

08 THE NEW COVENANT

KEY TEXT: JEREMIAH 31:23-34

CENTRAL truth

Some restoration projects seek to bring something back to its original glory. Other restoration projects, like most home restorations, seek to make something better than it has ever been before. God promised Judah a restoration that would produce an unprecedented quality of relationship with Him. God doesn't restore our lives to the best we ever were in our past—**God's restoration makes us better than we've ever been.**

key question

Judah's present was destruction, but its future was restoration. What does that teach us about God's plans and power?

Many of the Judean exiles probably wanted things to just go back to normal. But "normal" is what got them into exile in the first place. They didn't need a restoration to pre-Babylon days; they needed God to do an unmatched work of grace in their lives. When Jesus transforms us, we're not taken back to some kind of childlike innocence. Through His power, we are thoroughly cleansed of all sin and given the righteousness of God! The Holy Spirit lives in us and empowers us. In Christ, we have a quality of love and life in God that is unprecedented.

keep in mind

- Students may need help grasping the truth that we have been saved, yet God is still continually changing us. Over our lifetime, He is sanctifying us—making us more like Jesus. Some students may feel like their lives aren't changing for the better as rapidly as they'd like. God's restoration process for Judah took time. God's continued restorative work in our lives takes time too.
- This session is an excellent opportunity to talk about the destructive power of sin. Sin has a powerful decomposing effect on our lives, like rust on a car. On the other hand, following Jesus is continually restorative, transformative, and life-giving. His restoring hand only heals and helps our lives.

application

How have you seen Jesus bring restoration to your life and the lives of people around you?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should understand that their sins have been forgiven by God through trust in Christ. We're not seeking to be changed by God to earn more forgiveness or become more saved. We're allowing Him to continually make us more like the ultimate example of a lover of God, Jesus Christ.

FOR THE LEADER: Try to be open with the students about the attitudes and actions God is removing (or has removed) from your life and what He's replacing them with. Help them to see that the changes God wants to make in our lives are worth it.

SUMMER
2023