

This midweek study will explore the doctrine of God's faithfulness. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: God Is Faithful

God's faithfulness means He keeps His word and always fulfills His promises (1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:13; 1 Pet. 4:19). God's faithfulness is demonstrated in His fulfillment of the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The apostle Paul linked the attribute of faithful to God coming through on His word: "He who calls you is faithful; he will do it." (1 Thess. 5:24). We reflect God by keeping the promises we make to Him and to others.

1 God's past actions demonstrate His perfect faithfulness (Josh. 21:45; 24:13).

- ▶ Who is the most faithful person you know? What makes him or her faithful?
- ▶ How do you decide if someone is a faithful person?
- ▶ Would you consider God faithful? Why or why not?

Read Joshua 21:45 and 24:13.

- ▶ How did Joshua portray God as faithful?
- ▶ Joshua said none of the good words of God had failed the Israelites. Consider the time of history when he said these words. What are some of the promises God had kept?
- ▶ What promises had God given to Abraham? How long before Joshua's conquest had God made those promises?
- ▶ What promises that God had made to Moses were fulfilled in Joshua's conquest?
- ▶ What promises had God given to Jacob, Joseph, and the other patriarchs? How long before Joshua's conquest had God made those promises?
- ▶ What promises to the patriarchs did God keep through Joshua's conquest?
- ▶ What are some of God's promises that our Joshua (Jesus) fulfilled?

2 God's perfect track record assures in His eternal faithfulness (Phil. 1:6; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; Jude 1:24).

- ▶ Imagine you were managing a professional sports team. How would you decide which athletes to recruit?
- ▶ What is the assumed relationship between a person or thing's past performance and future actions?
- ▶ If God were an athlete, would you recruit Him for your team? Why or why not?

Read Philippians 1:6.

- ▶ Why do you think Paul felt confident to say that the Lord would complete His work in the Philippians? (Hint: think back to Joshua's words.)

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.

- ▶ What is similar here to Philippians 1:6? What is different? Why do you think Paul clarified verse 23 by adding verse 24?

Read Jude 1:24.

- ▶ How did Jude echo Paul's absolute confidence in God's faithfulness? Do you think the apostles were wise to have such trust in God's faithfulness?
- ▶ What might such trust in God's future faithfulness look like in our lives?

3 Our proper response to God's faithfulness is not primarily works of obedience but rather acts of trust (Ps. 13; Rom. 4:20-21).

- ▶ Have you ever been to Old Faithful? What was it like?
- ▶ Why is that geyser called Old Faithful?
- ▶ What do you think is the best way to "honor" Old Faithful?
True or false: the best way to honor something's (or someone's) faithfulness is to rest and trust in their faithfulness.

Read Romans 4:20-21.

- ▶ How did Abraham honor God's faithfulness?

Read Psalm 13, especially verse 5.

- ▶ In his time of trouble, how did David rest in God's faithfulness?
- ▶ What might it have looked like for either man to try to "add" to God's faithfulness?
- ▶ How do we try to "add" to God's faithfulness? How does this addition of our own works dishonor Him?

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ How has God been faithful to you in the past? How are you trusting His future faithfulness? How can you rest in His faithfulness this week?