



## **Sabbath School Ministry**

Sabbath School Department Inter-European Division

*Outline with ideas for group discussion largely taken from the Teachers' Edition of the Sabbath School Lesson prepared by the General Conference SS ministry.*

Lesson no.: 10                      26 August – 1 September 2017

Title:                                      The Two Covenants

Key texts:                              *Galations 4:21-31; Genesis 1:28; 2:2-3; 3:15; Exodus 6:2-8; 19:3-6.*

### **A. Themes to Explore:**

1. Two covenants: two different phases of the history of salvation or two milestones in the same revelation of the plan of God?
2. All the covenants that God made in the OT had an objective: to draw attention and expectation only to the Saviour.
3. Abraham, Sarah and Hagar: stories of human contradictions from which can be drawn lessons of faith, salvation and divine grace. Hagar: symbol of desired actions carried out in her own strength. Sarah: symbol of human weakness that finds its solution in faith in Jesus.

### **B. Learning Objectives\***

**Know:** Study the differences, including those that are subtle, between the first and the second covenant, through the story of Hagar and Sarah.

**Feel:** Build your experience with Jesus founded on dependence on Him, faith in and love for God.

**Do:** Learn to depend on the promises of God, His Word and providence, conscious of our weaknesses.

### **C. Other possible questions for deeper study, debate, sharing and testimony\*\***

1. **Why is this lesson important to me? (Motivate);**
  - 1a. Why did God need to plan and draw up two covenants to ensure our salvation?
2. **What else is there still to learn from God's Word? (Explore);**
  - 2a. What can we learn about salvation in Jesus from the various "promises" that God made in the OT? What do the two symbols of Hagar and Sarah used by Paul teach us? Why does Paul liken Sinai with Hagar?
3. **How can I practice what I've learned from God's Word? (Apply);**
  - 3a. Genesis 15:6 recommends the 'faith of Abraham'. How did Abraham build this faith? What can we learn from His experience that can be of practical importance for our daily lives?
4. **How can I communicate and apply what I've learned from God's Word? (Create).**
  - 4a. How can we be certain that we are not of Hagar's lineage, but of Sarah's and of dependence on God?

### **NOTES:**

\* Copied from the Teachers Edition that adopts active, functional and sharing principles (Know, Feel, Do).

\*\* To compare and use together with the final questions found in the lesson study every Friday.

\*\*\* The questions in red are drawn from the Teachers Edition.