

# WEEK | DAY THREE | ONE

**Think about the things people do to make others believe them when they say they will do something. Pinky promise. Swear. “I give you my word.” The list could go on and on. It doesn’t matter if it’s a promise to Venmo money for lunch or a promise not to repeat the secret you shared. Why do we want to double-check that people will keep their promises? Because we know that many people don’t. Isn’t it comforting to know that God isn’t like people?**

Read Isaiah 42:6-9. Do you remember what the word “covenant” means? A covenant is a binding agreement between two parties. There is in any covenant a sort of legal expectation. The marriage relationship between two people is technically a covenant, which is why divorce is such a serious issue. A covenant is intended to be a lasting, unbreakable connection between two parties for the course of that agreement.

God’s relationship with His people is a covenant one. In the Old Testament, when God called Abraham to be the father of the Israelites, He established a covenant with Abraham. God would be the Israelites’ God, and they would be His people. When God called the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, He reminded them of this covenant: He would be their God, and they would be His people IF they obeyed His law. As you probably know, the Israelites never could fully obey God’s law. They turned from God, again and again, worshipping other gods and forgetting their covenant. But God never failed to keep His end of the agreement.

Look at what God says through the prophet Isaiah. This message comes at a time when the people were rebelling against God; God was promising that they would rightfully be punished for breaking their covenant. But there is something else here. In vs. 6, God reminds the people of His covenant love for them, despite their unfaithfulness. But Isaiah wasn’t just talking about the Old Testament covenant with Israel that relied on obedience to the law. He was predicting a New Covenant, a covenant of grace that would be available for all who would come to believe in God. This New Covenant, which we know was ushered in with Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, is at the heart of the Gospel.

## Questions to consider

1. Look how God described His covenant love for us: "a light for the nations" that would "open the eyes of the blind" and free those imprisoned by their sin. The Gospel, the good news of God's plan to rescue us from sin and death through His Son, Jesus, is the light of the world. Why?

2. Describe a time when the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus was like a light in your life?

3. In the Old Covenant, right standing in God's eyes could only be achieved by following all the rules of the Law (an impossible task because we all have a sin-nature.) What does it mean for you that Jesus went to the cross to purchase your freedom from having to earn your righteousness in God's eyes by your actions?

4. Thank God today for His covenant faithfulness to us, His children. Thank Him for sending Jesus to secure our end of the covenant that we cannot secure on our own. Thank Him that He loves us enough to do all this for us.