

Sunday School Lesson, October 26, 2025

Rev. Mark A. Seals, Instructor/Teacher

Mike Moore, Superintendent

Lesson—The Heart Wants What the Heart Wants¹ Text: Jeremiah 31:29-34; John 1:7

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Interpret the promise and the implications of the renewed covenant.
2. Cherish the transformation that comes from having a heart relationship with God.
3. Adopt and practice a rule for life that comes from the heart.

Why This Lesson Matters: God told Jeremiah that the people would be without excuse because, “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts” (Jeremiah 31:33b, NRSVUE)—therefore, God would forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Key Verse: *After those days, sayeth the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; And will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jeremiah 31:33b, KJV)*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. Breaking Generational Cycles (Jeremiah 31:29-30)
3. The New Covenant’s Internal Transformation (vv. 31-33)
4. Grace and Truth Through Jesus Christ (Jeremiah 31:34; John 1:17)

III. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

In this historical context, Jeremiah 31 appears as a bright light of hope within a series of judgment prophecies. The prophet introduced the concept of individual responsibility versus collective guilt, challenging the prevalent idea of generational punishment. This new understanding prepared the way for the new covenant's emphasis on personal relationship with God. The passage from John's gospel, written centuries later, reflects on how Jesus fulfilled this promised covenant.

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

The 1st-century Jewish audience would have immediately recognized these connections between Jeremiah's prophecy and Christ's ministry. This context helps explain why early Christians saw Jesus not as abolishing the law but as fulfilling it in a way that accomplished what the old covenant could not.

IV. *Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson*

Jeremiah: One of the major prophets of the Old Testament whose activity spanned the period 626 to 580 BC. His book is second in the authoritative order of the prophets..

V. *Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)*

Children

Covenant

God

Iniquity

Lead

Teach

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?) Play

- Are you so in tune with God's word by reading and studying it such that God can declare that he has written his word upon your heart? If not, commit yourself to a fervent discipline of hiding God's word in your heart.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*