God Is Faithful — Special Focus Session — EXTRA! Ideas for Adults  
Date: April 1, 2018  
God Is Faithful  
The Point: The empty tomb points to the faithfulness of God.

Get Into the Study

*Use this story to introduce the session*

When Douglas Tompkins started buying large swaths of land in Patagonia in 1991, many people questioned his motives. Then, in 2015, he and his wife Kristine offered to donate over one million acres of their preserved land if the Chilean government contributed additional land and created a Patagonia national park network. Nonetheless, many Chileans remained skeptical. One million acres of restored land to be given away for the sake of preservation seemed impossible. Why would anyone do that? Douglas Tompkins, who founded North Face and Esprit clothing companies died later in 2015, but his wife Kristine continued the plan for a large Patagonia park system. In January 2018, Kristine was faithful to her and her husband’s commitment. She donated over one million acres, which was combined with nine million acres from the Chilean government, expanding Chile’s parkland by 40 percent. Unfortunately, humans are not always promise-keepers. And it will remain to be seen what future generations do with the land.

There were many in Jesus’ time who doubted who he was, and there are many today who doubt who Jesus is. Skeptics doubt if God can be trusted to do what He says. But we know that God is faithful. God always keeps His promises. We know Jesus rose from the dead and the empty tomb points to the faithfulness of God.

*Nikki Wilbanks* is a stay-at-home mom, writer, Bible study leader, and commercial real estate appraiser/investor. She graduated from Pepperdine University, and lives with her husband and two children in Murfreesboro, TN.

Live It Out

*Use the following story to conclude this session.*

The New York Times recently ran a profile of Erik Hagerman, titled “The Man Who Knew Too Little.” The profile tells of Hagerman, a former executive at Nike, who decided to take a break from all news about America after the presidential election in 2016. The experiment, which Hagerman titled the Blockade, was originally planned to be a short-term break from news, but has continued on for almost a year and a half now. Hagerman doesn’t read the news, doesn’t listen to news on the radio, doesn’t even watch television, except basketball games on mute. He has strict rules for what he is willing to talk about with friends, and often listens to white-noise on headphones when out in public. This may sound extreme and unnecessary, or maybe it sounds like a welcome break. However, this isn’t something that most of us can employ.

As we come across local, national, and world news that scares us, angers us, or makes us want to run and hide, how can we as Christians respond? We can strive for a first response of faith rather than doubt and fear. We know that God is in control, so we can respond with trust. God has made the impossible possible. As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, we are reminded that the empty tomb points to the faithfulness of God.

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**Additional Questions**

**Icebreaker**
- When did the Resurrection become more than just the Easter Bunny and candy to you?
- How is faithfulness treated in our culture?
- Who do you know whose “word is their bond”?

**Luke 24:1-3**
- How does the resurrection demonstrate that God makes the impossible possible?
- How do you think you would’ve reacted if you were in these women’s shoes?
- What “impossible” things has God done for you in your life?

**Luke 24:4-8**
- How do these verses reinforce that God always does what He says?
- How did Jesus’ resurrection confirm God’s faithfulness to keep His promises?
- What theories have you heard trying to disprove the resurrection of Jesus?

**Luke 24:9-12**
- How did the resurrection affect the lives of the women, the apostles, and others in the weeks and years to come?
- God specializes in resurrecting what is dead. Where do you need to see God’s resurrection power today?
- What are the implications of the empty tomb in today’s world?