



GOD IS  
FAITHFUL

**FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**  
FAITHFULNESS  
*Family Study Guides*

**FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT**  
***"Being Faithful"***  
**Family Study Guide**

**Objectives:**

- Your family will gain a greater understanding of the godly trait of faithfulness and being trustworthy to God throughout our lifetime.
- Family members will learn ways to better apply faithfulness and continued trust in God.
- Review examples of Christ's continued faithfulness.
- Study Biblical examples of those who were faithful to God when things were difficult.
- Emphasize that continued and complete faithfulness to God only comes from Him through His spirit.

**Definition: Faithfulness** is to remain loyal, devoted and committed (faithful) to God and do what is right throughout your whole lifetime.

Faith is a basic Bible doctrine and is an essential element of Christianity.

**Hebrews 11:6** *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is...*

However, while "faithfulness" includes faith—it is more than faith alone.

**James 2:19 (NLT)** *You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.*

Faithfulness is our response to our faith. It's what we do with our faith. Faithfulness is being loyal and obedient to the one we put our trust in. We put our faith in God and also must be faithful to Him—especially in times of trial.

Godly faithfulness is a Fruit of the Spirit that is only complete as a gift from Him.

**Ephesians 3:16-17 (NCV)** *I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit. I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love.*

**Memory Verse:**

**Luke 16:10** *He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.*

**SUGGESTION:** before beginning this Family Study, listen to UCG Pastor, Mr. Gary Petty's Sermon, [Fruit of the Spirit – Part 3 – Faithfulness](#)

## Jesus Christ: Our Example for Faithfulness

The Bible shows us that Jesus Christ is the perfect example of remaining faithful to the Father and His plan over time—even when times were tough. The Bible says:

He always was faithful, is faithful and will always be faithful.

- **Psalm 100:5 (AMP)** *For the Lord is good; His mercy and loving-kindness are everlasting, His faithfulness and truth endure to all generations.*

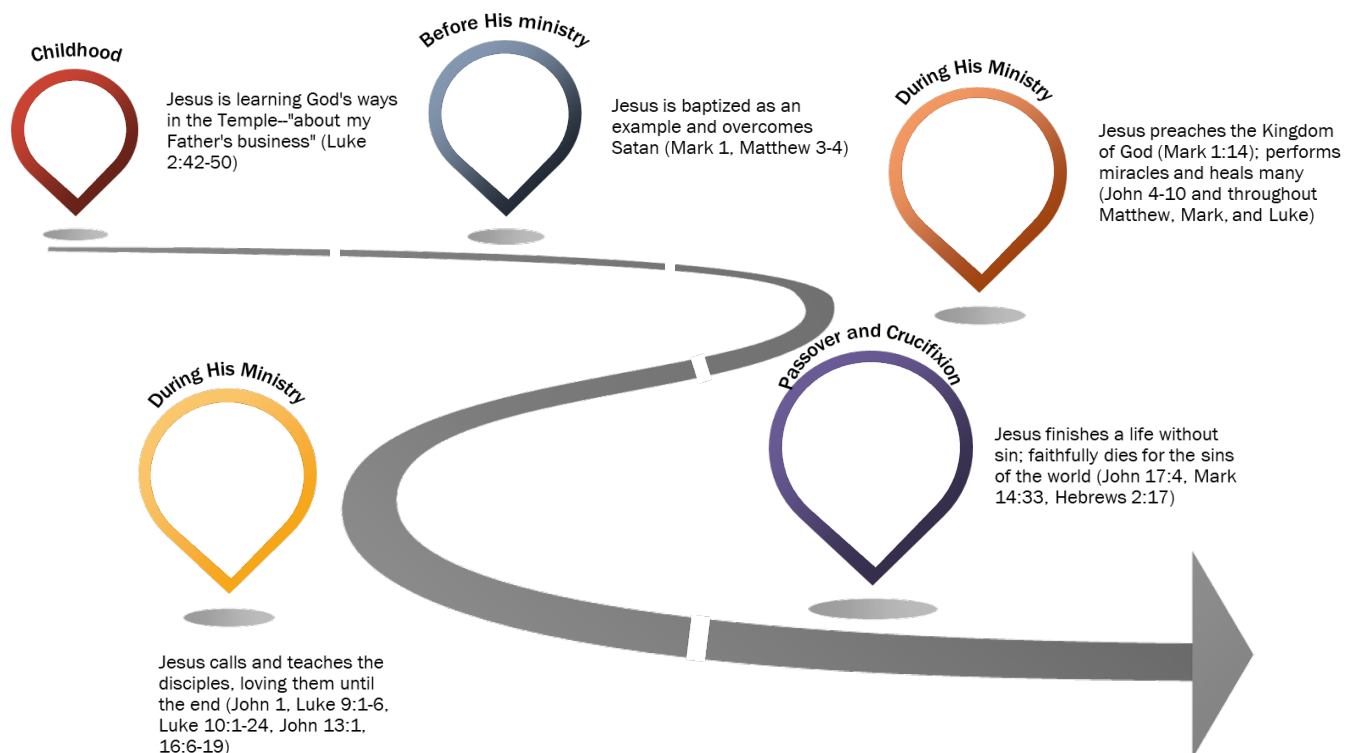
“Faithful” is one of his names.

- **Revelation 19:11 (ISV)** *Then I saw heaven standing open, and there was a white horse! Its rider is named Faithful and True. He administers justice and wages war righteously.*

He is further defined this way:

- **Revelation 1:8** *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*
- **Hebrews 13:8** *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

While we can see His faithfulness throughout the Bible, let’s look at a few moments from Jesus Christ’s “timeline of faithfulness” while He was on earth.



## What can we learn from this example?

### 1) Jesus was given a job to do—and he did it faithfully. He lived his life as a great example of how we are to be faithful to God, and in all aspects of life.

- **John 5:36** *...for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.*
- **John 9:4** *I must work the works of Him who sent Me... [He determined to be faithful!]*
- **John 5:30** *I can of myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

Notice that even Jesus did not try to be faithful on his own. He succeeded because the power of God's Spirit was working in him!

**Our Takeaway:** God expects us to follow Jesus' example of being faithful and doing good works. He also wants us to realize that our success depends whether we access the Fruit of God's Spirit to help us.

- **John 14:12-14** *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."*

We need to ASK God for His spirit to help us be faithful to Him!

### 2) Our faithfulness to God is tested by the trials we go through. Jesus' faithfulness was tested to the extreme at the end of his physical life.

- **Mark 14:33-36 (GNT)** *He took Peter, James, and John with him. Distress and anguish came over him, and he said to them, "The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch." He went a little farther on, threw himself on the ground, and prayed that, if possible, he might not have to go through that time of suffering. "Father," he prayed, "my Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet not what I want, but what you want."*

Jesus knew what suffering he would have to go through on that day. The beatings, the humiliation, the suffering and ultimate crucifixion and death. He prayed several times asking his Father to deliver him from all that. But since it had to be done for the salvation of mankind, Jesus was faithful to the Father—and to you as his friends—his brothers and sisters.

- **Hebrews 2:17-18 (NLT)** *Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.*

**Our Takeaway:** God can give us the faithfulness we need through His Holy Spirit, just as He did for Jesus Christ. Jesus lived His life with unwavering commitment and faithfulness. He didn't quit or throw in the towel when things got hard. Jesus remained true to His commitment regardless of the cost—Jesus loved us to death, and beyond! The faithfulness of Jesus continues. He will never be unfaithful to us. He will help us to remain faithful to the end if we ask.

## Being a Faithful Friend – A look at Peter (Matthew 26)

Have you ever heard the term “Fair-weather Friend?”

That type of person is a friend to someone as long as everything is going well (good or fair weather). But when there are problems (bad weather) in the relationship—they abandon their friend.

Have you ever had a “BFF?” You promised to be Best Friends Forever. Do you have such a person with whom you are no longer best friends? One or both of you ended up breaking that pact you made. Or maybe, a difficult time in your friendship because of choices that were made?

Read and discuss the following story:

- **Matthew 26:34-35 (GNT)** *Jesus said to Peter, "I tell you that before the rooster crows tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me." Peter answered, "I will never say that, even if I have to die with you!" And all the other disciples said the same thing.*
- **Matthew 26:69-75 (NLT)** *Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, "You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean." But Peter denied it in front of everyone. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. "I don't even know the man," he said. A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, "You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent." Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know the man!" And immediately the rooster crowed. Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he went away, weeping bitterly.*

We know that Peter repented and was used by God to do His work and will. This too shows God's faithfulness to us.

- **2 Timothy 2:13** *If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*
  - The Living Bible puts it this way: **2 Timothy 2:13** *Even when we are too weak to have any faith left, he remains faithful to us and will help us, for he cannot disown us who are part of himself, and he will always carry out his promises to us.*
- **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**Our Takeaway:** This event illustrates that since we are human—we will make mistakes. We will on occasion not be faithful to God in one way or another. But a great lesson here is that God is faithful to us—and when we repent and turn back to Him—he will forgive us and continue to be best friends with us forever!

Because we are weak and unfaithful at times—this can help us understand our need to ask God for His spirit to give us the fruit of faithfulness.

## Biblical Example: The Life Story of Job

Job was a man who God himself said was faithful to Him.

**Job 1:8 (GNT)** *"Did you notice my servant Job?" the Lord asked. "There is no one on earth as faithful and good as he is. He worships me and is careful not to do anything evil."*

Satan challenged God, and declared that Job would only be faithful to Him if everything went well for Job and went his way. God then allowed Job to be tested and to go through many very severe trials. While it was very difficult for Job—he did remain faithful to God throughout. Notice Job’s response to his trials:

**Job 2:7-10 (GNT)** *Then Satan left the Lord 's presence and made sores break out all over Job's body. Job went and sat by the garbage dump and took a piece of broken pottery to scrape his sores. His wife said to him, "You are still as faithful as ever, aren't you? Why don't you curse God and die?" Job answered, "You are talking nonsense! When God sends us something good, we welcome it. How can we complain when he sends us trouble?" Even in all this suffering Job said nothing against God.*

The story of Job is sometimes difficult to understand. If Job was so faithful to God, why did God let him suffer so much? Why doesn’t God just bless us and allow everything in life to be easy? One main reason God allows us to go through trials—is because we learn things we would otherwise not learn. With Job—he learned not to rely on himself—but to see the need for God’s power in his life.

Job summarized his learning this way:

**Job 42:2-6 (GNT/NCV)** *I know, Lord, that you are all-powerful; that you can do everything you want. ... I am so very ignorant. I talked about things I did not understand. My ears had heard of you before, but now my eyes have seen you. So now ... I will change my heart and life.*

**Job was faithful, but needed this test of his faith in order to get closer to God.**

**If God blesses for obedience, what are some reasons He would allow us to go through trials like Job?**

- ✓ **1 Samuel 2:9 (GNT)** *He protects the lives of his faithful people, but the wicked disappear in darkness...*
- ✓ **2 Samuel 22:25-26 (GNT)** *And so he rewards me because I do what is right, because he knows that I am innocent. O Lord, you are faithful to those who are faithful to you...*
- ✓ **Acts 14:22 (GNT)** *They strengthened the believers and encouraged them to remain true to the faith. "We must pass through many troubles to enter the Kingdom of God," they taught.*
- ✓ **Revelation 2:9 (NLT)** *Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.*
- ✓ **James 1:12 (GNT)** *Happy are those who remain faithful under trials, because when they succeed in passing such a test, they will receive as their reward the life which God has promised to those who love him.*

[For more on this, see the UCG Bible Course - [Faith and Fidelity](#) ]

## **1. Being Faithful Every Day**

Faithfulness is a lifestyle of consistent dependability in all areas of life.

- **Matthew 25:23 (NIV)** *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*
- **Luke 16:10-12 (GNT)** *Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones; whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones. If, then, you have not been faithful in*

*handling worldly wealth, how can you be trusted with true wealth? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you what belongs to you?*

- **Luke 16:10** *He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.*

One way that God wants us to be faithful—is when we get married. We make a promise to a person to be faithful to them. Here is how God puts it:

- **Hebrews 13:4 (GNT)** *Marriage is to be honored by all, and husbands and wives must be faithful to each other. God will judge those who are immoral and those who commit adultery.*

### **What are other ways we need to be a faithful person?**

- ✓ At work
- ✓ Doing our school work
- ✓ With our friends
- ✓ With our money
- ✓ With our responsibilities
- ✓ To our family and family values

**Matthew 24:45-47** *"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.*

**Matthew 25:23** *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.*

**Galatians 6:9 (NCV)** *We must not become tired of doing good. We will receive our harvest of eternal life at the right time if we do not give up.*

## **2. Our Faithfulness — A Lifelong Journey**

From the beginning Jesus planned to do the work of becoming the Savior of the world—even though He knew He would have to suffer. In response to Jesus' sacrifice, God asks us to determine to be faithful to Him our entire lives.

- **Luke 14:25-33 (GNT)** *Once when large crowds of people were going along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, "Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well. Those who do not carry their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciples. If one of you is planning to build a tower, you sit down first and figure out what it will cost, to see if you have enough money to finish the job. If you don't, you will not be able to finish the tower after laying the foundation; and all who see what happened will make fun of you. 30 'You began to build but can't finish the job!' they will say. In the same way," concluded Jesus, "none of you can be my disciple unless you give up everything you have.*
- ✓ **Discuss personal or family issues that require faith (these can be past or present).**

### Additional Resources that you can use in your family studies:

- UCG Sermon, Gary Petty, [Fruit of the Spirit – Part 3 - Faithfulness](#)
- UCG Bible Course - [Faith and Fidelity](#) (Faith during trials)

### Possible Classroom Activities:

- ✓ As a class discuss faith. How do we know that God exists? We can look at the beauty of creation as evidence of a wonderful Creator. Even though we can't see God, we know He is there. Even though we can't see air we know it is there. What is our proof that air is there?  
Have the students place their hands on his/her chest. Take a deep breath. Air causes the lungs to fill and expand the chest. Blow up a balloon. Without air, it would still be flat. Toss the balloon back and forth among the class. Drop a feather above your head. Have a child blow it and watch it dance. Air causes it to move. The movement is our proof that the air is there.  
  
Discuss God's presence in your life and how He has blessed you, giving you faith that everything will turn out all right—with His help. Have the students share their own experiences.
- ✓ Have the students take turns walking with a blindfold, and trusting their peers to lead them around an obstacle or through a maze. Discuss how when we can't see how things are going to turn out, we can have faith that God will lead us.
- ✓ If you are using a visual building the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT tree, devote some time for the children to cut, color and attach the fruit of faithfulness on their tree.
- ✓ Put students in groups. Have each group choose and read one of the Psalms that shows how David put faith in God for deliverance.
- ✓ Put students in groups. Have each group choose a biblical example from Hebrews 11 and report how he/she lived a life of faithfulness to God.
- ✓ Read about Gideon who grew in faith. (Review in Judges 6 and 7.)
- ✓ Biblical Example: As a family (or make family assignments) review the examples of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. See how many times, and in what ways they displayed faithfulness to God. Discuss how difficult it must have been to "finish the job" and stay faithful to God.
- ✓ **Teens:** Discuss what possible scenarios could cause us to doubt and not be faithful to God and His way of life (i.e. death, a long illness, someone leaving the church, extreme poverty or debt, something bad happening to us or a loved one, "unanswered" prayer).
  - What can we do to help insure that we will stay faithful to God in these times of trial?