

## Cell Outlines

Week beginning: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2006

### Theme: Covenant

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**To Get Us Started:** How many covenants/ agreements/ contracts, legal or otherwise, are you currently obligated too? It could be relating to family, friends, loans, employment, mortgage; etc. (Discuss - briefly!) How free are you in legal terms?!

### Word

#### Teaching Material

From the earliest days of the Methodist societies, John Wesley invited the Methodist people to renew their covenant relationship with God. Wesley drew much of his material for the service from 17<sup>th</sup> century Puritans and subsequently made changes to it.

Today many different denominations take part in such services normally at the beginning of the year. It is a serious business and quite a commitment! But then again, is it not true that being a disciple of Jesus involves sacrifice on our part?

- Firstly look together at the following passages, which are normally associated with the Covenant Service. They are as follows:

- Exodus 24:3-11; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Romans 12:1-2 & John 15:1-10

[You will notice that some passages are in the Old Testament & some are in the New. The word 'Testament' means covenant or agreement.]

- What do these passages have in common and what is God saying to His people through them; i.e. You! (Discuss)
  - Did you notice the 'ifs' in John 15. There are 4 in the 10 verses mentioned. What does this say about our part in the new covenant relationship?
  - Now look at the Covenant Sheet and read it through.
  - Is this scary stuff, or what!? Perhaps you feel that the prayer is unreasonable or going too far?
  - Have a look at the following Bible verses: Luke 9:62, 14:27, 33-34.
  - What is your response to these verses? (Discuss together)
  - [Perhaps there are people in your cell who were unable to attend the United Covenant Service. Maybe as a cell you could re-commit yourselves to God by using these words?]
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### Witness

Pray for your friends and family members who as yet are not part of the wonderful and challenging covenant relationship with God in Christ. What has been done to communicate God's love to them since you last prayed for them together as a cell? Are there any encouraging stories to share regarding contact with them? Don't forget to invite folk along to your social events so that the cell can assist you in reaching them for Christ.