



BUILDING A COVENANT

Simply put, a covenant is an agreement. Throughout the Old Testament, we see covenants being made between God and His people. And, we celebrate the New Covenant made with us in Jesus Christ. Covenants can set a foundation of care and love which guide how people treat one another as God intended. Covenants can also be used as a curb to guide the behaviors of your group at the Youth Gathering and beyond.

As you formulate your covenant, it will be important to keep in mind your specific group dynamics. What may be pertinent for one youth ministry, may not need consideration by another.

A few key components

- Your covenant should be created **BY** your group, **FOR** your group. Let your participants have a say in the items included. By making them part of the process, they are more apt to follow and enforce the rules.
- Don't overwhelm your participants. Choose carefully what you include but make it reasonable for them to remember and follow. Set them up for success.
- Be sure your adults are part of the process and that they sign it too.
- If you plan excursions prior to or following the gathering, you may want an "addendum" of sorts, specific to your locations.

Inclusion Options

Consider potential scriptural pieces and broader pieces that are helpful in designing a covenant.

- 10 Commandments and parts of their meanings
- If we have a conflict with someone in our group, we will resolve it promptly through both challenge and grace.
- We will live out Philippians 2:4 in our group, "...look(ing) not to our own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- We will live out Ephesians 4:32 in our group, "Be(ing) kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."
- We will focus on why we are participating and seek to understand how God is teaching and preparing us.
- We commit to being respectful of the hotel and each other's property as we are ambassadors for our church and Christ.
- We will represent Jesus in our dress, speech, and behavior, recognizing that God is giving us opportunities to witness to and share His love with others.



Consider logistical and communication pieces as well.

- We will stay in groups of 4 or more.
- We will be with an adult when we move from one building to another (hotel to the convention center, hotel to mass transit, convention center to meals, etc.)
- We will stay in our hotel after our last evening activity until breakfast time.
- If guys need to be in a girls' room or girls need to be in a guys' room, the door will be propped open. **OR** As event participants, we agree to have adult supervision while in hotel rooms when mixed genders are present.
- We will make a plan for each day and communicate with our adult leaders about where we are going.
- We will be respectful of those in our group, our adult leaders, event authorities and those we encounter along the way.
- We will pay attention to the time and be prompt for group gatherings.
- We will respond cheerfully when we are reminded to drink more water.
- We will respond cheerfully when we need to stand in yet another long line.
- We will respond cheerfully when we face another health requirement such as masks, health screens, etc.
- We commit to prioritizing the safety of others and ourselves, so that we can focus on our relationship with God in this environment.
- We commit to trusting and communicating with our leaders this weekend.
- We commit to welcoming and including others and building friendships.
- We commit to having fun in Jesus' name.
- We understand that illegal activity, including underage drinking and drug use, by event participants is prohibited both on and off site during the event. We also encourage adult leaders to follow the example of event hosts and abstain from consuming alcohol during the event to emphasize the importance of the example they set.
- We will report any illness or personal emergency to our group leader. If we cannot find our group leader or need additional help, we will go to Gathering representative or security personnel.
- We understand that if we break or damage anything at the event hotel, we are responsible for working with the hotel and fully paying for the repair.
- If we choose not to follow these rules & regulations, we understand and accept the consequences decided upon by our adult leaders and/or Gathering representatives. We suggest the consequences be consistent and grace-based. Adult leaders and parents will want to understand the consequences prior to the Gathering. This includes what behavior might require a person to return home.



- Gathering planners have provided a separate document about creating cell phone/screen time covenants. The details of that agreement can be included in one covenant, or a separate covenant can be created.
- We agree to abide by the guidelines stated above and to help one another abide by them as well.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Participant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____