

SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: GOD'S LOVE IS FAITHFUL



WORD OF WONDER:

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my
mother's womb. I praise you
because I am fearfully and
wonderfully made; your works are
wonderful, I know that full well.
- Psalm 139:13-14

GOD'S BIG STORY:

God's Love
Endures Forever
(Psalm 103:8,
136:1-9, 11-14, 26)

POST-LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

- The author who wrote Psalm 136 said God is good. How do you see God's goodness?
- The writers of Psalm 103 and 136 described many ways that God is strong, powerful, and loving. Which verse from those we read today stands out to you? (Look back at Psalm 103:8 and Psalm 136:1-9, 11-14, 26 with the kids.)
- Do you think of God as kind? Why or why not?
- Sometimes God shows us His love through other people. Who has shown God's love to you? How did they do it?
- David wrote Psalm 103 to share that God is loving and wonderful. What does it look like to reflect God's love at school? At home?

Welcome Question

- Ahead of time, create a sign that reads, "Faithfulness Wall." Encourage kids to draw a picture of a faithful person or thing they can always depend on, then tape their pictures to the wall near your "Faithfulness Wall" sign.
- **Who or what can you always depend on?**
- **When a person or thing is faithful, we know we can count that person or thing every time. Today we'll discover something that certainly belongs on our Faithfulness Wall.**

Curiosity Questions

- **How do you know you can depend on a person or thing? What do they do that shows you they are faithful?**
- **Would you describe God as faithful? Why or why not?**

Curiosity Activity: What Goes Up!

- Give one clean, rolled-up sock to each kid.
- **If part of being faithful is always showing up and being constant, we can consider gravity faithful. Or can we? Let's do an experiment to see if gravity should be listed on our Faithfulness Wall.**
- Tell kids that they'll be seeing if gravity is doing its job in your room. Ask kids to spread out and then, at your direction, toss their socks in the air in a variety of ways. After each experiment, kids will pick up their socks and get ready for the next test. Ways to launch socks skyward could include throwing a sock and catching it with both hands/left hand only/right hand only, catching socks behind their backs, doing three jumping jacks before catching their socks, and tossing their socks and then catching them from a seated position.
- Wrap up the game by having kids toss their socks high and catch a different sock than they tossed.
- Collect all socks, gather kids, and continue. **Here, at least, gravity seems to be faithful and always constant. Gravity is a force that pulls things down. Because of gravity, what went up came down. But is there somewhere gravity can't be counted on to bring our socks back down? Allow kids to share their ideas. Many kids may say, "outer space." The bigger something is—like the earth—the stronger the pull of gravity. So maybe we can't count on gravity being faithful everywhere! But good news: God's love is faithful— everywhere. You can count on God's love—always!**
- Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD'S LOVE IS FAITHFUL**.

Word of Wonder Activity

- **In the Word of Wonder for the Wonderfully Made series, David—who was a shepherd, king, and poet—talks about the amazing way God created each one of us! Let's say the verse together. Open your Bible to [Psalm 139:13–14](#). Read [Psalm 139:13–14](#) together.**
- Invite your small group to create movements, or choreography, for the various phrases in today's Word of Wonder. Movement and emotion help cement memory—this activity helps kids to do both!
- Start by reading [Psalm 139:13–14](#) aloud three times. Then work on the movements and rehearse them at least eight times. Kids will do movements as you read the passage, so they don't need to learn the words, just the movements. (Don't worry: The movements will help kids learn the Word of Wonder and make it stick!)
- After each small group has the movements nailed, invite them to team up with another small group and compare how each group put the words to memorable movements and how their faces show emotion. If all the kids in your ministry are together in one group, invite them to share their movements with the leaders.

Responding in Worship: Faithfulness Wall

- Gather the kids together near the Faithfulness Wall (from Curiosity). Invite two confident readers to be your readers later in this experience. Distribute paper and pencils. **God’s love is both faithful and forever. That means He loves you today, not just in the past or some distant future. And that He will continue to love you forever, no matter what! How do you see God’s love expressed to you? Let’s take time to sketch our answers to that question. When your sketches are finished, you’ll tape them onto the Faithfulness Wall directly over the sketch you made earlier. This will symbolize that nothing and no one, no matter how wonderful and dependable they are, is more faithful than God and His love for us.**
- Give kids time to draw their answers to the question, “How do you see God’s love expressed to you?” Consider writing the question on the whiteboard for kids to reference. If needed, get kids started with a few ideas. For example, they might see God’s love expressed to them through creation—a beautiful sunset or a giant tree, through the love and care of a friend or family member, or through God’s words in the Bible.
- As kids finish their sketches, they can come to the Faithfulness Wall and tape it over their previous sketches, which showed someone or something they can always depend on. Keep control of the tape— only a little is needed per sketch. Having strips already torn and at the ready will speed things up.
- When kids have completed their art and taped it to the Faithfulness Wall, gather them in front of the wall and ask your two readers to read aloud the first half of each verse in Psalm 136:1–9, 11–14, 26. Ask all kids to repeat together the responsive refrain, **“His faithful love continues forever,”** after each verse. Lead the refrains yourself. When done, read aloud Psalm 103:8 and then lead kids in prayer:
- **God, Your love is faithful. You’re faithful—in all ways, at all times, to all people. Thank You for letting us count on You without fail. We want to love You like You love us, with our whole hearts. Hear us as we silently tell You what we love about You.**
- Pause 15 seconds for kids to pray silently, telling God what they love about Him.
- **Sharpen our awareness of You in our lives, God. Help us see You as You work in and through us. Be with us as we look to be with You someday in heaven. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

SMALL GROUP PRAYER

A sad truth is that some of what people consider “love” is temporary. Some people claim to love us only if we’re doing the right things, saying the right things, or helping them somehow. But God’s love is faithful—it’s part of who God is, and it doesn’t depend on what we say or do. Let’s talk with God in prayer and thank Him for His unconditional love.

Invite kids to go to the Faithfulness Wall (from Curiosity) and to place a hand on their drawing. Ask kids to thank God for what they drew, but to also praise God for being greater and far more faithful. Then invite kids to form pairs and pray for one another’s coming week.