



SHARING LIFE

- How have you experienced God this week?
- Do you need any help from God in your life?
- ▶ Pray together: Thank God for experiences, ask for God's help.



REVIEW

- How well could you keep God's ten basic rules? Which ones were easier? Which were more difficult?
- Share your observations.
- How are the people that you are caring for doing? What would help them most?
- Did you get a chance to share a God experience with someone? Did you pray for someone?
- ▶ Pray together, that you may get to know new aspects of God and that your friendship with God would be strengthened and become deeper.



BIBLE STUDY - JEREMIAH 31:31-34

- Read the text quietly
- Read the text out loud
- Retell the text (from memory – closed Bibles)
- Contributions from the group to complement



Sharing personal issues should not take up more than 1/3 of the evening.

Split groups of more than seven.

General questions:

- Is there anything that struck you in this text?
 - » What do you like about it?
 - » Is there anything in it that bothers you?
- What does it say about God?
- What does it say about humans?

Specific Questions

- What sins do we need God's forgiveness for? Our personal sins or the general sin of humanity (rejecting God and choosing to listen to the snake) or both?
- ▶ Read the first paragraph of the commentary **after** discussing the preceding question.
- What new possibilities open up when God forgives our sins?
- ▶ Also read Isaiah 59:1-2
- ▶ Read the second paragraph of the commentary **after** discussing the preceding question.

Applying the text

- If what we've read is true, how will it change:
 - » my image of God?
 - » my behavior towards people, animals, nature?
 - » my way of life?



CHALLENGES

- Think about where you need forgiveness and write it down.
- Think about if you have ever had to choose between God and the snake and consciously decided against God and chose the snake.
- Where do I have an opportunity in the next week to share my experiences with God with someone and invite them to start a friendship with God?



COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Let's be honest. Are you able to keep the Ten Commandments or are you aware of persistently breaking them? These rules may be able to fight evil, but they cannot completely eradicate it. It remains a fact that we humans are not free from evil and that we are not able to change ourselves.

That is why God spoke of a time in which there will be a new way of living. But some things need to change for that to happen.

1. When we humans decided against God and chose to follow the snake, we had to leave the garden and thus the close relationship with God. We have sinned against God and we cannot reverse it.
But because God loves us so much, he announced that he will forgive our sins. That is the most important requirement for getting the kind of relationship the first humans had with God.
2. God needs to change our heart so that we are no longer under the influence of evil and can choose freely between God and the snake (evil). If we choose God and thus what is good, God's rules will apply to us again, but if we choose to listen to the snake we will fall under the influence of evil again. But for us to be able to make such a decision, we first need to know God (get to know him). So God spoke of a time when everyone will be able to know him personally. When we are able to have such a relationship with God, we no longer need to follow the rules of a book, instead God will write his rules directly into our hearts so that it becomes a part of us.
3. Then we will belong to his people and he will be our God and many things will become what God intended them to be in the first place.

