

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Jeremiah 31:31-34 // April 7 // A New Covenant

Pastor Gabe

Prayer: Holy Father, as we explore the depths of Your promises through Jeremiah, inspire in us a sense of awe for the new covenant You offer. Help us to grasp the fullness of life we have in Jesus and strengthen us in the Spirit. Thank You for calling each of us by name and bestowing upon us the gift of intimacy with You. Christ is Risen!

Icebreaker: Think about a time you were captivated by something completely new, from music to technology. How did that feeling of fresh excitement compare to the steadfast joys in your life?

Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Promise of a New Relationship (Jeremiah 31:31-32)

- The Lord foresees a time of renewal and fundamentally different interaction with His people, diverging from the old covenant that had been repeatedly broken.
- This new covenant will not rest on external laws and rituals but will be inscribed upon the very hearts of the individuals, indicating a more intimate and indelible connection.
- Reflect on what the old and new covenants represent in our spiritual history. How is our relationship with God different because of the new covenant established through Jesus?

Transformative Freedom and Security (Jeremiah 31:33)

- Under the new covenant, God's guidance is internalized within us by the work of the Holy Spirit, shifting from adherence to the letter to a natural embodiment of God's will.
- The Spirit replaces a system that could induce guilt with one that nurtures and renews our spirit, promoting a genuine reflection of God's goodness.
- Explore the implications of having God's law written on our hearts. How does this influence our understanding of security in God's promises and our freedom to embrace His will?

Intimacy and Grace Through Personal Knowing (Jeremiah 31:34)

- A revolutionary promise shatters historical barriers to divine relationship: all people, regardless of status, are afforded the intimate knowledge of God.
- We are reconciled not by human effort but through divine forgiveness and grace, highlighting the breadth and depth of the new covenant.
- Consider the ways in which this personal knowledge of God challenges societal norms. How has knowing God, afforded by grace, transformed your identity and sense of community?

Reflection/Application Questions:

Reflect on the promises in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and consider how these verses assure us of a deeply personal and life-transforming relationship with God through the new covenant. Think about what these promises mean for your daily life. How can they influence your choices, relationships, and sense of purpose?

Suggestion for Further Study:

Romans 8:1-17, to delve deeper into the nature of the life-giving Spirit that marks the new covenant. Reflect on the contrasts between the old and new and the freedom that the Spirit brings, which liberates us from the law of sin and death.

Closing Prayer:

Lord of New Beginnings, we are humbled by the magnitude of Your love that ushers in a new covenant—one marked by Your Spirit living within our hearts. We embrace the freedom and security that come from Your forgiveness. Teach us to live daily in the intimacy of knowing You, and empower us to extend Your grace to others. Through the victorious work of our Risen Christ, we stand renewed, remembering our sins no more, in light of Your eternal grace. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.