



The
FAITHFULNESS
of God

SESSION 8



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance. Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in the **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Faithfulness of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

1. We all depend on something or someone to “hold us up” on the inside – this is our hope. When that thing or person is “coming through” for us, we experience a sense of optimism about the future. When our hope is disappointed, when we are “let down,” we experience a sense of anxiety, dissatisfaction, and ultimately, despair. Hope is the oxygen of the soul.

*Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, ... without hope and without God in the world.
(Ephesians 2:12 NIV)*

2. We can put our hope in God because His actions and words are consistent. There is one thing God cannot do. He cannot cease to be what He is – the perfect God. We can always trust God, no matter what, because He will never let us down. The world will fail us. It will devastate us when it breaks its promises, but God is faithful.

The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. (Psalm 145:13 NIV)

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV)

So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. (Hebrews 6:18 NIV)

3. We can trust God's Word, the Bible, because God is faithful.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-12 NIV)

4. We can trust God to be faithful when we face difficult struggles. When we put our hope in Him, He provides a way out.

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV)



Big Idea:

**GOD NEVER BREAKS
HIS PROMISES.**

Every relationship is built on trust. You trust the pilot to fly the plane, so you get on board. You trust the bank to protect your money, so that's where you deposit your paycheck. The world promises a lot more than it actually delivers. The truth is that God has been making promises since the beginning of time, and He has kept every one of them. God is faithful. We can trust in Him because He never breaks His promises.



Key Verse:

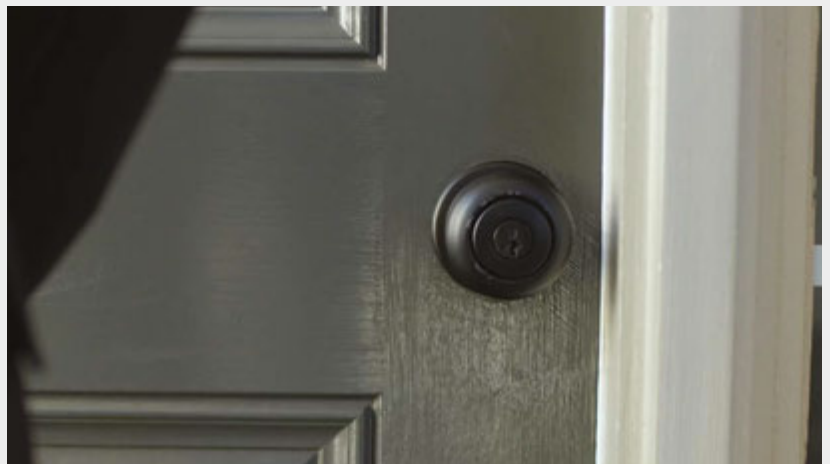
PSALM 33:4 (NIV)

For the word of the Lord is right and true;
He is faithful in all He does.

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



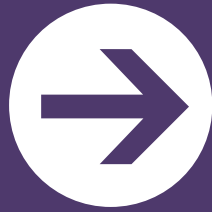
EXPLODING PROMISES



Talk

Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- What did you like most about the video?
- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- Would you trust anything Jack Thomas had to say? Why or why not?
- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- Why do you think it is important that God is faithful?
- Jack Thomas was not faithful to His promises. How do you feel when a person breaks a promise to you?
- What are some things a person can do to build trust with a friend?
- God promises to never break one of His promises. Can you think of another promise God has made?
- There are four practical ways we can trust in God's faithfulness. Which one do you think you might be able to do this week?
 - (1) Put your past behind you by saying sorry to God.
 - (2) Bring your problems, pain, and mistakes to God.
 - (3) Put your hope for the future in God rather than the world.
 - (4) Share with someone about God's faithfulness in your life.



Do

Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

Print the **"TAKEAWAY"** sheet (included in this guide) and put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.

Morning Questions (at breakfast or on the ride to school)
(pick one for each morning):

- What are you facing today that will give you a chance to trust God?
- What is something you can do today to build trust with someone?

Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time
(pick one for each evening):

- Did anything happen today that reminded you of one of God's promises? If so, what was it?
- Did you take the effort to build trust with someone? What did you do?

Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of God's faithfulness and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: For you personally, what is one of God's promises that is especially powerful for you? Who's the most faithful person you know? How did they keep your trust? Describe a time when someone broke his or her promise to you.

The Promises of God. Print out one worksheet (on page 71) for everyone in your family.. Have each person read one promise and scripture until they are all read. ASK: Which promise is your favorite, or means the most to you right now?



If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:

- God never breaks his promises.
- “For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.” (Psalm 33:4 NIV)
- I love being your DAD/MOM! I’m not perfect like God, but I’m going to do everything possible to always be someone you can trust!
- Text me back: what’s one promise that God has made?
- Be the kind of friend you’d like to have – build trust by being faithful to your commitments!
When we do this, we treat others just like God treats us!



Takeaway

Print this out, put it in a place where your family can read it once or twice a day.



FAITHFUL

God never breaks His promises.

“For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.”

(Psalm 33:4 NIV)



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Seven PROMISES OF GOD

In this study, we have looked at seven characteristics about God. These aren't just interesting facts, these are promises we can trust, no matter what happens in our lives. Which of these promises means the most to you right now?

1. GOOD:

God is good, all the time.

"The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation." (Psalm 145:9 NLT)

2. SOVEREIGN:

God knows everything and is in complete control.

"He (God) existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together." (Colossians 1:17 NLT)

3. HOLY:

God is high and holy, set apart from His creation in every way.

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below." (1 Kings 8:23 NIV)

4. WISE:

God's perfect knowledge always leads to the best decisions.

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! (Romans 11:33 NLT)

5. JUST:

God is always fair, even when life isn't.

Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge. (Psalm 50:6 NLT)

6. LOVING:

God's love will always find us.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10 NIV)

7. FAITHFUL:

God never breaks His promises.

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. (Psalm 33:4 NIV)

Acknowledgments

Any project like this Family Devotional requires many dedicated hands to successfully complete it. Living on the Edge would like to thank the following people for the many hours they put into this tool for parents.



Jim Burns played the pivotal role of inspiring the idea for a family devotional and formulated the original content of this resource.

Every family with children at home should read his book, *Faith Conversations for Families*.



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Brian Bird, veteran screenwriter extraordinaire, Bill Daily for providing general counsel and guidance on the entire project, and Matt McGill, for fine-tuning and shaping the final form of the devotional.



**WE WOULD
LOVE TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

We encourage you to send us your feedback:

- Please send us your stories of how these faith conversations impacted your family.
- How did this resource work in your family?
- What creative ideas did you use? Did you come up with any on your own?
- What worked really well, and what could we improve?

Send your feedback to:

EMAIL: info@livingontheedge.org

ONLINE: LivingontheEdge.org/MyStory

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