

COVENANT RENEWAL

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

COVENANT RENEWAL CEREMONY

JOSHUA 24:1-28

FEB. 1, 2015

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting it on your mirror, desk, or car dashboard.

What to remember:

What to put off/put on:

What to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some next steps to walk in this truth this week. Don't feel constrained to these but feel free to use them.

- Learn more about the Covenant Renewal process and vision online at yourchurch.com/covenant
- Join a small group to find a community at College Park that will help encourage and care for you
- Read Romans 8 again to keep it fresh in your heart
- If you haven't been baptized yet, take this important step in your walk with Christ before becoming a member

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- To learn more about church membership, we recommend visiting 9marks.org/membership-discipline for online resources. *Church Membership* by Jonathan Leeman would be a recommended book.
- **Mutual care for one another:** John 15:12; Rom. 12:10; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Thess. 5:11-15.
- **Covenant:** Gen. 8:20-9:17; 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5; 2 Sam. 7:4-17; Jer. 31:31-37; Mt. 26:28; Heb. 8:7-13.
- Two recommended books on covenants in the Bible are *God of Promise* by Michael Horton and *Sealed with an Oath* by Paul Williamson.

APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

1. **Do you think a Christian needs a local church to grow? Why or why not? What are ways a believer's walk might suffer if they're not in a healthy church, or if they're attending church but not in community where they're known and encouraged?**
2. Did your view of the local church or church membership change at all because of this sermon? Are there any remaining questions you're wrestling through? Are there any next steps you think you need to take?

3. **How can the group you are in better encourage you as you seek to know and apply the Word to your life? How can they at times exhort you?**

4. Was the importance of "covenant" in the Bible a new thing for you? Why do you think God made something like a covenant so central to all relationships he entered into?

5. **Read through the Membership Covenant together. If you don't have a copy it can be found at yourchurch.com/covenant. What are some of the things that stand out to you?**

6. What are reasons we don't open up or share our lives with people in the church? How do we push through or think differently about those things?

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Confess any pride that keeps you from seeing your need for others or fear of man that keeps you from wanting to be known
- Thank God for saving us not only to himself but into a group of believers who could encourage, serve, and care for us
- Praise God for any specific ways you've been loved and helped by Christ's church
- Ask God to help you put others in the church before yourself and to see the beauty in loving others even when it's hard
- Ask God for wisdom in how you might be more involved through serving, through being in community, or to be taught or trained