

Discussion Guide

questions to help start or continue conversations about faith

Discussion Guides accompany the weekly message.

"Any day spent with you, is my favorite day."

—Winnie the Pooh

Who is the most faithful person you know? How do you feel when you are with him or her?

God is faithful – to Israel, to His people, and to White River Christian Church. Before we look forward, let us first pause and thank God for His faithfulness. When we know where we come from, we can be confident in where we are going.

God demonstrates His faithfulness to us in every circumstance of life. "For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all He does." (Psalm 33:4) Though the circumstances of life are always changing, God does not change. He is always faithful.

Observation (obs) - look at the text

Interpretation (int) - Understand what it means

Application (app) - Apply the Word of God to life

Read Exodus 13:17-22 & Deuteronomy 29:2-6

- How was God faithful to Israel? (obs)
- "God did not lead them along the main road...even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land." Is God still faithful when He does things that don't make sense from our perspective? (int)
- Has God led you on a path that was the "long way" in your life? When you look back, do you see His faithfulness in the journey? (app)

Read Revelation 3:7-22

- How does God show His faithfulness to the church of Philadelphia? (obs & int)

- How did the church of Philadelphia respond to God's faithfulness (v.8)? (obs)
- How does God show His faithfulness to the church of Laodicea? (obs & int)
- What is the Lord faithfully doing in Revelation 3:20? (obs)
- What does God call the people of Laodicea to do in Revelation 3:20-22? (obs)
- If Jesus wrote a letter to White River Christian Church, would it read more like the letter to Philadelphia or Laodicea? Why? (app)
- If Jesus wrote a letter to you personally, would it read more like the letter to Philadelphia or Laodicea? Why? (app)
- Have you closed your heart, or even part of your heart, to the LORD? What steps should you take to open it to the LORD? (app)

Read Isaiah 63:7-17

- Isaiah 63 speaks of the LORDS's faithfulness, even when the people of Israel were not faithful. What is the response to the LORD's faithfulness in verse 7? (obs)
- When you consider God's faithfulness, how do you respond? (app)

Read Matthew 5:14-30 & 1 Peter 4:10-11

- What was said to the servants who put to work the gifts they had been given? (obs)
- What was said to the servant who hid the gift he had been given? (obs)
- What does God desire from each of us according to His great faithfulness? (int)
- 1 Peter 4 teaches God has given each of us gifts. As you read Matthew 5, what is our right response to His faithfulness? (int)
- Take time in the coming week to pray about the way forward. Ask the LORD to open your heart to understand the gifts He has given you. And ask Him to work in and through you "with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ."