

## Suggestions for Children's Story time related to the Central Plains Covenant Study

### Stories for Covenant Sunday

The first suggestion I have might be to read the book, *Love You Forever*, by Robert Munsch. It is the story of a mother who holds her newborn son and softly sings to him, "I'll love you forever, I'll like you for always, As long as I'm living, my baby you'll be." At various stages as the boy grows up and becomes a man, the mother will still come to him and sing the song. Until, the mother becomes too old to sing the song, and the young man holds his mother and sings the song to her. It is about a parent's unending love and that it crosses the generations.

The other suggestion I have is as follows:

Many children's first exposure to a covenant is when they have gone to a wedding of a relative or friend. I think they could relate to the promises made at a wedding ceremony.

How many of you children have attended a wedding? Maybe it was the wedding of an aunt or uncle or some other relative. Two people have a wedding because they love each other, and they want to live together for the rest of their lives. They have a wedding and invite their relatives and friends witness their promises to be married.

During the ceremony, the minister might ask each of the couple something like this: "Do you \_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded (husband/wife) to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish and be faithful to you alone until death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance?"

After the couple have make these promises, the minister might say, "\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you have made a solemn covenant of marriage before God and before all of us here. I now declare you to be husband and wife; in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, Amen" A marriage is called a covenant; a covenant between two people. A covenant is a promise that two people will live together and love each other through all the good and bad times of life. They promise to live and work together and provide for each other no matter what happens.

God also makes a covenant (promise) with us, God's people. God promises to love us, to live with us, to provide for us, and to keep us safe until we die, and even after death. God wants to do this even if we mess up sometimes. But, if we love God and follow God's will for our lives, God will keep the covenant that God made with us. All we have to do is say "yes" to God and that is our covenant (promise) to God. Jesus said that the two greatest commandments are these, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength," and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

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