

God is Faithful

(Genesis 8:22; Genesis 15:13-16; Isaiah 7:14)

Introduction

We've been learning about God's attributes. An *attribute* is a character trait or quality about someone.

What are some of things that we've learned about God already?

- God is **great creator** —He created the whole universe! We know that there is a God because we see what He has done. We see the wonderful things which He has created.

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. (Psalm 19:1)

- God is **holy**—He is without sin; He is perfect in every way.
Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? (Exodus 15:11)
- God is **just**—He always does what is right and fair.

He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He! (Deuteronomy 32:4)

- God is **merciful**—He extends forgiveness to us even though we don't deserve it.

Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

- God is **love**—He always does what is best for me even when I'm not at my best.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)

- God is **all-knowing**— God knows everything—past, present, and future. He knows all about you—even what you are thinking. He knows your deepest needs and desires, and He knows how to meet them.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! (Romans 11:33)

- God is **all-powerful**—He is almighty; He has all power in heaven and earth and can do anything. There is no limit to His power.

With God all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26b)

- God is our great **provider**—He is a generous, gracious, abundant provider.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

- God is our great **protector**—He is always with us and is powerful enough to protect us from the strongest, meanest, and most frightening of situations when you call on Him in times of trouble.

God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. (Psalms 46:1)

- God **hears and answers prayer**—He hears us when we pray and He is able to save us from all our troubles.

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. (Psalms 34:17)

- God is **good**—He is a loving, forgiving, compassionate God who has good plans for our lives.

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6)

Today we're going to focus our attention on the fact that God is **faithful**.

Many of you may have a faithful dog; my husband is faithful to me. How would you describe a person that is faithful? What does it mean to be faithful? (Someone who is loyal and steadfast, who isn't going to leave you; someone you can count on to always do what he says he will do; someone you can trust completely; someone who always keeps his promises.) Do you know anyone like that?

Some people might forget to keep a promise. No matter how much people *want* to be faithful, eventually you will be disappointed—your dad won't be able to keep a promise or a friend will let you down. How wonderful it is to know that God is faithful in all things and at all time. He will never disappoint you or let you down.

Opening Prayer

Father, what a wonder it is that You are faithful even when we are not faithful! Please open our hearts tonight so that we might behold Your glory even a little bit more! Broaden and deepen our faith in You as we meditate on this attribute of attributes. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations. (Psalms 145:13)

Lesson

God is worthy of our love. You can have confidence that He will always do what He says He will do. You can trust His Word completely. You can depend on Him.

Because God is perfect, He never changes in any way. He never changes His mind. He never changes His mood and He never stops loving you. God is faithful and He's not ever going to change! It is impossible for God to be unfaithful.

2 Timothy 2:13

If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is.

God's faithfulness makes all of His other attributes perfect. He is *always* just; His love *never* fails; He *never* lies; He has perfect plans and *always* carries them out in the best possible way. He *never* forgets, *never* makes a mistake, and *never* changes His mind.

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?

Examples of His Faithfulness

Scripture has loads of examples of God's faithfulness.

1. Seasons

More than four thousand years ago God made this promise,

Genesis 8:22

As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.

Has God been faithful to this promise? Every year the seasons come and go. Every spring the snow melts away and the farmers can plant their crops. Every fall the farmers can harvest their crops so that we all have enough to eat all year long.

And, every day the earth turns around so that there is daytime when we are facing the sun and nighttime when we turn away from the sun.

2. God's promise to Abraham

Another example of God's faithfulness is the promise He made to Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. (2) I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. (3) I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

God loved Abram and called him to leave his birthplace and his father's family to come out of Babylon. God promised to give Abram the land of Israel for his descendants.

Genesis 15:5

Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!"

God promised to make a nation out of Abram and Sarai's off spring. Why did God's promise seem impossible? (He was 75 when he got the promise and when he was 100 he still hadn't had any children!) Did God keep this promise? Yes! He gave them the land of Israel and today it is filled with their descendants!

Genesis 15:13-16

Then the LORD said to Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. (14) But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. (15) (As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.) (16) After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction."

After a number of years, Abraham's family had grown to about 75 people. Then there was a great famine in the land and they went down to Egypt where there was plenty of food. For 400 years Abraham's descendants groaned under the rule of the Egyptians. Had God forgotten His promise? No!

Exodus 12:40-41

The people of Israel had lived in Egypt for 430 years. (41) In fact, it was on the last day of the 430th year that all the Lord's forces left the land.

God was faithful to His people. He sent Moses to rescue them out of Egypt and to lead them back to the land He had promised Abraham.

3. God's promise to Isaiah

Another example of God's faithfulness is the promise He made to the prophet, Isaiah.

God had promised to send the Messiah, the Savior who would rescue the believers from this world and lead them to heaven. God said that many will come claiming that they are the "Messiah" but they will be fakes; there is only one true Messiah.

Isaiah was asking God how the people would know the true Messiah when he came. And, God gave the prophet Isaiah a way to tell people how to recognize the true the Messiah when He came.

Isaiah 7:14

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means "God is with us").

Many centuries passed, but no Messiah came. Had God forgotten His promise?

Matthew 1:18-25 [Teacher, read...]

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit....But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

It all came true—Jesus was born of a virgin. There has never been, nor will there ever be, anyone born of a virgin. That's one reason we know Jesus is God.

Promises of God

We know that God is faithful. He means what He says and He says what He means; His promises always come true.

What are some of the promises of God? He will:

- Never leave you
- Always comfort you
- Strengthen you
- Supply all your needs
- Be your helper
- Direct your paths

God has given us many precious promises, but are we really counting on them? Are we actually expecting Him to do for us all that He has promised?

When in Doubt?

There are times in our lives when it is not easy to believe that God is faithful. Sometimes things happen that might make us feel that God has forgotten all about us.

Can you think of things that can happen to kids your age that can make you doubt God's faithfulness? (Parents get a divorce, parents lose their job, a friend dies, etc.)

When we are tempted to doubt the faithfulness of God, cry out to Him and wait for His answer. In His time He will make His will known to you.

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

That's a promise!

Summary

There are three indications that you really understand that God is faithful:

1. **You do not worry.** If we really have faith in God's goodness, we will not worry or be afraid. If we worry and fret about things this means that we don't really believe that His plans for us are for good and not for evil. It's like saying, "*I don't believe You; I don't trust you.*"
2. **You do not murmur.** If we really have faith in God we will not grumble or complain about anything; we will trust that the Lord knows what is best. God is greatly honored when, instead of finding things to complain about, we find the good in even the worst of situations!
3. **You do not doubt God's love and faithfulness.** If we are really certain of God's love and faithfulness, we will trust Him with our whole life. We may not understand why He's allowing certain things to happen to us, but we will have confidence that His plans and purposes are for our good.

God has promised to love us and help us do what is right. God is faithful. He never breaks His Word. He keeps His promises, no matter how quickly we break our promises to Him. We can trust Him with our lives. Let's thank God for keeping His promises.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You that You never give up on us. I find myself worrying and fretting and murmuring all the time. I ask Your forgiveness. Please increase my ability to trust You and have faith in Your faithfulness. I also pray, Lord, that you will make me a faithful person in all my relationships, especially with You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Make a dictionary of God's Promises. On a sheet of paper, have the children list the letters of the alphabet. Then next to each letter have them think of one of God's Promises that starts with that letter. For example, A. **A**lways Faithful to me, B. **B**less me, C. **C**ounsel me, and so forth. Have them personalize each promise.

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a time of discussion or a game of your choice:

- How would you describe a person that is faithful? (Someone who is loyal and steadfast, who isn't going to leave you; someone you can count on to always do what he says he will do; someone you can trust completely; someone who always keeps his promises.)
- What has God done to show that we can trust Him to always keep His promises? (God kept His promises to people in the Bible. God promised to send us a Savior and He did.)
- What was God's promise about seasons? (That there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter.)
- How did Abraham and Sarah learn that God is faithful? (He kept His promise, even when it seems impossible.)
- What are some reasons it may have been difficult for Abraham and Sarah to believe in God's promise that they would have a child? (Abraham and Sarah were very old. They waited for a very long time and nothing happened.)
- How do you think Abraham felt when God pointed to the stars in the night sky and promised Abraham many sons and grandsons? (Hopeful. Excited. Thankful.)
- What was the sign that God gave Isaiah about the coming Messiah? (That He would be born of a virgin.)
- What are some promises God has made to us? (To hear and answer our prayers. To give us courage to do right. To help us know what to do when we need help.)
- When are times that remembering God's promises can help us? (When a loved one is sick. When you feel lonely. When you want to make a good decision.)
- How can we find out more about God's promises? (Read the Bible. Listen to what other Christians say about God.)
- How would I know that you really understand that God is faithful? What are three things that you would NOT do? (NOT worry about things; NOT complain; NOT doubt God's love and faithfulness.)

