

Our God is Faithful

1. In an earthquake in Spitak in the Soviet Union in 1988, twenty five to fifty thousand people were killed. A father faithfully dug through the ruins and saved the life of his son & 14 of his classmates. If a father could have that sort of commitment to his son, how much more will our heavenly father be committed to the wellbeing of his children. *Discuss*
2. There is so much unfaithfulness in our world today. Some people start a marriage with an exit plan - thinking that it may not last...Our world doesn't seem to value commitment, in personal life or in business. *Why are things changing?*
3. Faithfulness is a characteristic of God, who always remains true to His promises. Numbers 23:19 *God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? He always keeps his word and promises.* Psalm 25:10 Psalm 119:90. God's faithfulness is at the core of His identity He will not break his word - he will not lie, He is stable & dependable. If He didn't keep His Word, He wouldn't be God. *Discuss*
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:24 *"the one who calls you is faithful and He will do it."* How does this verse relate to your life and your ministry?
5. The attributes of God have been likened to a car engine. Faithfulness is like the engine oil, that keeps the other parts running smoothly. The proper functioning of the engine depends on all parts working together. *What are some of God's other attributes?*
6. The prophet Jeremiah was disliked & poorly treated by the people. He wrote a collection of sad songs - or laments in the book of Lamentations. In chap 3:1-20, he bares his heart, & outlines his feelings. We may feel the same way that he did at times. Here's a summary how he felt - We feel like God is angry at us. We feel like we're in the dark & don't know where we're going. We feel like God is opposing us. We have mental & physical pain. We can't find release. Our prayers are not being answered. People don't understand us. We're ready to give up. Our hope is gone. *How many of these feelings describe you at present?*
7. Jeremiah made a deliberate effort to change his thought patterns - This is what he wrote. v21 -25 *But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; **great is your faithfulness.** "The LORD is my portion" says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.* To break out of this cycle of despair, he purposely focused on God's love, mercy & faithfulness. *Does this approach help you when you are feeling discouraged?*
8. God does not promise to prevent problems from coming into our lives, but He does promise to go through them with us. Because He's faithful, He never tires of extending forgiveness to us. 1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* When we are in right relationship with Him and others we are more aware of his presence. *Discuss this & pray for each other.*