

Growing in Faithfulness

Lesson Scripture: Ruth 1-4

Bible Truth: My faithfulness can grow.

Bible Story: Ruth 1-4

Bible Verse: “Let love and faithfulness 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, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “What Is Faithfulness?”

Preparation

Write the following definition of faithfulness on poster board:

Faithfulness is doing what God and His Word tell you to do and not giving up.



Presentation

Say: **Today, we will learn about how to allow the fruit of faithfulness to grow in our lives. What is faithfulness?** Allow children to answer. **Let’s read this definition. “Faithfulness is doing what God and His Word tell you to do and not giving up.”**

I’m going to read several stories. After I finish reading each story, you can decide whether the child showed faithfulness to God. Put your thumb up if the child was faithful. Put your thumb down if the child was not faithful.

1. **Sarah’s Sunday school teacher taught the class about the importance of reading the Bible. Sarah decided that she would read her Bible every day. On Monday and Tuesday, she got up early and read her Bible before school. But the rest of the week, she forgot her promise. Was Sarah faithful?** Allow children to respond. **No, she started to do what God wanted her to do, but she didn’t finish. Faithfulness is doing what God wants you to do and not giving up.**

2. **Mike's dad had been sick for a long time. One night, during the family devotion time, Mike's older brother read a verse from Isaiah, "by his stripes we are healed." Mike thought, "Jesus was pierced so we can be healed. He can heal my dad." Then Mike prayed and told Jesus, "Lord, I believe you can heal my dad because you suffered for his healing." Mike continued to pray for his dad even though his dad didn't get better right away. Was Mike faithful?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, Mike believed the Bible, prayed for his dad, and didn't give up even though he didn't get an answer right away.**
3. **Richard invited his friend Adam to go to church with him on Sunday. A few days later, Sam asked Richard to go camping with him for the weekend. Richard really wanted to go camping, but he knew it was important to go to church with the friend he had invited. He went to church instead of going camping. Was Richard faithful?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, Richard kept his promise and took his friend to church.**
4. **Katie got some money from her Aunt Lucy. She prayed about what she should do with the money and knew that God wanted her to give half of it in the missionary offering. On the way to church, she went to the store and saw a toy that she wanted. She decided to spend all of her money on the toy. Was Katie faithful?** Allow children to answer. **No, she knew what God wanted her to do, but she gave up on His plan and did what she wanted to do.**

Say: **God is looking for boys and girls who will be faithful. He is looking for boys and girls who do what the Bible tells them to do and who don't give up! As you practice being faithful, your faithfulness will grow.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Proverbs 3:3-4

Preparation

Write Proverbs 3:3-4 on a piece of poster board.

Write the words "love" and "faithfulness" on a paper circle. Poke a hole in the top of the circle and put a string through it to make a necklace.

Cut out enough circles and string for each child to make a paper necklace during the memorization activity.



Explanation

Say: **What two fruit of the spirit are mentioned in this verse?** Allow children to answer. **This verse tells us love and faithfulness should be found in two places- around your neck and in**

your heart! Ask a volunteer to wear the necklace you made around his neck. **You can see love and faithfulness around my volunteer's neck, but you can't see if they are in his heart. Who is the only one who can see our hearts?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, only God can see our hearts.** The Bible verse is explaining that our love and faithfulness should be seen by people through our actions and by God through our attitude. **When you are faithful to do what the Bible says and don't give up, other people will see it. When you are faithful to do what the Bible says and have a good attitude about it, God will see.**

The second part of the verse lists two rewards for having faithfulness. Can someone circle those words? Allow a child to circle "win favor" and "good name." **This just means that God will be pleased with you and other people will smile when they hear your name. That is the kind of Christian that you want to be- a Christian that brings a smile to the face of others.**

Memorization Activity

Give each child a circle and a piece of string. Let them write the words "love" and "faithfulness" on the circle and attach the string to make a necklace like the one used in the explanation. When everyone is finished, read the verse together several times.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Ruth Is Faithful; God Is Faithful," Ruth 1-4

Preparation

Read and study Ruth 1-4.

A week before the class, ask a woman or teenage girl in your congregation to memorize the following monologue and be prepared to present it to the children during this session. Give your helper a Bible costume or pieces of fabric to create the look of a Bible costume.



Presentation

Hello, my name is Ruth. Maybe you've heard of me. One of the books in the Bible has my name. I thought you would really enjoy hearing my story since you are learning how to allow the fruit of faithfulness to grow in your lives.

When I was younger, I married a man named Mahlon. He was a foreigner in my country. His family practiced strange customs. They would rest every seventh day and would not work on that day. They refused to attend our great festivals to the god Chemosh.

I loved Naomi, my mother-in-law. She was very kind to me. She would tell stories about her home in the land of Israel and about her relatives and friends she left behind. She told me about her God, the God Jehovah, and about the wonderful things He had done for His people. But soon tragedy surprised us all. Naomi's husband died. Then her two sons died. Naomi, my sister-in-law, Orpah, and myself were left widowed. There was nobody to take care of us. Naomi decided to return to her country. Orpah and I decided to go with her.

After following her for a short distance, Orpah decided to return to her family. Then Naomi turned to me and said, "Your sister-in-law has returned to her family. You should do the same."

"Naomi, don't ask me to leave you," I begged her. "I will live where you live. Your people will be my people, and your God, my God."

And so we continued our journey to Israel for several days. We arrived safely. Since Naomi was older and couldn't work, I went out to the fields and picked up the grain from the harvesters so Naomi and I could have something to eat. I helped Naomi in any way that I could. I was faithful to help her and to serve the one true God." Because of my faithfulness, God sent me a new husband who loved me, and I became the great-grandmother of King David. I truly found favor with God.

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Service, "I Can Be Faithful"

Preparation

On separate pieces of paper, write a few acts of service that children can do during the session. Some suggestions include:

- Straighten the chairs.
- Put the crayons back in their boxes.
- Sharpen pencils.
- Pick up the trash.
- Make a get well card for a sick church member.

Materials

paper
pencil

Presentation

After the Bible story, give a piece of paper with a task written on it to each child. Ask them to read their paper and complete the task. If they don't understand what they need to do, give them further instructions. Allow several minutes for the children to complete their tasks. Ask them to return to their seats as soon as they are finished.

When everyone is finished, discuss the following questions:

Was the task I gave you simple?

Did you do it right?

How did you behave while doing the task? Did you complain or do it cheerfully?

Did you finish your task? Why? Why not?

Does God care about your attitude when you are being faithful?

Does the word faithfulness mean that you don't give up?

Say: **Thank you for being faithful to finish your task.**

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Say: **On the back of our necklaces, let's write some things that we want to be faithful to do this week.**

Help children think of things to write such as reading their Bibles, praying for others, obeying their parents, etc.

If we are going to be faithful, we are going to need God's help. Let's ask God right now to help us be faithful. Say a prayer asking God to help them be faithful in the tasks they have written down.

Say: **As you are faithful to complete the things God wants you to do, He will make the fruit of faithfulness grow inside of you.** Take any fruit-shaped papers with the word "faithfulness" written on them (located at the bottom of the poster from Lesson 1) and move them from the bottom of the poster into the tree.

