

Campus Church of Christ Jail Ministry

Lesson #5, "God's Faithfulness and Love"

Lesson focus

- God's faithfulness never fails no matter what!
- God's love for us is higher and wider and deeper than anything we can possibly imagine.
- God gives every bit of His great love to us, for free, no strings attached! All we have to do is accept the gift – Jesus Christ.

God's Faithfulness

Can you think of a time when you put your faith and trust in someone or something that that turned out to be neither faithful nor trustworthy? What did that do to your faith and trust?

How can we know that God is faithful?

He has shown His faithfulness . . .

1. Through His _____
Psalm 119: 90
2. Through His _____, _____, and _____.
Some examples are _____

Deuteronomy 7:9 .
Hebrews 10:23
3. Through the gift of _____
John 14:15-18
Acts 3:38
4. Through the reliability and truth of _____ through all the generations.
John 17:17
Deuteronomy 7:9 (see #2 above)
5. Through _____
Revelation 19:11
6. Through His shaping of our lives
 - a. When we are weak and when we are tempted, God is faithful to give us the _____ we need to overcome.
2 Corinthians 12: 9-10
1 Corinthians 10:13

b. Even when we _____, if we ask His _____, God is still faithful to us and will _____.

1 John 1:9

c. Even when we completely fail, even if we turn away from Him, God is still _____ to us.

2 Timothy 2: 11-13

If you turn your back on God and walk away, He will still be there **faithfully** waiting for you on the day you change your mind!

How can we let go of sins that God has been faithful to forgive?

1. Put your past behind you and move on. When our sins have been washed away by Christ's cleansing blood, they are gone. Completely! Forever! Period! We are free!
2. Let your changed life be a testimony to those who would bring up your past that you are no longer the same person. Let the evidence speak for itself by the way that you are now living your life in Christ.
3. Live for today (no looking back) and place your hope for the future in the One who is faithful and will never let you down.
4. Tell others about what God has done for you. Once you believe and accept that God has truly been faithful to forgive your sins, the weight of sin that is lifted from your heart and soul is so wonderful that you can't help but praise God and share the joy!

Psalm 96:1-3

God's Love

What does every human being need and seek, often in all the wrong ways and in all the wrong places? _____

How is God's love different from human love? _____

The nature of God's love and how He reveals Himself to us

1. We are made in the image of _____ and He made everything else because of and for us. (Genesis 1)
2. God _____ for all of us.
Matthew 5:44-45
Acts 17:24-27
3. God desires only the _____ for us.
Jeremiah 29:11
James 1:17

4. God is there for us; He wants a _____ with us.
John 13:12-15
5. God identifies with us on an _____ level.
John 11:33-36
6. We give God pleasure because of who we are, not because of anything that we do. His love is unconditional. We cannot _____ it; we do not _____ it; He gives it freely to all.
Romans 5:8
7. God disciplines us when we are _____ just as all loving parents, out of love and concern for what is best for their child, correct the misbehaviors. Through discipline, God demonstrates that He cares about what we are doing and that He wants the best for us and wants us to be the best that He created us to be.
Hebrews 12:5-11

In an even more significant way, God has revealed Himself and shown His unfathomable love for us . . .

1. through the gift of the _____, whose job, in part, is to reveal _____ to us, including His love, as well as to give us _____ while we live in this world.
Romans 5:5
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:26
2. through _____. Holy God put on flesh and came to live with sinful people in a sin-filled world for the specific purpose of "seeking and saving the lost."
Luke 19:10

God's ultimate expression of love came in the person of _____ who is the exact representation and fullness of God.

Hebrews 1:3
Colossians 1:19

- Because of His human form, we are able to see all of God's attributes, including His love. Jesus modeled it for us in every aspect of His life. **John 14:9-12**
- Jesus' teachings reveal God's love and how God is desperately seeking what is precious to Him, which is us! Read the parables of *the lost sheep*, *the lost coin*, and *the lost son* in **Luke 15**.
- On the cross, Jesus demonstrated the magnitude of God's love for us. **John 3:16** (**Make it personal**: replace "the world" with "me" or your name and say the verse.)

Romans 5:8

Once you have decided that you want to accept God's love and receive the gift of His saving grace and mercy, what must you do?

1. Get to know God enough to **believe** and trust in Him, to understand that He loves you, and that Jesus is His Son who came to Earth to save you. You can do this by
 - _____ God's Word, the Bible.
John 20: (NIV)
 - _____ to God for understanding.
Ephesians 3:14-19 (modified prayer at end of lesson)
 - refusing the cheap substitutes that _____ tempts you with in the world.
1 John 2:15-16
2. Surrender your will to God and _____ away from your sinful life. Begin living the way _____ wants you to live.
Acts 3:19
3. Openly _____ Christ as your Savior and demonstrate your changed life and obedience to His will through _____ to be saved.
Acts 2:38
4. Give away the _____ that you have received.
1 John 3:16-18

Prayer (a modified form of Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19)

Dear Father, creator of heaven and earth, I bow before you in the name of Jesus Christ and because of what He has done for me. Through Him, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, please strengthen my spirit and help my faith grow so that I will allow Christ to be more and more at home in my heart. Help me to stand firmly and to be deeply rooted in your love. As much as possible, please help me to understand with all Christians just how high, how wide, and how deep your love truly is. Fill my life with all that you are, Lord. Amen

Song Lyrics:

"How Great Is Your Love"

by Mark Altrogge

Verse 1

No eye has see and no ear has heard,
and no mind has ever conceived
the glorious things that you have prepared
for ev'ryone who has believed.
You brought us near and You called us Your own
and made us joint heirs with your Son.

Verse 2

Objects of mercy, who should have known wrath,
we're filled with unspeakable joy,
Riches of wisdom, unsearchable wealth,
and the wonder of knowing Your voice.

