

SMALL GROUP LESSON: THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

The Real God, Part 8

Scripture: Psalm 145:1–21

¹I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

²Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

³Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

⁴One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

⁵They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

⁶They tell of the power of your awesome works—and I will proclaim your great deeds.

⁷They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

⁸The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

⁹The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

¹⁰All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you.

¹¹They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,

¹²so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.

¹⁶You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

¹⁷The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.

¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.

²⁰The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

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DISCUSSION STARTERS

Read through the questions below and pick the ones that would work best for your group. Chances are, you won't need to work through all of them! Ask the questions in your own words—don't feel that you need to read them "as is." And feel free to ask your own questions! Keep the overall objective in mind so that no matter what "path" your conversation takes, you end up driving home the objective.

OBJECTIVE

To help your students understand that God's faithfulness means He is always trustworthy.

1. WARM UP

- Who is someone you trust? What makes them trustworthy?
- Based on last weekend's message, what's your definition of God's faithfulness?

2. SET UP THE PASSAGE

"This week, we are looking at Psalm 145. It can be summed up by verse 13: "The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does." This prayer is all about God's faithfulness to his people and how they respond with praise.

3. CONTEXT QUESTIONS (focus on scripture)

- Read the passage out loud (consider having a different student read it a second time).
- Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Did you find anything confusing or difficult to understand?
- Which qualities of God are mentioned in this passage? Why is God worthy of praise? Each person in your group should pick two or three different qualities or actions.
- Verse 8 says, "The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love." Can you think of some examples from Scripture in which God was gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love?
- Re-read verse 18. What does it mean to call on God in truth? What would it look like for a person to call on God but not "in truth"?

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FOR STUDENTS

4. APPLICATION QUESTIONS (focus on personal significance)

- Why is trust important for healthy relationships?
- When trust is broken, how does this negatively impact a relationship?
- Verse 5 says, "I will meditate on your wonderful works." Verse 13 says, "The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does." How has God been faithful to you personally?
- Having a spiritual conversation with someone who doesn't follow Jesus can be tough! Sometimes we feel like we need to "defend" what we believe or have all the "right answers" to their difficult questions. This psalm says, "I will proclaim your great deeds" (verse 6), "All your works praise you" (verse 10), and "so that all people may know of your mighty acts" (verse 12). Typically, the best conversations with unbelievers aren't arguments. You can start healthy conversations by sharing your own testimony of God's faithfulness in your life. Be ready to share how God has been faithful to you. A personal story can be a powerful story. If the right opportunity presented itself, with whom would you share your story this week? Be praying for this person!
- What is currently keeping you from trusting God 100%? What are you holding on to but need to surrender to God?
- Are you a faithful friend? Do you keep your promises and commitments? What would your friends say about you?
- As a group, take turns reading out loud the following characteristics of God. Which one do you identify with the most and why?

He is **Good**: He wants the very best for us.

He is **Sovereign**: He rules without equal.

He is **Holy**: He is unique from everyone and everything.

He is **Wise**: He makes the best decisions.

He is **Just**: He will make everything right.

He is **Love**: He values us unconditionally.

He is **Faithful**: He is always trustworthy.

- In the message, we had three responses to God's faithfulness. Which one was most challenging for you personally and why?
 1. We can trust his salvation through faith.
 2. We can trust his forgiveness through confession.
 3. We can trust his purpose through obedience.

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