



## A Better Covenant Hebrews 8:1-13

Community Reflection is part three of Vineyard Boise's "Weekly Discipleship Track." Community Reflection is intended to point you towards the unique interaction that happens in the face to face setting of small group life. You've processed the truth on your own in the weekly devotions and have heard the truth presented in Sunday's teaching. Now you have the opportunity to interact with other believers about the implications and applications of that truth. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another," says the proverb. That's exactly what takes place in the small group setting. Perspectives are clarified, truths explored, convictions sharpened (or softened, as the case may be), life is built. There are three segments in each Community Reflection: **Prepare**, **Process**, and **Participate**.



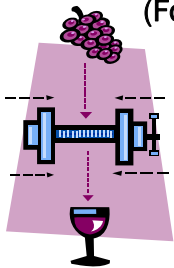
### PREPARE

(For participants prior to group meeting)

1. Work through "This Week's Walk." Do the devotions, noting any key insights you want to share with your group or questions you would like to ask.
2. Review the three Old Testament readings from day one of the devotions: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:16-21; and Joel 2:28-32. For additional background you could read Genesis 15 to see how God sealed his covenant promise with Abraham, and Exodus 19-25 to get the details of the Mosaic law's inauguration.
3. Review Paul's teaching about the old and new covenants in Galatians 3 and 2 Corinthians 3. At this point you might consider writing out in parallel columns the essential differences between the old and new covenants.
4. Pray daily for your group and your upcoming group meeting.

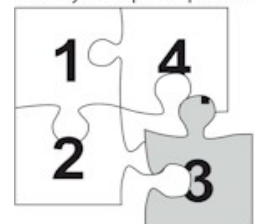
### PROCESS

(For leaders/co-leaders during group meeting)



1. Ask your group how they did with their devotions this past week. What stood out as they worked through them? What questions or issues were raised?
2. Since we have reached the halfway point of Hebrews, you might consider having different people in your group read through the first half of Hebrews up to and including chapter eight. This could serve as a helpful review (it can be very helpful just to hear it in one sitting) and a good opportunity to ask the group to share any key insights and applications they have gleaned from Hebrews so far. This would take about fifteen minutes to do, so if time is scarce, move on to #3.
3. Have your group read through **Hebrews 8:1-13**. Ask the group for any immediate impressions or questions that strike them. You can choose from the following discussion questions to help the group process this chapter and explore the essential differences between the old and new covenants and Jesus' "better ministry" to us.

Weekly Discipleship Track



1. Life reflection – need for change, hunger for God
2. Presentation of truth – teaching and studying
3. Processing the truth – reflection and debrief in community
4. Life change – response to truth, new habits and actions

# Community Reflection

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- What is the main point of the book of Hebrews up to this point?
- What is the essential difference between Jesus and the priests under the law of Moses?
- Review Hebrews 8:8-12 (Jeremiah 31:31-34). What's so new about the new covenant Jeremiah prophesies about? To what extent have you experienced this "newness"?
- Identify the four key promises (the "I will"s) of the new covenant. How clear and central have these promises been in your experience and presentation of the message of Jesus?
- What does it mean to know the Lord? How's your firsthand knowledge of God coming along these days?

## Additional group idea:

If you have access to the "That the World May Know" video series, Faith Lesson #10 ("God With Us) in volume 2 of the series provides an excellent overview of Old Testament worship and the arrangement of the temple/tabernacle. The video takes about 25 minutes. You could follow it up with a reading a Hebrews 8 and some of the discussion questions.



## **PARTICIPATE** (As a group during or after your meeting)

If it's been a while since you've done this, take some time to have each group member share their journey into grace – how each came to know the Lord. Take time to celebrate what God has done.

Brainstorm with your group about effective ways of sharing Jesus with family, friends, and neighbors who don't yet know the Lord. You might discuss ways you can reach out to others as a group.