

FAITHFULNESS

A SERIES ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO US, AND OURS TO HIM

Lesson 1 God's Awesome Faithfulness

Lesson 2 Pursuing Faithfulness

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Lesson 1

GODS' AWESOME FAITHFULNESS

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness”

– Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

WELCOME AND WORSHIP

The group may sing “The Steadfast Love of the Lord” or may do 3 rounds of a thanksgiving chain. Then lead the group in prayer.

WORD

HOOK: Who do you think is the most faithful person you know and why?

BOOK: Read Lamentations 3:22-23.

To be faithful means to “stay” or “support”. A faithful person refers to someone we can safely lean on especially in times of troubles. This means being trustworthy and reliable. Sad to say, faithfulness is not the trend nowadays. Whether in movie and TV series plots or in real life, it is heartbreaking that unfaithfulness is breaking families and relationships. Is the world getting worse or are our hearts becoming colder?

The passage that we have read gives us hope in this world of unfaithfulness and infidelity, of lies and backstabbing, and of disloyalty and hatred. No matter the what's happening in the world, we can rely on the fact that God's faithfulness stands true.

1. Our God is Faithful in Showing Love

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. . .”

God's love is unending. It is steadfast. To be steadfast means to be firmly fixed in place and not subject to be changed. Simply put, God's love is the love that won't let us go. We can't do anything to make God love us less. This is very comforting. It gives us peace to know that God's love for you does not depend on how good we've been this year for us to receive His blessing. It is humbling to know that the number of good deeds we've done is not the measure for God to give us a brand new day. The following verses speak of God's faithfulness:

“Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies” (Psalms 36:5)

“I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself” (Psalms 89:2)

However, our response to God should also be faithfulness. A faithful God deserves all the faithfulness we can muster within us for Him. He deserves our undivided worship. May our prayer this year be to become more faithful to Him.

2 Our God is Faithful in Showing Compassion

“Because of the LORD’s great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail” (Lamentations 3:22)

The prophet Jeremiah wrote Lamentations after the once great city of Jerusalem fell to Babylon, circa 586 BC. It was a time of national mourning and distress. The book describes great anguish—and great hope—in poetic form. The main theme of the book is God’s judgment on Judah’s sin as well as His compassion for His people. We may take note that it is God’s “great love” for His people that spared them from being utterly wiped out by Babylon. He is faithful to save! He abides even in times of trouble and divine judgment. God never stopped loving Israel, despite their unfaithfulness. Jeremiah affirmed, *“For Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the LORD Almighty, though their land is full of guilt before the Holy One of Israel” (Jeremiah 51:5).*

- **God is faithful even when we aren’t!**
“If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself” (2 Timothy 2:13)
- **He demonstrates His faithfulness by providing a way out of temptation.**
“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way

out so that you can stand up under it” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

- **And if we fail to take that way out and fall, he remains faithful to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9)

There are the Lord’s *mercies*. There are so many of them we experience in our lives. There is abundance of them in various circumstances. God is an inexhaustible fountain of mercy! These rivers of mercy run fully and constantly, but never run dry.

3. Our God is Faithful Every Day

“They are new every morning. . .”

Every morning we have fresh instances of God’s compassion towards us! Every morning, God is renewing us and giving us hope. Every morning, God lavishes us with his steadfast love and he will not get tired doing it again and again. God’s faithfulness is so great!

We do not need to wait for another new year to get right with God. We do not need to wait for another spiritual retreat or a grand event to renew our relationship with Him. Every waking day, God is calling us to Him. God’s presence is the right place and time to get a reset. May we seize each day and not miss out on God’s mercies.

LOOK: What can you say are the evidences of God’s faithfulness in your life?

TOOK: What are your worries for this year? Do you believe God will carry you through this year again?

WORKS

Paul once wrote, “*Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you*” (Philippians 4:9). This verse encourages us to put into practice what we have learned today. Let us take time to pray for one another and commit to the Lord your plans and worries for this year.

(This lesson is based on Rev. Jordan Escusa’s sermon at Generation Congregation service on 06 January 2019).

Lesson 2

Pursuing Faithfulness

“Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?”
– Proverbs 20:6

WELCOME

Ask the members to share how their faith in God was challenged this week, and what did they do in order to remain faithful to God.

WORSHIP

Read together Psalm 27:1-6, then lead the group in prayer.

*1 The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?*

*2 When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,*

*it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.*

*3 Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,*

even then I will be confident.
4 One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.
5 For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.
6 Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

WORD

HOOK: On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your faithfulness (generally) and why?

BOOK: Read Proverbs 20:6.

A faithful person doesn't have time to get attracted with others. Their attention is exclusively for the one they love. Sadly, the faithful have become a dying breed in our time. Not many are still committed to staying faithful. But for us Christians, we have to learn how to be faithful in all things and to the people we love. The good news is that faithfulness is possible through the enabling work of the Holy Spirit!

(Galatians 5:22). The Spirit testifies to the truth and impels us to seek God. The Spirit makes us faithful.

In the previous lesson, we concluded that the right response to a faithful God is to become faithful. So today, we will learn together how to become faithful.

1. Be Faithful in Small Things

“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities” (Luke 16:10).

It all starts with the little things. A person cannot master his craft just by staying overnight practicing. It is by doing small things day by day that contributes to improving his craft. We need to **cultivate** faithfulness in us. And to cultivate requires effort, time and hard work. This requires us drink the following fuels of faith.

a. Spiritual Disciplines

Bible reading, praying, corporate worship and fasting are some of the disciplines that have to become a habit of every follower. Just like our physical bodies that need exercise, our spirits need these disciplines to stay healthy.

b. Giving

God's faithfulness manifests in His unfailing provision to all of us. Being faithful givers draw us closer to God's heart and teaches us to depend on Him more.

c. Use of Talents

Matthew 25:14-30 tells us about the parable of talents and how the master was delighted on the servants who have been faithful and have increased their talents. God does not ask how many talents we have; He asks for faithfulness. We may only have one talent, but we must be faithful in that one.

2. Be Faithful Even When No One Is

“Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men” (Psalms 12:1)

As Christians, we are called to be Christlike. And by that, we should aim becoming faithful since we have a faithful God. We don't breed half-followers of Jesus. We want to become hardcore followers that even if the rest of the world turn away from Him, we remain. And even if we know some Christians who are not faithful, we don't forget that it is Jesus who we are following. We should always look upon the best model and not anybody else. As Oswald Chambers once said, “Watch where Jesus went. The one dominant note in his life was to do his Father's will. His is not the way of wisdom or of success, but the way of faithfulness.”

3. Be Faithful Even in Suffering

“So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good” (1 Peter 4:19)

When we say we are faithful, it means we are loyal, unwavering, and reliable regardless of the circumstance. Trials and hard times push us to our limits but also create opportunities for us to grow and test our faith. Without suffering, we will have no tangible basis of how genuine our faith is. The good news is that there is reward for our perseverance: *“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast” (1 Peter 5:10).*

It’s not about how well you start. Many people are good at beginning but halfway through start quitting. It doesn’t matter how slow or fast we grow or mature. What’s important is our consistency in our walk of faith. We must be *“faithful until death,”* because God’s promise is this: *“I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).*

LOOK: Among the three points discussed, where do you struggle the most?

TOOK: What specific actions should we start doing to cultivate faithfulness in our lives?

WORKS

Let us be more intentional this week. As the leader, set an accountability with your members to find out how are they in terms of spiritual disciplines. Or, you may also set a group accountability as you see fit. Then close the group in prayer.

(This lesson is based on Rev. Jordan Escusa's sermon at Generation Congregation service on 13 January 2019).