

WITNESS – Reaching out to others
(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)

Giving Thanks to God

Spend time thanking God for his faithfulness to you in the past. Praise Him for His present involvement in your life.

Praying for one another

Where would like to show more faithfulness, in your relationship with God? Or in a human relationship? Pray in groups of 2 or 3.

Praying for our community

How would Hungerford be different if everyone was faithful all of the time? Pray that this will be reflected in our community.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

7

2 Chronicles 20:1–30

7 Faithfulness

Purpose: To gain a fresh awareness of God's faithfulness and how we can develop this fruit in our lives.

Faithfulness in Galatians 5:22 means to be trustworthy or reliable. Because God is faithful, his Spirit desires this quality in his children.

WELCOME – Breaking the ice
(Aim for 10 minutes)

What would you like written on your tomb stone?

WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord
(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)

Pause:-

- * Make yourself comfortable,
- * seek to relax any parts of your body that are carrying stress,
- * breathe in and out slowly, breathing in God's love and breathing out anything that is not of God,
- * repeat a prayer phrase like, "Thank you, Jesus" or "My God, my all" or "Jesus, Son of God have mercy on me a sinner".

Rejoice:- Listen to a song or read a psalm

Ask:- Ask God to speak to you as you study his word

Yield:- Surrender to God acknowledging that He is God and you are not and pray that you will put into practice what you believe He is saying to you as you study His word.

WORD – Applying the truth

(Aim for 40 – 45 minutes)

Our society is becoming increasingly self-centered. People quickly discard spouses, friends and promises if they outlive their usefulness.

Faithfulness applies to only one person—*me!* But when the Spirit develops this fruit in our lives, the results are quite different.

Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, learned about faithfulness the hard way.

He began his reign by faithfully obeying God's commands (2 Chron 17:3–9). But he entered into a military alliance with Ahab, king of Israel, against God's will. The results were disastrous and God was displeased. No wonder Jehoshaphat was anxious when invading armies approached his kingdom! In his desperation, he cried out to God.

God's answer, recorded in this passage, is an amazing illustration of faithfulness.

1. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1–30. Use your imagination to fill in the details of verses 3–5 and verse 13. Now describe what you see (the setting, the mood, the people and so on).

2. Examine Jehoshaphat's prayer (vv. 6–12). On what bases does he appeal to God for help?

3. How would Jehoshaphat's view of God encourage him and the people to trust God in this crisis?

4. Think about those areas of your life that are hard to hand over to God. How can God's power and his faithfulness in the past encourage you to trust him in these areas?

5. Now consider God's response to Jehoshaphat's prayer (vv. 14–17). How would the prophet's words have required faith from the people?

6. What evidence is there that they believed his message (vv. 18–21)?

7. Do you ever praise God right in the middle of a problem—*before* the answer comes? Explain why or why not.

8. How would you have felt as you “came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army” (v. 24)?

9. Describe the effects God's faithfulness had on the people (vv. 25–30)

10. What can we learn about faithfulness from the example of Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah in this passage?

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