

## A New Agreement

*Hebrews 9:15 (New Century Version)*

*For this reason Christ brings a new agreement from God to His people. Those who are called by God can now receive the blessings He has promised, blessings that will last forever. They can have those things because Christ died so that the people who lived under the old agreement could be free from sin.*

Choose the most appropriate starter.

### Starter 1

Think about the best deal you ever saw. What was so good about it? Were the benefits amazing? Did it get you out of a really tight spot?

### Starter 2

Have a bag of sweets and explain that you would like to give them a sweet, but you can only give them a sweet if they stand up and bow everytime they say yes or put their hand up when they want to speak. If they break the simple rule they have to give any sweet they have back. Play a game or do an activity during which you watch to see if they are obeying the rule. At the end find out how many sweets each person has. Look thoughtful and say, I could go and finish off all these sweets. That's fair, it was my rule and you didn't manage to keep it. I think you are special and I want you to be happy. If you agree that its fair for me to keep the sweets because they were mine and you broke the rule and that I have the power to choose if and who I give my sweets to, then you can have some sweets.

### Think about

Did you ever hear at the start of a new term in a new school a teacher say something like, "It doesn't matter what you were like in your last school, you have a clean slate here. We don't know what you are like so you will have a chance to choose how you want to behave. You can either be good and get your work done, then you will have a chance to do all sorts of exciting things or you can be lazy and always in trouble and your life at this school will be miserable."

This is a bit like what the writer of Hebrews is describing God as doing but unlike your teacher, God loves you more than anything. He designed you and made you and gives you the choice to take His new agreement.

The first deal God made with people was with Adam and Eve back in Genesis. One rule, don't eat fruit from that tree. Awesome benefits! Spend time with God, have everything you need, no-body gets sick, hurts, or dies. But they broke that deal and had to live with the consequence of those benefits disappearing. So God made a second deal that He developed through the Jewish nation written down in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. A load of rules that meant, a relationship with God, if they were kept. God knew that couldn't be managed so He put in a clause this time. 'If you

break the rules but then come back and say sorry to me and kill a certain animal in a certain way (this is called a sacrifice), we can start the agreement again.'

When Jesus Christ came to Earth He brought a new deal from God. You don't have to keep all those rules set out in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, all you have to do is accept that God is in control and His standards are what we must live up to. Accept that we mess up or, as it is called in the bible, sin, and be sorry that we sin. Accept that Jesus can, did and still does have the power to make us free from the previous deal and its rules and consequences through being a perfect man, God's son and choosing to die as our ultimate sacrifice. If we accept all of that we get the amazing benefits of knowing God, being able to talk to Him, get His help, His love and peace, being part of a world wide family and we get these and much much more not just whilst we are alive on Earth but forever!

#### About you

Are you part of this new agreement? Are you going to get those benefits or are you going to live with the consequences of not taking God up on His final agreement? If you have taken God up on His new agreement do you live like it? Are you happy at the agreement you have been given or are you always moaning at God?

We all have a choice about the deals and agreements we go for and the ones we don't but is this agreement too good to miss?