

WEEK EIGHT | A BETTER COVENANT

"Out with the old and in with the new." We've all heard that saying. It implies that new is always coming at some point. Life is ever-changing and we must constantly deal with it. Change can be frightening and exhausting. It can also be exciting and energizing. That's what this discussion is about. New vs. old, good vs. better...this conversation is crucial for us to realize how Jesus permanently changed how we relate to God.

How enthusiastic do you get when you hear "Out with the old and in with the new?"

What do you like and/or don't like about change?

TALK ABOUT IT

Read Hebrews 8:7-12

The writer quotes Jeremiah 31:31–34 about the new covenant. **What promises of God stand out to you in that passage?**

Many Christians get confused about which Old Testament commands still apply today. How have you seen people "pick and choose" verses (like the tattoo example Russ gave) to fit an agenda?

Hebrews says the old covenant is "obsolete and outdated" (8:13).

How does that statement make you feel about your faith? Relieved? Confused? Encouraged?

The Old Covenant is the Word of God. It is equally inspired, but it is not equally applicable. **How does that truth make things clearer when you read scripture?**

APPLY IT

Read Hebrews 8:6.

How does knowing that Jesus' sacrifice was "once for all" (7:27, 9:12) impact the way you deal with guilt, shame, or the need to "earn" God's forgiveness?

Hebrews reminds us: "Jesus is better."

Where do you personally feel tempted to look for security, forgiveness, or identity outside of Jesus?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Make this time an indispensable part of your group. It can be at the beginning, end, or wherever but don't overlook it. We have plenty to pray about.

- Pray together before you go home.
- Take requests, email them to the group, ask them to pray this week.