

GOD'S NEW COVENANT**Luke 23–24**

Memory Verse: *“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem”* (Luke 24:46-47 ESV).

Background Helps:


This week's lesson is a continuation of last week's study of the Last Supper when Jesus announced the establishment of the new covenant (Luke 22:20). By his death and resurrection, recorded in Luke 23–24, the new covenant is actually instituted.


Lesson Helps:

Here's a suggested lesson plan based on this aim: My students will learn about the new covenant promise of forgiveness of sins, so that they will repent and trust Jesus Christ to forgive their sins (or, so that they will share this promise of forgiveness with others).

1. **Hook:** Begin your lesson with a story of forgiveness: from your own experience? from the Bible? from some other resource? For biblical stories of forgiveness see Luke 5:17-26 or Luke 7:36-50.
2. **Book:** Explore the new covenant promise of forgiveness in Scripture. Perhaps you could:
 - a. Begin with the new covenant promise of forgiveness found in Jeremiah 31:34.
 - b. Briefly review last week's lesson on the Last Supper when Jesus anticipated the establishment of the new covenant (Luke 22:20) with its promise of forgiveness (Matt. 26:26-27).
 - c. Tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection from Luke 23–24. Emphasize Jesus' prayer of forgiveness in 23:34 and his message of forgiveness, entrusted to his disciples after his resurrection, including our memory verses (24:46-47). (You could also emphasize the pardon of the penitent thief in 23:39-43, although the specific word “forgiveness” is not used in this story.)
3. **Look:** For non-Christians, discuss how this promise of forgiveness of sins can become ours through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. For Christians, discuss how this message of forgiveness has now been entrusted to us to proclaim to all nations.
4. **Took:** Invite your students to receive the forgiveness of their own sins through a prayer of repentance. Or, invite your students to write down the name of one friend with whom they will seek to share the new covenant promise of forgiveness this week.

Home Assignment:

 Read Acts 1:1-11; 2

 Memorize Acts 1:8 ESV.