

The word covenant, infrequently heard in conversation, is more commonly used in marriage and church contexts. But in a culture that is far more familiar with contracts, the meaning and promise of covenantal language is often lost.

**LISTEN.** Take a moment to listen to John Mark Comer explaining the difference between covenants and contracts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtgXNvIRI1s>

**REFLECT.** Read the following selections, highlighting God’s faithfulness and the twin focus of the covenant: to be in relationship and to be on mission. Hear these words. Sit quietly with them.

Psalm 36

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*Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the skies.  
Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,  
your justice like the great deep.  
You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.  
How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!  
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
They feast on the abundance of your house;  
you give them drink from your river of delights.  
For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.*

1 Peter 1, 2

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*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time... But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light*

**DISCUSS.** These questions are for personal reflection or for group conversation, to help you go deeper. There is zero obligation to answer all of them.

- How do you know that you belong to God?
- How have you experienced God’s faithfulness? Or perhaps you have felt let down by God. Take a moment to talk with God and/or others about these experiences.
- How might knowing we are born “into a living hope” affect how you live?
- Have you ever been chosen for a team or club? How did it feel? How does it feel to know that God chose you? Do you believe this?
- In what specific way(s) can you be “a royal priesthood” (bless) your neighbours or co-workers in the coming week?