**Small Group Talk Sheet**

**Galatians – Week 6: Old and New**

**Genesis 12, 17; Hebrews 8:6-9:28**

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**Intro –** The original promise given to Abraham (cf. Gen. 12:2–3; 17:1–8) had within it eight separate promises: (1) offspring, (2) blessing for Abraham, (3) a great name, (4) blessing or cursing, depending on how one treated Abraham, (5) occupancy of the Promised Land, (6) blessing of Gentiles, (7) God being God to his people, and (8) kings descending from Abraham. This promise, I believe, was administered, in the history of God’s dealing with humans, in three separate covenantal arrangements: (1) the covenant of circumcision from Abraham to Moses, (2) the covenant of Moses from Moses to Christ, and (3) the new covenant from Christ to the end of time. From this brief sketch on “how to read the Bible,” we can see the crucial role Abraham played in being the one with whom God set up his promise and began his covenantal arrangements.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Notes –** God’s promises are just as valid today as they were when they were first delivered in the book of Genesis. The covenant that God made is no longer valid as there is a new covenant in place. Hebrews contains a section describing the New Covenant.

Read Genesis 12:1-3 and 17:1-8

Read Hebrews 8:6-9:28 *(Note – There is a LOT of material covered in this passage. This talk sheet is not intended to break it all out. That would take a LONG time! The intent here is to consider the promises that we have in Christ and how those promises have always been in place).*

**Small Group Questions: Leader, please read the following questions and give everyone a chance to participate.**

1. As you read through the passages in Genesis, see if you can pinpoint the eight promises that God made to Abraham.
2. As you read through this passage describing the New Covenant in Hebrews, what are some things that you notice?
3. Do you notice any similarities between the original promises God delivered to Abraham and those that you see here?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19. What are your thoughts as you read this passage?

1. Scot McKnight, *Galatians*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995), 168. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)