

News Story Summary

According to www.dictionary.com, a contract is “an agreement between two or more parties for the doing or not doing of something specified; an agreement enforceable by law.” We enter into contracts of varying degrees throughout our lifetimes: the contract between husband and wife; the contract between employer and employee; insurance agreements; other contracts with businesses and/or service providers to perform specified duties for specified pay; and even gentlemen’s agreements or “handshake” contracts with a promise to honor our word.

A breach of contract is when one or both parties involved does not fulfill their agreed-upon part of the contract—they ignore it, they don’t complete it, or they simply refuse to honor it.

Lawsuits for breach of contract are becoming more and more “normal” in today’s society. Do a quick Google search and you’ll find breach of contract lawsuits for misappropriation of funds, fraud, failure to pay, and numerous other allegations. What does that say about our society? About the morals of those involved?

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Louisiana breach of contract cases” for a sample from one state alone.)

Focus Attention

Prior to the session, write these words on the board: *Breach of Contract*. As group members arrive, invite them to discuss with one another what this phrase means.

Lead the group to define *contract* and *breach of contract*.

Share some of the headlines about breach of contract lawsuits or a brief synopsis of the pending litigations you discovered during your Internet search. Ask: *What is the value of a contract? What expectations do you have when you enter into a contractual agreement with another person or business? Why do so many people resort to lawsuits regarding breach of contract?*

Introduce today’s study by asking a group member to read aloud the title and summary statement: *Only Jesus Transforms—Jesus established a new covenant based upon God’s good promises*. Call attention to the definition of a covenant on page 82 of the Personal Study Guide.

Say: *Our covenant or contractual agreement with God through His Son Jesus can be trusted. We can rest assured there will be no breach of God’s promise to us.*

Summary and Challenge

Recall the breach of contract discussion.

Say: While most all these parties enter into their contracts or agreements with the intention to fulfill their obligations, something happened along the way. Promises were broken. Expectations were unmet. Good intentions turned into negative results.

Ask: What about the new covenant we've examined in Hebrews 8 today? How is this covenant different from an ordinary contract?

Say: The new covenant is not about rules but about relationship. Through Jesus Christ, this new covenant focuses on transforming our hearts, producing different results from what the world recognizes.

Thank God for His new covenant.