

Group Meeting

Welcome!

Welcome to Session 28 of *Believe*. If there are any new members in your group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other. Then spend a couple of minutes sharing insights or questions about this session's personal study. Now start the video!

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video segment for Session 28, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- Key Question: Why is it _____ to be loyal and committed to others?
- 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)
- George MacDonald writes, "To be _____ is a greater compliment than to be loved."
- Key Idea: I have established a good _____ with God and others based on my loyalty to those relationships.
- (Key Application) God's faithfulness to us _____ our faithfulness to him and others.
- (Key Application) God does not call us to be _____ but faithful.
- (Key Application) If we _____ to be faithful, he is faithful and just to forgive us.

GETTING STARTED

Begin your discussion by reciting the Key Verse and Key Idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.

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)



KEY IDEA: I have established a good name with God and others based on my loyalty to those relationships.

GROUP DISCUSSION

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?

- 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.

Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the 2-3 questions that will lead to the best discussion about this week's Key Idea.

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

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

3. In your opinion, what motivates genuine faithfulness?

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

Read Ruth 1:1-22 (see the section "Stories of Faithfulness: Ruth" in Believe) and choose 1-2 questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in your group.

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 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?

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.)

VIDEO NOTES ANSWER KEY

important / faithfulness / trusted / name / inspires / successful / fail