

# Session 2

**Read: Chapters 5-8**

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## Opening

What understanding (if any) of “covenant promises” do people have today? What might account for our lack of awareness?

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## View

**Consider the following questions as you watch session 2.**

Why does God make promises to humans?

Why does God pursue partnership with humans?

How are the themes of exile and waiting introduced into the Bible’s story?

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## Reflect

**Spend some time reflecting on the series of questions Sonya asks at the at the close of the video.**

When have you made “covenant promises”? How have those promises changed your life?

How have you seen God’s faithfulness in your life and story? What has His faithfulness looked like over the course of your lifetime?

What has God asked you to put on the altar?

What are you waiting for in this season of your life?

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## Study

Use the following questions for individual study or group discussion. Refer to the Bible passages listed, as well as *The Covenant Story* chapters, as you dig deeper.

### Chapter 5

#### The Oath: Blood Covenant

##### Genesis 15

What was the significance of the blood covenant? What did it communicate?

God's covenant with Abram was one-sided, or unilateral. Why do you think this was important?

What did God promise to Abram?

Personal: What promises has God made to you? Do you believe what he has promised?

### Chapter 6

#### The Exchange: Covenant Partners

##### Genesis 17:1-21

God's second covenant with Abraham was two-sided, or bilateral. Why do you think God asked Abraham to join him in this relationship?

What promises were added in the second covenant with Abraham?

How was circumcision the "sign" of the covenant? What did it mean?

Why did God change Abram's name?

Personal: What does it mean to be a friend of God?

### Chapter 7

#### Belief: Mark of the Covenant

##### Genesis 22:1-19

What is righteousness?

What did trust look like for Abraham when he was asked to sacrifice Isaac? What did trust look like for Isaac?

What does the story of Abraham and Isaac foreshadow?

Personal: What has trust looked like in your own relationship with God?

## Chapter 8

### Wait: Covenant Assurance

#### Genesis 39:20-23 & 45:4-8

Why do you think God included a reference to Israel's bondage in his covenant promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:12-14)?

How was hesed a part of Joseph's story? What makes his story remarkable?

Why might the theme of slavery be important to the covenant story?

Personal: When has waiting led to doubt in your life?

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## Wrap Up

Consider the following question as you close your time in prayer.

**“A three-day walk. An only son. A sacrifice on a mountain. A lamb. God will provide.” How might seeing the Bible as an unfolding story increase your capacity to trust God?**