



# Our Covenant with God

FaithBuilder 4 | Lesson 3 | Lord

## Lesson Overview

### 1. Read

Our Covenant with God

### 2. Watch a Video

Watch *How to connect with God* at [bitly.com/GodConnect](https://bitly.com/GodConnect) (1min 30sec)

### 3. Discuss

How can we come into greater connection with God?

### 4. Debate

Is truth or good more important for connecting us with God?

## New Church Concept Covenant

“Covenant” means being joined with the Lord through the reception of Divine truth by the understanding and will, or by the heart and soul, that is, by love and faith, and this conjunction is takes place on both sides, that is with the Lord and with people. *Apocalypse Explained* 701.4

## Read

A covenant is a promise made between two or more people. The Word records a variety of covenants between the Lord and His people. Try brainstorming to see how many covenants you can think of in the Old and New Testaments and then turn over to see a list of covenants in the Word.

We are going to focus on two covenants. The first is the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments, were a covenant between the children of Israel and their God, Jehovah. God spelled out rules about behaviors that should or should not be done and promised that if people obeyed the commandments they would be a “special treasure” to Him. In response the people voiced, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do” (Exodus 19:8). This showed that they understood what was being asked of them and agreed to do it. They were willing to bring their behavior into line with God’s commands.

When the Lord came on earth He forged a new covenant with people, the Two Great Commandments. These were more of the mind and spirit than of the body.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37-39

The Lord connected the new laws with the Ten Commandments by saying, “On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets”—in other words all of the Old Testament.

The Lord once again renewed His covenant in the Writings for the New Church. The Writings expand the concept of covenant. They teach that receiving the truths of the Lord’s Word into our hearts and lives is a key component of a covenant with the Lord. They use the term “conjunction” with the Lord, which is a joining together of our mind with His mind (see *Apocalypse Explained* 701). The Lord wants this relationship with us but He cannot bring it about unless we freely return His love. This idea is explained in the video *How to Connect with God*.

## Watch a Video

Watch *How to connect with God* at [bitly.com/GodConnect](https://bitly.com/GodConnect). (Enter bitly link in the browser bar at the top of your screen.) Watch time 1min 30sec.

## Discuss

*Choose questions for discussion.*

1. What did the presenter mean by asking, “When can we hang out with God?” How and when do we “hang out” with God?
2. What things draw us into relationship with to God? What things separate us from God?
3. The presenter showed two people meeting for the first time and having a love of guitar in common. What kinds of things might a person have in common with God? What will a person never have in common with God?
4. The presenter identifies God’s driving interests as selflessly loving and helping others, making their happiness a priority. How can you identify what drives you? How can you bring what drives you more into line with what drives God?

## Debate

Set up a speaker’s chair on each side of the room. Read the following statement:

**To enter a true covenant with the Lord and be conjoined with Him, love is the most important thing a person needs. Truth is not really that important.**

- Decide whether you agree or disagree with the statement. Use the quotations under the heading *God’s Closeness* (to the right) to help you make up your mind.
- If you favor it, then go to the right side of the room. If you disagree, move to the left side of the room. You must take one side or the other, but you will be allowed to switch sides.
- One person sits in the speaker’s chair. Only this person can speak. Each side takes turns speaking.

### COVENANTS IN THE WORD

Noah and the rainbow, Genesis 8:21-22. God promises never to destroy the earth again.

Abraham and Israel, Genesis 12:1-3, and 15:5. Abraham will father a great nation.

Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:1-17. The people agreed to the laws, saying, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.”

Obey and prosper, disobey and perish, Deuteronomy 11. The children of Israel would prosper only when they obeyed the Ten Commandments and served the Lord. This is an underlying theme in the Old Testament.

New covenant with Israel, Jeremiah 31:31-34. All who have God’s law in their hearts will be His people.

Two Great Commandments, Matthew 22:37-39; John 13:34-35. Love the Lord and your neighbor as yourself.

Holy Supper, Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:14. Do this in remembrance of Me.

## New Church Concept Conjunction

The essence of all love consists in conjunction. This, in fact, is its life, which is called enjoyment, pleasantness, delight, sweetness, bliss, happiness and joy. Love consists in this, that its own should be another’s. To feel the joy of another as joy in oneself, that is loving. But to feel one’s own joy in another and not the other’s joy in oneself is not loving. For this is loving self, while the former is loving the neighbor.

*Divine Love and Wisdom 47*

### God’s Closeness

Loving the Lord in return and loving the neighbor as oneself brings about conjunction, and this makes up the very essence of a covenant. When there is conjunction, the Lord is present. See *Arcana Coelestia* 1038

All Divine truth proceeds from the Lord, and when this is received by a person, he or she is joined together with the Lord. This conjunction is what is meant by “covenant”. See *Apocalypse Explained* 701

### God Alone Conjoins

A person does not conjoin himself to the Lord, but the Lord alone joins a person together to Himself, and this He does by a person’s knowing, understanding, willing, and doing the commandments. See *Apocalypse Explained* 1027.2