



## Explore

### Look up and read your memory verse, Colossians 1:10, in your Bible.

Let's discover what it means to be faithful. As you learn about God, you will start to trust, obey, and love Him more and more. You will be faithful and walk in a manner that is worthy of God.

When you play follow the leader, you have to know who the leader is and what he or she is doing. When you are being faithful, you are not just following any leader, you are following God.

### Look up and read the verses below. Underline the things you are commanded to do. Circle the things that God will do if you are faithful.

#### Psalm 37:3-6

Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

When we follow God, we're being faithful to Him. We're saying He is trustworthy because He is God.

God wants you to trust Him with all of your heart and with everything that happens in your life.

When we acknowledge (know and recognize) God in our lives, we show trust and have faith.

### Look up and read 2 Chronicles 31:20-21 in your Bible.

Was Hezekiah faithful to God? Circle one.    YES    NO

Hezekiah was a king that did everything for God with his whole heart, even when it was hard. He was faithful, and God was with him and made him a successful king.

There will be good and bad days. If we remember who God is and what He has done, it will help us be faithful and trust God. Being faithful is a daily choice to know and follow Jesus. You can't follow or be faithful to someone you don't know!

How do you need to be more faithful to God?

#### DEFINITIONS

**FAITHFUL** — to follow and trust God, regardless of circumstances

**FRUIT** — attitudes and good works that come from a growing relationship with God

### Discussion Questions

These questions are just a few that your small group will talk about. Think about your responses to the following questions.

1. What does it mean for someone to be faithful?
2. How can you grow in your faithfulness to God?



## Explore

### Look up and read your memory verse, 1 Timothy 6:11, in your Bible.

Let's discover how God gives us grace to have gentleness and self-control.

Have you ever played the game tag? When you play tag, there is someone who is "It." "It" runs around chasing the other players. When "It" tags another player, he or she becomes "It." When you are "It," you run and try with all of your might to tag someone.

Your memory verse is telling us that we should pursue (run hard after) six things and make them our goal. What are those things? The first three are done for you.

1. Righteousness
2. Godliness
3. Faith
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Let's take a minute to understand "gentleness." Gentleness, or meekness, is not weakness. It doesn't mean that you let people treat you however they want. It is "power under control." It is a humble and gentle attitude that doesn't seek revenge.

What do we mean when we say "self-control"? Having self-control means denying what our sinful nature may want to do. It is choosing to walk in a manner worthy of God instead of making a choice based on how you feel. What would that look like?

### Look up and read Luke 23:34 in your Bible.

What did Jesus pray when he was hanging on the cross?

" \_\_\_\_\_, for they know not what they do."

Jesus had been beaten, put on trial, made fun of, and nailed to a cross. He had every right to be angry and to react badly. But He is God and is our best example of gentleness and self-control. Instead of reacting, He forgave.

### Look up and read about a man named Stephen in Acts 7:57-60.

What did Stephen pray in verse 60?

Lord, do not hold this \_\_\_\_\_ against them.

Stephen was being stoned to death. Instead of shouting back at his attackers, he prayed that God would forgive them. That kind of gentleness and self-control can only come from God and His grace.

When someone makes you angry, how does God want you to react?

God will help you to have gentleness and self-control as you grow in your relationship with Him. This is a way you can love others with God's love!

### DEFINITIONS

**GENTLENESS OR MEEKNESS** — power under control

**PURSUE** — follow hard after something

**SELF-CONTROL** — restraining sinful passions and desires

## Discussion Questions

These questions are just a few that your small group will talk about. Think about your responses to the following questions.

1. Why is it important to be gentle and self-controlled? What does it look like?
2. What parts of your life could use more gentleness or more self-control?