



Get Connected.....15 Minutes

Host Tip: Welcome new group members and provide a brief overview of session 1. Review last week's memory verse as well.

Opening Discussion Questions:

1. *How does faithfulness impact your creditability?*
2. *What words would you associate with faithfulness?*
3. *Name a Bible character that embodied faithfulness?*

Memory Verse | Week 10:

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. Luke 16:10, ESV



Start Lesson.....20 Minutes

Host Tip: *Stream the lesson after the memory verse is read.*

Session 10: *Blessed Are the Faithful*



Matthew 5:10 / ESV, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." 11Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Key Thought: *Persecution will either produce a believer who becomes more faithful or someone who forsakes their faith.*

Faithfulness Principle: Standing firm in your faith leads to God holding you in high regard and to rewards in heaven.

Lesson outline:

Persecution should come as no surprise:

John 15:18 / ESV, "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you."

Second Timothy 3:12 / ESV, "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted..."

Understand these four facts concerning persecution so you can respond with faithfulness:

1. Faithful people will experience BETRAYAL in exchange for humility.

"Luke 22:47-48 / CSB, "While he was still speaking, suddenly a mob came, and one of the Twelve named Judas was leading them. He came near Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus said to him, 'Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?' "

Romans 12:14 / ESV, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them."

Galatians 5:22-23 / NLT, "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"

2. Faithful people are **SELF-CONTROLLED**.

"Luke 22:49-51a / CSB, "When those around him saw what was going to happen, they asked, 'Lord, should we strike with the sword?' 50 Then one of them struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear 51 But Jesus responded, 'No more of this!'"

3. Faithful people show **MERCY**.

Luke 22:51b CSB, "And touching his ear, he healed him."

Matthew 5:7 / NLT, "God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

Luke 6:36 / ESV, "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

4. Faithful people are committed regardless of the circumstances because they trust **God**.

Luke 22:52-53 CSB, "Then Jesus said to the chief priests, temple police, and the elders who had come for him, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal? 53 Every day while I was with you in the temple, you never laid a hand on me. But this is your hour —and the dominion of darkness.' "

Matthew 5:11-12 / CSB, "You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. 12 Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."



Closing Discussion & Prayer.....20 Minutes

Closing Discussion Questions:

1. Review John 15:18, Romans 12:14, and Second Timothy 3:12. What do those verses communicate to you?

2. What are some spiritually productive responses we can have to those that oppose our faith?