

Found-Read about Abraham and Moses

In this exercise the students compare and contrast the covenant experiences of Abraham and Moses to gain a deeper understanding of the role of covenant in the history of the Jewish people. If you are not familiar with the found-read method, see the article “Using the Found-Read Method” (Document #: TX001036) at smp.org/LivinginChrist.

Preparation

1. Choose two or three Bible passages that clearly display either the Abrahamic or Mosaic Covenants. Here are some you can choose from:

- Genesis 12:1–8 (the call of Abram)
- Genesis 17:3–7 (the covenant with Abram)
- Exodus 2:23—4:17 (the burning bush and Moses’ commission)
- Exodus, chapter 20 (the Ten Commandments, the fear of God)

2. Provide each student with a Bible or a copy of the selected Bible passages. Ask one or more students to read the stories out loud to the class.

3. Once the passages have been read, ask the students to identify an aspect of each story that relates to covenant. This could be a word, phrase, or verse. Encourage the students not to choose an entire paragraph or the complete story.

4. Now ask the students to share the word, phrase, or verse they have identified. Repetition of ideas or words or phrases is acceptable because it reinforces the main concept.

5. Write all the words or phrases on the board and identify the similarities and differences between Moses’ and Abraham’s covenant encounters with God. Move to the larger question of why God chose to enter into covenants with humanity, and why or how humans took on the responsibility for their part in the covenant.

