

BELIEVE SERIES Lesson 27

FAITHFULNESS

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

Key Question: Why is it _____ to be loyal and committed to others?

Key Verse: “Let love and _____ never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.” (Proverbs 3:3-4)

George MacDonald writes, “To be _____ is a greater compliment than to be loved.”

Key Idea: I have established a good _____ with God and others based on my loyalty to those Relationships.

(Key Application) God’s faithfulness to us _____ our faithfulness to him and others.

(Key Application) God does not call us to be _____ but faithful.

(Key Application) If we _____ to be faithful, he is faithful and just to forgive us.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging and why?

- I take unpopular stands when my faith dictates.
- I discipline my thoughts based on my faith in Jesus Christ.
- I follow God even when it involves suffering.
- I follow through on commitments I have made to God.

Choose 2-3 questions that will lead to best discussion about the Key Idea

1. What do you think is the root or cause of unfaithfulness toward God or others?
2. In a world filled with unfaithfulness, how can we find inspirational examples of faithfulness?
3. In your opinion, what motivates genuine faithfulness?
4. How have you seen suffering test and /or strengthen someone’s faithfulness?

Read Ruth 1:1-22 and choose 1-2 questions to discuss.

1. Life for Naomi and Ruth was much different than the world we live in today. Aside from grieving her loss, why would the death of her husband and sons be so devastating for Naomi? Why did she instruct her daughters-in-law to go back to their families?
2. Why was Ruth’s decision to stay with her mother-in-law an incredible act of faithfulness?
3. Have you ever witnessed Ruth-like faithfulness in another person? If so, how?

OTHER PASSAGES

Deuteronomy 32:1-4

Psalm 36:5-9

Lamentations 3:19-24

Proverbs 3:1-6; 20:6; 28:20

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-6; 40:1-23; 41:14-46; 42:1-6

Ruth 1:1-22

Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-21

CLOSING PRAYER

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PERSONAL QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Believe, Chapter 29: Gentleness and/or read the following passages

John 13:31-38; 18:12-27; 21:1-19 Matthew 5:5, 38-42; 7:1-5 11:28-30
1 Timothy 3:1-4; 5:1-2; 6:10-11 2 Timothy 2:24-26 Titus 3:1-2
Galatians 5:22-23 Ephesians 4:2, 26-32 6:4 Colossians 3:12 Philippians 4:2-5
James 3:17-18 1 Peter 3:1-4, 7 1 Samuel 25:1-42 2 Sam. 16:5-14
1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

Then, answer the following questions:

1. Consider the Key Verse for this session. Why do you think Paul put these two sentences together?
2. Some have suggested that Jesus asked Simon Peter if he loved him three times to help restore him from the three times he denied him. Do you think this was Jesus' intent? Do you think this would have helped you if you were in Peter's sandals?
3. As you read Jesus' pieces of advice on gentleness, identify the one that most speaks to you. Why did you choose this one?
4. Look at Ephesians 4:26-28 again. How do we give the devil a foothold in our lives when we let the sun go down while we are still angry?
5. As you read the three stories from 1 Samuel 25, 2 Samuel 16 and 1 Thessalonians 2, find the ways anger is stirred up and look for how gentleness affects tense situations.

Key Verse: "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." (Philippians 4:5)

Key Idea: I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in my dealings with others.

Personal Application

1. How would this virtue practically express itself in your life?
2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who is consistently gentle?
3. What is impeding your ability to treat people gently? How can you overcome this obstacle?
4. What action step can you take this week to become a gentler person?