

THE REAL GOD
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SESSION #8
“Faithfulness” (27 minute video)

Session notes:

Defining the faithfulness of God: Steadfast in affection or allegiance.

Synonyms: Dependable, trustworthy, loyal, staunch, resolute, constant, reliable, true to one’s word, keeps one’s promises, someone who “comes through for you.”

Why is God able to be faithful 100% of the time?

1. He is all-knowing, He is never caught off guard. (Romans 11:33-36)
2. He is all-powerful. He never encounters anything or anyone who can thwart his plans or purposes.
3. He is holy, pure, honest, full of integrity, and unable to lie. (Isaiah 6:1-6)
4. He is eternal. He is not affected by space or time. He knows the end from the beginning. (Psalm 90:2)
5. He is omnipresent. Nothing can happen outside the sphere of His influence. (Psalm 90:2)
6. He is immutable. He never changes. He is consistent. He never has a bad day. (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8)

“All of God’s acts are consistent with all of His attributes. No attribute contradicts any other, but all harmonize and blend into each other in the infinite abyss of the Godhead.”

- A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

God reveals His faithfulness to us through...

1. His creation
“Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; you established the earth, and it stands.” (Psalm 119:89-90, NASB)
2. His people
The patriarchs: Genesis 12:1-3; David: Psalm 132:11; The Church: Matthew 16:18
3. His character
Numbers 23:19 – The Father; Galatians 5:23 – The Spirit; Revelation 19:11 – The Son
4. His Word
His Word is true. (John 17:17); He keeps his covenants. (Deuteronomy 7:9); He keeps His promises. (Hebrews 10:23); He fulfills His predictions. (Isaiah 42:8-10)
5. How He shapes our life.
 - when we are weak: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - “9 *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*”
 - when we are tempted: 1 Corinthians 10:13 - *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*
 - when we sin: 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.*
 - when we utterly fail: 2 Timothy 2:11-13 - *11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.*

How can we respond to God’s faithfulness?

1. Put your past behind you. (1 John 1:9)
2. Bring your present pain and problems and struggles to Jesus. (Matthew 11:28-30)
3. Place your hope fully on God and God alone (Jeremiah 17:5-8)

Question #1 As you think about your own life and experiences, what were the consequences when someone wasn’t faithful? What got lost or damaged?

Question #2 Read the following passages: Joshua 1:9: *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*”

Isaiah 41:10: *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Deuteronomy 31:6: *Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.*”

Zephaniah 3:17: *The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.*

How SHOULD we respond if we have the ASSURANCE that our God is always with us? What should our attitude be like? What should our words and actions look like and sound like when we face times of trouble?

Question #3 Read Colossians 1:15-17 (which addresses God the Son, Jesus specifically)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

According to the Bible, the reason that our universe, galaxy, and world does not spin out of control, implode or explode on itself, or descend into total chaos, is because Jesus is the one that is literally holding all things together – from the largest galaxy to the smallest micro-organism.

Should knowing this truth help you in any way when you experience trouble, trials, tests, hardships, pain, surprises, temptations, or loss? Explain.

Question #4 Read 2 Corinthians 1:17-20: *17 Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? 18 As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. 20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.*

Most likely, you have experienced what it feels like when someone breaks a promise to you. The promises of this world are never as fully of a “YES” (as Paul describes it) as they should be. Yet, with God, every promise is fulfilled – every promise is yes, yes, yes... and they are all fulfilled through and in Him.

Can you describe a time when someone broke a promise to you? How did it make you feel; how did you respond?

Question #5 **As a follow up question to question #4, in all honesty, do you ever struggle to trust God and His promises because of how other people have broken their promises and hurt you in the past? What can you do to seek and find greater assurance in God’s promises?**

Question #6 Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10: *9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

Can you remember and describe a time when you were weak, but then you experienced the strength of God working through you in some way?

Question #7 **NOTE: These last two questions are not to be shared with your group (if you are meeting with one) – they are questions for just you and God.**

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 - *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

In the video Chip gave an illustration of temptation being like the attraction of chocolate – that we sin when we GIVE IN to that attraction. He then said your “chocolate” might be things like – pornography, an eating disorder, shopping, working too much, unhealthy over-addiction to fitness/body image, drugs, alcohol, etc.

Take a pen or pencil and answer Chip’s question in the space below - “What is your piece of chocolate?” What is that thing you keep going to in order to fulfill your desires (instead of looking to God to satisfy your life).

Question #8 **Will you commit to praying for God to help “provide your way of escape” from what you’ve written above? Turn this page over and write a short prayer on the back.**