

## **Faithfulness (Feb 2021)**

The 30 Essentials is designed for a small group study. The essential studied should coincide with the sermon. You may divide the study in four weekly studies, bi-weekly or monthly. This study includes a video which should be used to complete the video segment section.

Each session should start with a review of the Pastor's sermon. Discuss the main points, the take-away, and scripture references. Then continue with the study below.

### **MASTER KEYS**

**Key Question:** Why is it important to be loyal and committed to God and others?

**Key Idea:** I have established a good name with God and others based on my loyalty to those relationships.

**Key Verse:** Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

*Proverbs 3:3-4*

### **VIDEO SEGMENT QUESTIONS**

As you watch the video segment for this session, use the following outline to answer some of the main points.

1. Key Question: Why is it \_\_\_\_\_ to be loyal and committed to others?

2. Key Idea: I have established a good \_\_\_\_\_ with God and others based on my loyalty to those relationships.

3. Key Verse: “Let love and \_\_\_\_\_ never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.” (Proverbs 3:3-4)

4. George MacDonald writes, “To be \_\_\_\_\_ is a greater compliment than to be loved.”

5. Key Application: God’s faithfulness to us \_\_\_\_\_ our faithfulness to him and others.

6. Key Application: God does not call us to be \_\_\_\_\_ but faithful.

7. Key Application: If we \_\_\_\_\_ to be faithful, he is faithful and just to forgive us.

## EVALUATE

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging and why? Use a scale of 1-6 to rate how strongly you

believe the statements below. (1 = no belief at all, 6 = complete confidence)

_____	I take unpopular stands when my faith dictates.
_____	I discipline my thoughts based on my faith in Jesus Christ.
_____	I follow God even when it involves suffering.
_____	I follow through on commitments I have made to God.

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. What do you think is the root or cause of unfaithfulness toward God or others?

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2. In a world filled with unfaithfulness, how can we find inspirational examples of faithfulness?

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3. In your opinion, what motivates genuine faithfulness?

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4. How have you seen suffering test and/or strengthen someone's faithfulness? \_\_\_\_\_

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**BIBLE ENGAGEMENT**

Read Ruth 1:1-22

1. Life for Naomi and Ruth was much different than the world we live in today. Aside from grieving her loss, why would the death of her husband and sons be so devastating for Naomi? Why did she instruct her daughters-in-law to go back to their families?

2. Why was Ruth's decision to stay with her mother-in-law an incredible act of faithfulness?

3. Have you ever witnessed Ruth-like faithfulness in another person? If so, how?

## TAKE ACTION

Memorizing scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise. Spend a few minutes each day committing the Key verse to memory Proverbs 3:3-4.

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

*Proverbs 3:3-4*

Recite the key idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself, "Does my life reflect this statement?"

**Key Idea:** I have established a good name with God and others based on my loyalty to those relationships.

1. How could this virtue express itself in your life?

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2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who exhibits faithfulness?

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3. What is impeding your ability to be faithful to God and others?  
How can you overcome this obstacle?

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4. What action step can you take this week to increase your  
faithfulness?

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Page Break

## **CASE STUDY**

*Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's key idea into practice.*

Deidre had never stepped foot into a church building until she was well into her twenties. Something about church made her feel anxious. She felt like God was upset or disappointed with her. A year ago, she decided to face her fear and get involved at your church. Although she has been consistently involved in church community, she is reluctant to fully devote herself to Christ because she is sure she will mess up and disappoint God in the long run.

*Using the Key applications from this session, what could you say or do to help Deidre? (If needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session's Key Applications.)*

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## WHAT WE BELIEVE

God calls believers to be faithful to His assignments for them, no matter how difficult. During times of difficulty and challenges believers discover the trustworthiness of God the most. All believers have the opportunity to open their lives to God's will and demonstrate their faithfulness.

## DEVOTIONAL

### Genesis 41:14-46

Genesis 41:14–15 (NLT)

<sup>14</sup> Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh. <sup>15</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it.”

Just as Joseph had predicted, seven years of bumper crops were followed by seven years of famine throughout the land. Joseph made sure Egypt saved up enough. Food during the good years to survive the hard years. Although he was now a rich and influential man, Joseph stayed faithful to his promise to help Egypt survive the famine. Meanwhile, back in Joseph's homeland, his father and brothers began to talk about where they might be able to find more for their families. Joseph's long-ago dream was about to come true.

**PRAYER:** Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer request with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's Key Idea into practice.

