

Timeless Truths for Modern Disciples

8. How Do I Stay Faithful for the Long Haul?

MATTHEW 13:20-22; 2 TIMOTHY 2:22

LESSON OVERVIEW (FOR THE LEADER)

Every Christian begins the race of faith, but not everyone finishes well. In this final lesson of *Timeless Truths for Modern Disciples*, we discover that God doesn't simply call us to believe—**He calls us to remain faithful.**

Jesus' Parable of the Soils reveals two common reasons people drift away from Christ, while Paul shows us the habits that help believers endure. **Long-term faithfulness is cultivated by continually pursuing spiritual growth, treating sin as a lifelong enemy, and walking faithfully with God's people.**

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP NOTES

If children are present, involve them intentionally throughout the group. Before beginning, assign one child to be the “Kid Reporter.” Let them know their job is to listen carefully because at the end of the gathering they will share the most important thing they learned.

Provide children with a Listening Sheet and encourage them to complete it during the teaching and discussion. They may write, draw, or do both depending on their age.

Also encourage children to draw a picture that illustrates the main lesson. At the end of the gathering, give them an opportunity to show and explain their drawing to the group.

Ice Breaker

What is something you've started with a lot of excitement but eventually quit?

TRANSITION: “TONIGHT'S LESSON ASKS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION: HOW DO WE REMAIN FAITHFUL TO JESUS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES? JESUS TEACHES THAT PEOPLE OFTEN BECOME UNFAITHFUL BECAUSE THEY EITHER STOP GROWING SPIRITUALLY OR SLOWLY BEGIN LOVING THE WORLD MORE THAN CHRIST. THANKFULLY, SCRIPTURE ALSO GIVES US A CLEAR PATH TOWARD LIFELONG FAITHFULNESS.”

READ MATTHEW 13:18-23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which of the three habits of lifelong faithfulness do you think is the easiest to neglect: pursuing spiritual growth, fighting sin, or staying connected to God's people? Why?
2. Jesus said some people had "no root." What are some practical ways we can continue putting down deeper spiritual roots throughout every season of life?
3. What is one step you can take this week to strengthen your faithfulness to Christ?

KIDS' QUESTION

1. What does it mean to stay faithful to Jesus?

Prayer Time

LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

- Leader, as you begin the prayer time, explain to the group that tonight we want to slow down and genuinely seek the Lord together, not just rush through a closing prayer.
- On the next page is a list of prayer prompts based on this lesson. If you want, you can cut these out into individual strips of paper with one prayer prompt on each, and put those prayers in a basket.
- Pass the basket of prayer prompts around the circle and invite anyone who is willing to pray to take one.
- Let everyone know there is no pressure to pray out loud, and children are welcome to participate too.
- Encourage people to quietly read their prompt and begin thinking about how they want to pray when the time comes.
- Begin the prayer time yourself by leading a short opening prayer that helps the group focus on God, become calm and attentive, and invites the Holy Spirit to guide the time.
- Then leave space for others to pray one at a time using their prompts.
- Don't be afraid of a little silence between prayers.
- When it feels like the prayer time is naturally slowing down, close by thanking God for hearing His people, praying for the needs that were shared, and asking God to deepen our love for Him and strengthen our faith in Him throughout the week.

Before dismissing, invite the Kid Reporter to share the most important thing they learned. Then allow any children who would like to do so to show their drawings and briefly explain them to the group.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Pray that we would remain faithful to Jesus for our entire lives.

Pray that we would never stop growing spiritually.

Pray for a deeper hunger for God's Word.

Pray for a stronger prayer life.

Pray for humility to keep learning from God.

Pray for deep spiritual roots that endure hardship.

Pray for perseverance during trials.

Pray for courage when following Christ is difficult.

Pray that we would recognize temptation quickly.

Pray for victory over persistent sins.

Pray for genuine repentance whenever we fail.

Pray for purity of heart and mind.

Pray that worldly desires would lose their grip on us.

Pray for wisdom to identify distractions that pull us away from Christ.

Pray for honesty with trusted believers about our struggles.

Pray that our church would be a place of encouragement and accountability.

Pray for unity within our Groups.

Pray that we would faithfully encourage one another every week.

Pray for our pastor and ministry leaders to remain faithful.

Pray for those who have wandered from the Lord to return to Him.

Pray for our children and grandchildren to remain faithful throughout their lives.

Pray that our church would make disciples who finish well.

Pray that we would treasure Christ above everything this world offers.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would keep Jesus on the throne of our hearts.

Pray that God would help each of us finish our race with faithfulness.

Kids' Listening Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

TODAY'S BIBLE PASSAGE(S):

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I LEARNED:

A WORD I HEARD TODAY:

Word: _____

What does it mean?

SOMETHING I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND:

DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT YOU LEARNED (ON THE BACK):