

1. Covenant Basics

- a) Galatians 4:21–31, difficult passage
- b) Covenant (berit) nearly 300x in OT
- c) Agreement between two parties

2. Covenant with Adam

- a) Genesis 1:28, 2:2,3,15–17
- b) Genesis 3:15, promise of grace

3. The Abrahamic covenant

- a) Genesis 12:1–5
- b) Genesis 15:1–18
- c) Have you ever struggled to believe that God’s promises to you are true?

4. Questioning the promises of God

- a) Genesis 16:1–4
- b) Genesis 17:18
- c) How did God respond to Abraham’s request to accept Ishmael as his heir? Genesis 17:19–21
- d) Share a time when your failure to believe the promises of God caused pain or trouble.
- e) How can we increase our confidence in the reliability of God’s promises?

5. Covenant at Mount Sinai

- a) Exodus 19:3–6
- b) Deuteronomy 32:10–12
- c) God’s blessings were never earned by obedience. Rather obedience is a loving response.
- d) Why does Paul associate Mount Sinai with the negative experience of Hagar?
 - i) Galatians 4:21–31
 - ii) Exodus 19:7–25
 - iii) Hebrews 8:6–7
- e) The story of Hagar is an illustration of trying to accomplish God’s plan by works of the flesh. Such an approach is doomed to fail.

6. Isaac suffered persecution

- a) Galatians 4:29
- b) Genesis 21:8–10
- c) How have you suffered persecution because of your desire to believe all of God’s promises?

7. Discussion questions

- a) Have you experienced times when you have fallen back into trying to save yourself by your own good deeds? How did you realize you had drifted away from the truth of the Gospel?
- b) How can you encourage someone who is discouraged by the impossible task of trying to earn salvation?

