



FAITHFULNESS

GET TALKING

What comes to mind when you hear the word faithfulness?
How do you think the world values faithfulness?

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

God's faithfulness is given, not earned
Faithfulness flows out of relationship
Faithfulness bears fruit

Big Idea: God's faithfulness leads to our selflessness

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Choose 2 or 3)

1. Use a dictionary to define faithful. What words are used to describe someone who is faithful? What is the difference between a person being faithful and the faithfulness of God?
2. Read through Matthew 25:14-30.
 - a. Which words or phrases stand out to you?
 - b. What questions come to mind?
 - c. Which person in the story can you most relate to?
3. It can be easy for readers to miss the meaning and implications of the parables Jesus used for teaching. In the King James version, verse 14 begins with, "For the kingdom of heaven is as..." When you read this, it is a clue to the purpose of the parable about to be shared. As you reflect on what you read in Matthew 25:14-30, what do you think God wants you to know about the kingdom of heaven?
4. Darla taught us in the weekend message how "God's faithfulness is given, not earned."
 - a. What gifts have you recognized God entrusting to you? (If you do not know or are unsure, see "Next Steps" below.)
 - b. How have you responded to receiving those gifts - allowing God's faithfulness to flow through you or hiding it away?



5. We also learned that faithfulness flows out of relationship.
 - a. Share an experience you can think of where your relationship with someone has influenced your actions or response to being entrusted with a gift or responsibility.
 - b. What do you believe about our Lord (our Master)? How does your view of Him affect your decisions, behavior and/or perspectives?
6. Finally, faithfulness bears fruit. Reflect on how you have responded to God's gifting in your life.
 - a. What blessings and gifts have you been given?
 - b. What ways has God produced fruit in your life through your faithfulness?
 - c. In what way has fear or other sin restricted a gift you've been given; keeping it from bearing fruit?

BIG IDEA

God's faithfulness leads to our selflessness

NEXT STEPS

As we have studied the fruit of faithfulness, what have you found challenging or convicting?
What next step is God calling you to take?

If you have never evaluated what gifting you have been given by God, consider it now. Read through Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 to reflect on what gifting you may have received.

Take our Three Relationships Assessment at <https://extendgrace.threerelationships.com/> to learn more about your strengths and ways to respond to our Lord's gifts with confidence and joy in being able to care for and put to work the great authority God has entrusted you with. There are spiritual gifting inventories to help you as well.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for the Bible filled with Your Word to teach and guide us. We are so blessed to be given freely the gift of the Holy Spirit that we could never earn through our own doing. You have entrusted each of your children gifts to use to bear fruit and bring you glory. Help us to recognize the blessings and gifts you have entrusted us with. May we respond with open eyes and hearts, obeying the Spirit's direction and guidance in using our gifts to share the Gospel and grow in our relationship and faith in Jesus. For through our faithfulness we get to experience the love, confidence, peace and joy that only comes from Your work in and through us. We pray these things in Jesus loving name, Amen.