

Session 4

Read: Chapters 14-18

Opening

Why is it important to understand the Bible as an unfolding story?

View

Consider the following questions as you watch session 2.

How did David's understanding of covenant shape his life?

What was God communicating to his people through the prophets?

What does the thread of steadfast love look like in the Old Testament stories?

Reflect

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

How have you tried and failed to follow God's laws?

Do you find yourself longing for a new covenant?

Can you picture yourself as the one God has chosen?

What would it take for you to let down your guard and let God cherish you?

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 14

Chosen: Covenant Heart

1 Samuel 17:41-18:5

Do you think it was God's desire for his people to have a king? Why did he allow it?

How does David's story demonstrate a "covenant heart"?

What did Jonathon communicate to David by giving him his robe and his armor? What is the significance of Jonathon's covenant with David?

Personal: Have you ever experienced *hesed* in the context of friendship? What would it be like?

Chapter 15

Regret: Covenant Sacrifice

2 Samuel 12:1-5

Why do you think Nathan used a story to confront King David?

What was David's response to Nathan's story?

How could David be guilty of such awful sin, and still be called a man after God's heart (Acts 13:22)?

Personal: How might entitlement be tied to sin in your life?

Chapter 16

Divided: Cycle of a Covenant People

1 Kings 3:3-14 & 11:9-13

How did King Solomon's reign start out, and how did it end?

What happened to the covenant promise God made to King David regarding his kingdom?

Personal: Can you relate to the "cycle of wandering and returning"? Do you think this is meant to be the normal rhythm of God's people? Why or why not?

Chapter 17

Rejected: Covenant Husband

Ezekiel 16:8-22, 59-63

Why do you think God gave the prophet Ezekiel such a graphic illustration?

According to the prophets, what were the inevitable consequences of broken covenant?

What promise does Ezekiel include at the end of his story of the unfaithful bride? What does it mean?

Personal: What emotion does the story of the faithless bride stir in you?

Chapter 18

Whisper: Covenant Prophecy

Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Ezekiel 11:19-20

What kind of “new covenant” did God promise through Jeremiah? What would it be like?

What kind of “new heart” and “new spirit” did God promise through Ezekiel?

How is God’s justice part of his hesed?

Read Exodus 34:6-7. What would God’s justice look like if it was put on a scale opposite his hesed?

Personal: How do you feel about the promise of a new covenant? What does it mean to you?

Wrap Up

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

Psalm 103 is King David’s interpretation of Exodus 34:6-7. What does it look like for us to “forget not his benefits” as we experience God’s hesed in our daily lives?