

2. God's Covenants



Understand the meaning of covenant.
Reflect on God's covenant with Noah.

What is a Covenant?

Covenant comes from the Latin word "*convenire*" which means to come together. A covenant is solemn agreement between people, or between God and His people, that binds one to the other. A covenant with God is a very deep and solemn bond of love and trust.

The difference between a contract and a covenant

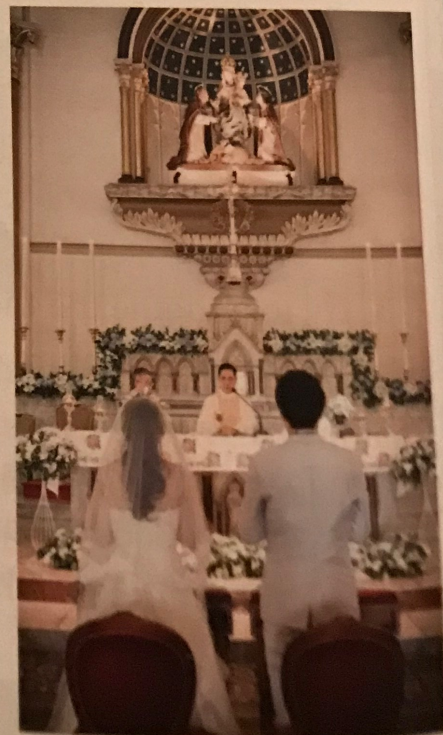
If you join a club, you usually have to pay a membership fee and agree to certain rules, that is, you have entered into a **contract** with the club.



If a family wants to sell their house or purchase a new one, a **contract** is signed before the money is paid. So in a business deal, **contracts** are signed and each person does this to protect their own interests. A **contract** involves the exchange of goods or services for money.

A **covenant** is based on love, friendship and trust. When two people get married they come together in a deep bond of love and trust to share their lives. They pledge their faithfulness to each other. Marriage vows are a covenant of love, a solemn promise before God.

A **covenant** with God is a very deep and solemn bond of love and trust. God will never break His covenant with anyone. We will see this in the life of Noah, Abraham and Moses and then in the new covenant Jesus makes with each one of us. This covenant is what helps us each day because we know Jesus has promised to be with us.



God's Covenant with Noah

In the time of Noah, evil, corruption and violence were widespread over the earth. The Bible tells us that Noah was a good man, a man of integrity, that is, he was honest and upright (Gen 6:9).

God told Noah that because the earth was full of violence, He was going to make a fresh start. A great flood would cover the earth and only the good people would be saved. Noah was instructed to build a great ark.

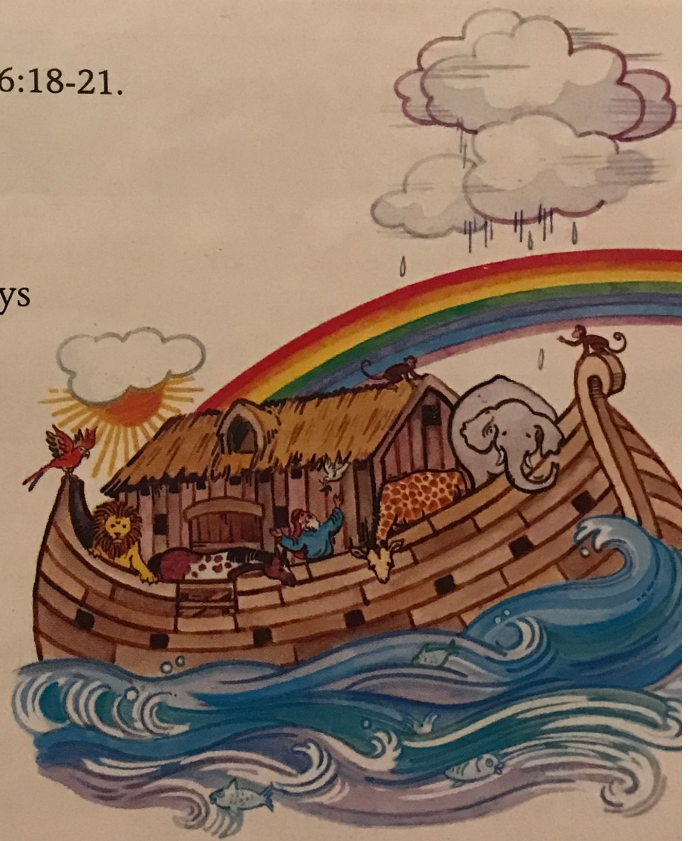


Use your Bible. Read Gen 6:18-21.

Who would go into the ark?

The Flood

"The flood came and lasted for forty days on the earth. The waters swelled, lifting the ark until it was raised above the earth. The waters rose and swelled greatly on the earth, and the ark sailed on the waters. The waters rose over the earth so that even the highest mountains under the whole of heaven were submerged..."
(Gen 7:17-20).



The Covenant

God promised Noah that He would never again cause another flood to destroy the earth.

“God said, ‘Here is the sign of the covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind.’” (Gen 9:12-16)



The promise that God made to Noah is still true today; God is always faithful to a promise. However, because He has given us free will, God could not promise that WE will never destroy the world.

Pause to reflect

- Noah teaches us that no matter what others do, if we remain faithful to God, He will be with us.
- God blessed Noah in a special way and God will bless all who faithfully remain close to Him and lead a good life.