



#homedevos 16.1

THE NEW COVENANT

Part 1

In preparation:

Prepare to play Hop Scotch. Should you not know how to play it watch this video clip: <https://youtu.be/A8NSbYGrNrc>. There are many variations. Adjust it to your children's age.

(You can use any other game that your family prefer, as long as you achieve the objective.)

The objective is for the child(ren) to experience the difference between an agreement, a contract and a covenant. We are going to play three rounds and make rules for each round in the three different ways.

You will need:

- whatever you are going to use to mark out the Hop Scotch blocks
 - a contract (an example below) and pens to sign it
 - have a treat (sweets/biscuits) ready for each one as a reward.
-

We kick off with Hop Scotch:

We are going to play Hop Scotch 3 times, changing the rules every time.

So, let us start **Round #1:**

(Before you start: decide together in which order you are going to play, e.g. from the youngest to the oldest or in sequence of the months you are born. Allow everybody to make a suggestion and come to an agreement. Warning: don't get caught up in a long discussion.)

Let the fun begin! (Play 2 or more rounds, depending on the size of your family and time.)

Round #2:

(Sit down again and decide together on some new rules, e.g. (1) pull a funny face every time you jump and (2) change the order of playing.

When everybody agrees, write the rules on the contract (see it below) and everyone has to sign. Now you are ready for Round #2!) Enjoy!

Round #3:

(This time you as the parent decide on the new rules, e.g. (1) jump backwards/squeeze an object like an apple/soft toy between your knees while jumping, if you drop it, you are out and (2) change the order of playing. Inform your family of the new rules lovingly and that they will get a sweet/biscuit afterwards. They have no say in the new rules to follow, yet they can either accept or reject it. If they reject it, they cannot play in Round #3.) Have another round of fun and laughter.

We have now played three rounds of Hop Scotch. Each time we laid down the rules for the round and agreed to it in a specific way.

In Round #1 we discussed it and agreed all together on what we are going to do. We call it an agreement and we kept it, because we, the _____-clan stick to our word.

In Round #2 we signed a contract after we discussed and came to an agreement. This is a much more serious agreement. When we sign a contract in business we are legally bound to it.

In Round #3 I decided on the game, set the rules for us to play and have fun and the only choice you had was to either accept it or reject it, you could not change it. I promised you a sweet/biscuit afterwards, which you got. This is a very simplified example of a covenant.

We read in the Bible that God, the Creator of heaven and earth made covenants with people. He decides on the covenant, makes it, settled the terms and man cannot change it, only except or reject it.

Let us look at the heart of God first. Why did He make covenants?

Listen to His Word:

- Ephesians 1:4 (ESV): *“even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love,”*
- Ephesians 1:5 (ESV): *“having predestined for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.” (“according to the good pleasure of His will.” NKJV)*
- Ephesians 2:4-5 (NKJV): *“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ ...”*
- 1 John 4:10 (NKJV): *“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins (“... a sacrifice to take away our sins.” NLT)*

Why did He make covenants?

God wanted people, made in His image, to be His sons and daughters, a family, where we love Him and He loves us without anything between us, a beautiful,

open relationship. Sin came and separated us from Him, yet His heart and desire didn't change. He made covenants to bring us back into that relationship.

We are going to learn more about the New Covenant next time. Remember it is all about the love that God has for you and me and mankind.



Prayer

- Have a time of worship and thanksgiving, praising God for His great love.
- Pray for family and friends



Memory Verse: Time!

(Use any method to help your children to remember it: actions, rhythm, pictures, etc. and repeat it often and as many times as possible. Shorten it for the little ones – do only the first part of the verse.)

Ephesians 1:7:

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of His grace."

Game Rule Contract

This contract is entered by and between the members of the _____
(surname) family to play the Round #2 of Hops Scotch according to the following agreed
rules. These rules will only be valid for this one game we are going to play following the
signing of the contract on this _____ (day), the _____ (date) of _____
(month) 20____

The specific rules are as follows:

- 1.
- 2.

In consideration of the new rules we agreed on we will stick to the rules for the duration
of this game.

This contract may not be altered/modified in any way while playing the game. If anyone
breaks the rules, he/she is out and can't play for the rest of Round #2. This document
constitutes the entire agreement between us as the members of the
_____ (surname) family.

(Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Signature)

(Printed Name)