



## Jeremiah 31:31–34

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

## Jeremiah 31:33

MEMORY VERSE

“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” **Jeremiah 31:33**

Have you ever seen photos of the Sistine Chapel? If you have, you know it’s a classic work of art. But the experience is very different if you are standing in the chapel, because you realize you are in the midst of something amazing. You simply cannot know the full wonder of Michelangelo’s genius until you experience it in person.

Read Jeremiah 31:31–34. Jeremiah, a prophet to the Jews in Judah, brought hope to a hopeless situation: God was going to bring about a new covenant. A day would come when the Israelites would no longer relate to God through the Law and the sacrificial system. This new covenant would usher in a new, personal relationship with God. God promised to write this new covenant “upon their hearts” as opposed to writing it on tablets of stone, like the Ten Commandments.

We live under this new covenant. The essence of the new covenant is that we can know God

The Israelites knew God. But, like merely looking at a picture of the Sistine Chapel, they couldn’t know God under the old covenant in the same way that they would under the new. When Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, and arose from the dead, He ushered in the new covenant. We can now know God through a relationship with Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Do your teenagers appreciate the value of this personal relationship with God? By your example, you can show them what it means to live a life of empowered obedience, a life of personal closeness with God. Help them understand all that is available to them because of the personal relationship they can have with God.

## FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIME

### Connect . . .

First, family members play a game in which they have three minutes to search the house for a product that is the “new and improved” version of a previous model. This may be laundry detergent, an electronic device, and so on. After the three minutes are up, the family returns and judges which family member found the best product.

Next, a family member reads the following: **In most cases, “new and improved” is a good thing. We’re about to look at how God improved on an original.**

### Explore . . .

First, a family member reads Jeremiah 31:31–34. Then, another family member reads the following: **Jeremiah was predicting a new covenant for the Israelites. No longer would they only know God through the Law and the sacrificial system. A day was coming when they would know God personally. His laws would be “written on their hearts” instead of on stone tablets.**

Finally, a family member reads: **Christians have the Holy Spirit living in them. The Holy Spirit helps believers know and follow God’s laws. This is what it means to have the laws written on our hearts.**

### Transform . . .

First, teenagers answer the question: **How does the Holy Spirit help you live obediently?** Next, parents answer the question: **As parents, how do you help lead your family to a more personal relationship with God?**

*Pray that your family will listen to the Holy Spirit’s leading in their lives. Pray for the conviction to live obediently. Thank God that He provided for an intimate, personal relationship with His children.*