



Introduction

We're in a five-week series titled *Fresh Fruit*, and looking at the "fruits of the Spirit" mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. Our big takeaway in this series is about how we can bring incredible things into the world in 2021 when we're in connection with God.

So that we can tackle all of the "fruits" listed in this passage, the preaching team and the group curriculum will alternate topics (see calendar listed at the end). This week, we're exploring the topic of faithfulness.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. What's one thing that comes to your mind when you think of "faithfulness"?

Hear God's Story

1. According to Galatians 5:22, one of the "fruits of the Spirit" is growing in a spirit of faithfulness. To help us understand what this is, let's take a look at how God's faithfulness is described in Scripture. Read the following verses, then answer: What does all of this tell us about the faithfulness of God?
Numbers 23:19; Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalm 31:3-5; 1 John 1:7-10
2. What's one way you've used the reminder of God's faithfulness to get through a difficult time or situation?
3. Let's now see how Scripture links faithfulness with community. Read the following verses, then answer: What can we learn about modeling faithfulness in these verses?
Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:18-26; Ephesians 4:11-16
4. In a world where so many just focus on our outward conduct, God looks further and sees our heart. Read the following verses, then answer: How can we better make sure our faithfulness in community comes from pure motives that please God?
Proverbs 16:2; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 1:12
5. When seeing God through the lens of what we've been talking about, what challenges you the most about all of this?

Create a New Story

6. What's one practical action step you're going to take this week to live out this lesson?

Further Studies: Reproducing the Portrait

Let's take a brief overview of the definition of faithfulness both in the New Testament and a dictionary from today, then contemplate the bigger picture:

NEW TESTAMENT: The ancient Greek word used for *faithfulness* in the New Testament is the noun "pistis" (πίστις), which has both an active and a passive sense or use. First, in its active use, it often refers to "faith, belief, or trust." But in the passive sense, it means "faithfulness, reliability, fidelity." It is used for the "faithfulness" of God, of Christ, and of humanity.

DICTIONARY: "Faithful" as defined by the American Heritage Dictionary:

"Adhering firmly and devotedly, as to a person, cause, or idea; loyal. Responsible; conscientious: *The faithful discharge of his duties.* Dependable; reliable: *The faithful engine started right up.* Consistent with truth or actuality: *A faithful reproduction of the portrait.*"

DISCUSS

1. Look at that last line from the dictionary: "A faithful reproduction of the portrait." How does this line up with us modeling the faithfulness of God among each other?
2. What's the correlation between our own faith and trust in God, and modeling His faithfulness in our lives?
3. How would you simplify all we've talked about here into 1-2 sentences?
3. What's your big takeaway from what we've talked about that challenges you most?

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

Calendar for Current Series

#1: Week of 01/03	Sermon: Love	Life Groups: Love
#2: Week of 01/10	Sermon: Joy	Life Groups: Peace
#3: Week of 01/17	Sermon: Kindness	Life Groups: Goodness
#4: Week of 01/24	Sermon: Patience	Life Groups: Faithfulness
#5: Week of 01/31	Sermon: Self-Control	Life Groups: Gentleness

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com