenant with its tabernacle and priests and animal sacrifices? Why don't we worship the way those people did? **Hebrews 8:6-13** might be very helpful.