

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Faithfulness: Psalm 25:1-21

August 23, 2020

WORSHIP

Take a moment to remind yourself why you are still meeting together during quarantine: *To grow as disciples of Jesus by cultivating our relationship with God and friendship with others.*

Listen to a song of worship: [I'll Find You \(Lecrae\)](#) or [Take My Life \(Chris Tomlin\)](#)

Or read Lamentations 3:22-25 together:

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him." The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him."

INTRODUCTION

A faithful person is one who is principle-driven, utterly reliable and true to her word. We long for this kind of person in our lives. Becoming someone who is utterly reliable and true is a gift we can bring, through the power of the Holy Spirit, into the communities where we live. Yet it is impossible to be faithful without knowing what we are to be faithful to. Faithfulness requires a "true north" or "telos" to which we direct our whole lives.

Jesus says that he is "true north," for in him humans find "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Moreover, he is not merely a signpost or an example; he is truth. To know Jesus is to know truth, and to follow him is to be faithful. To grow in the fruit of faithfulness, then, we must know Christ and follow him as his Spirit guides us in truth and wisdom. Today we explore how we know Jesus, live in him and are guided to live faithfully.

SCRIPTURE

20 MINUTES

Read the following Scripture together. Then invite the group to respond to the questions below.

Psalm 25:1-22 New International Version (NIV)

- ¹ In you, Lord my God,
I put my trust.
- ² I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- ³ No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.

⁴ Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶ Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.

⁸ Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore, he instructs sinners in his ways.

⁹ He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

¹⁰ All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

¹¹ For the sake of your name, Lord,
forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

¹² Who, then, are those who fear the Lord?
He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.

¹³ They will spend their days in prosperity,
and their descendants will inherit the land.

¹⁴ The Lord confides in those who fear him;
he makes his covenant known to them.

¹⁵ My eyes are ever on the Lord,
for only he will release my feet from the snare.

¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.

¹⁷ Relieve the troubles of my heart
and free me from my anguish.

¹⁸ Look on my affliction and my distress
and take away all my sins.

¹⁹ See how numerous are my enemies
and how fiercely they hate me!

²⁰ Guard my life and rescue me;
do not let me be put to shame,
for I take refuge in you.

²¹ May integrity and uprightness protect me,
because my hope, Lord, is in you.

- ▶ How would you define faithfulness? Does New York City need faithfulness especially right now (consider Redeemer East Side, your neighbors, your co-workers, your friends/family)? Why or why not?
- ▶ The psalmist, David, looks to God as truth, and seeks guidance to live faithfully. What petitions does David make in Psalm 25?

- ▶ Four building blocks of a faithful life can be seen in vv.4-5, vv.8-9, vv.10, 12, and vv.14-15. Look at these verses together and name the characteristics of a faithful life found in these four sections. What one aspect is most needed in your life right now?
- ▶ Faithfulness comes, not by techniques or signs, but by knowing God personally and growing in his wisdom. Read Matthew 26:36-46. How do you see Jesus' faithfulness? How can you let Jesus' faithfulness to you become beautiful and the "true north" in your life?

GOING FURTHER THIS WEEK

Use the **Fruit of the Spirit devotional guide** to grow in bearing the fruit of faithfulness.

FELLOWSHIP AND PRAYER

25 MINUTES

- ▶ Pray to know God as the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10), since he is ultimate reality.
- ▶ Pray to saturate yourself daily in Scripture, in order to experience God's mind and heart (Psalm 119).
- ▶ Pray for wise friends in community (Proverbs 13:10; 17:10).
- ▶ Pray for faithfulness to follow God's will (John 7:17).

Pray to live faithfully using the prayer below:

Grant, O God, that every knee bend before you and every tongue confess that you are Lord. May our lives faithfully proclaim your praise—in every conversation, every deed, everywhere we are. May we not rest content with an ideal of humanity that is less than what was shown to us in Jesus and is embodied in us through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

With the Scripture discussion in mind, pray for each other and the particular needs in our city and world.

- ▶ Want to continue meditating on Scripture throughout the week? Join Virtual Noonday prayer: eastside.redeemer.com/prayer