



THE STORY Sermon Study Guide

Week 8: The Fulfilment in Christ - God's Promises Kept Tim Spencer

21 September 2025

Visit the [NewHope Teaching](#) page to find this week's sermon

From the moment sin entered the world, God has been working to restore humanity to Himself. This week we celebrate Jesus as the fulfilment of God's redemptive plan, and explore what it means to live under His new covenant today.

Read Exodus 24:3-8

God established a covenant with His people, a set of rules for a safe and flourishing life, and at the foot of Mount Sinai the people worshipped and declared, "We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey." Yet, we only need to read a little further in The Story to see the law broken as the people turned away from God and chose wickedness.

The law acts as a mirror reflecting the holiness of God and the depth of human brokenness. It set boundaries and pointed to what is good, but it could not change the heart or heal the root of sin. Instead, the law exposed the reality that no amount of rule-keeping or striving could make us right with God.

Thankfully, the law was never meant to be the final answer, but a signpost pointing beyond itself—a gracious invitation to recognise our deep need for a Saviour.

1. Sin entered the world through disobedience and echoed down through the corridors of time. How do you see this pattern of choosing our own way over God's way continuing today?
2. Can you think of a moment when you realised that no amount of human effort was enough to "fix" yourself? How did this lead you to recognise your need for a Saviour?



Read Galatians 3:23-25 & Matthew 5:17-18

The law's true purpose is to lead us to Jesus, who alone can fulfill its requirements and offer us the righteousness we could never achieve on our own. Throughout history, God's people waited for the fulfillment of promises—covenants made with Abraham, Moses, and David, prophecies spoken by the prophets, and the deep longing for redemption. Jesus did not come to erase these things, but to bring them to their intended completion.

Jesus embodies the faithfulness of God, living the perfect life we could not, dying the death we deserved, and rising to bring new life. The new covenant He brings is not based on our ability, but on the unearned gift of grace.

1. Paul describes the law as a *païdagōgós* (guardian/tutor). How does this analogy help you understand the role of the Old Testament law?
2. Life in the Spirit replaces life under the written code. How can you surrender to the Holy Spirit's leading, and take one practical step today toward living in the freedom He has given you?

Read Romans 6:1-2

The freedom Jesus offers is not a license to do whatever we want, but an invitation to a new way of life. The Spirit within us creates a growing incompatibility with sin, drawing us toward holiness and love. We are called to live as those who have died to sin and now walk in the light of Christ's victory.

Sanctification is a process, and we will stumble along the way. But the direction is clear: true freedom is found in surrender to Jesus. As we yield to the Spirit, our desires and actions begin to reflect the character of Christ, and we are set free to love, to serve, and to become who God created us to be.

1. Paul's question in Romans 6:1 addresses the idea of using grace as an excuse to sin. Why is this mindset incompatible with new life in Christ?
2. Are there areas where you've been tempted to use your freedom in Christ as an excuse for unhealthy choices? What would it look like to invite the Holy Spirit into those areas?



Our Hope is Not in “What” but in “Who”

The world is full of trouble. Violence, injustice, and darkness seem to have the upper hand. Yet our hope is not in human solutions, but in Jesus Christ, the Saviour who has overcome the world (John 16:33). Because He has defeated sin and death, we can live with confidence and hope, even in the midst of chaos. Because of the finished work of Christ, we can love as He loved and carry His light into a world still longing for redemption.

Discuss: When you feel overwhelmed by what’s happening on the news or when facing your own struggles, what helps you remember that Jesus is your hope? Is there a practice or habit you could start to remind yourself of this truth?

Invite the group to break into pairs and pray. Ask God to anchor your hearts in the hope of Christ today.

For Further Study

- **Genesis 12:1–3** – God’s promise to Abraham
- **Exodus 19:3–6** – God’s covenant at Sinai
- **Jeremiah 31:31–34** – Promise of the new covenant
- **Matthew 5:17–20** – Jesus fulfils the law and prophets
- **Hebrews 8:6–13** – The old covenant made obsolete
- **Romans 8:1–4** – Life in the Spirit under the new covenant

Suggested Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we stand in awe of your perfect plan of redemption. Thank you that when all of humanity was trapped in sin and death, you provided the solution in Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your perfect life, and for taking our sin and death to the cross. Thank you that when you said ‘It is finished,’ it truly was finished. Teach us to live in the freedom of this new covenant and give us opportunities to share the hope that we have found. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our perfect Saviour and King. Amen.

Bible Reading Plan & Resources

As we engage in this sermon series and reflect on ‘The Story’ of God’s redemptive pursuit of humanity, we invite you to practise the discipline of regular Bible reading. You may like to use the [NewHope Bible Reading Plan](#) which has been developed to



accompany each sermon over the next 12-weeks. Get a physical copy at church, download a digital copy from our website or follow NewHope in the Bible App for daily updates.

There are also many other wonderful ways to engage with Scripture and you can find a collection of resources, such as books, apps, courses, and more at newhope.net.au/the-story.