Faithfulness

Lesson Introduction

The world is full of untold stories of the *faithfulness* of one person to another. Perhaps the *faithful* love of a father to his children. Or the *faithful* love of a wife to her husband. The faithfulness of a child to their aging parents.

God has created us all in His image. His name is **Faithful** and True. Anyone who follows and becomes like Jesus will find that *faithfulness* is a fruit that must grow in our lives. Without *faithfulness*, a Christian's life would be like a rose bush never producing a rose. When that happens the rose bush is more accurately named a thorn bush. The churches are filled with thorn bushes. Let's be careful to grow in Christ and so become *faithful* like Him. Another name for Jesus is, "The Rose of Sharon." Descriptive words for our wonderful God.

When a tomb stone is written the dates have a - (dash) between one's birth date and the date of one's death. Remember it is not the birth date nor the day of death that is as important as the **dash** in between. What you have done during the dash of your life is what will matter for eternity. Let's be **faithful** to pass this important message on to the children.

Flash Point

Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.

LESSON EIGHTEEN

Memory Verse

I saw heaven open, and there was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True.
Revelation 19:11

Flash Point
Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.

PREPARATION LIST

Prepare all songs and story pictures. Trace and color the songs and pictures onto transparencies or larger pieces of paper. If any items are not available, attempt to locate acceptable substitutions.

Welcome: Mad Scientist (MS) costume
National Anthem: National flag
Game #1: Stick, magnet, paperclips
Game #2: String, paperclips
Special Emphasis:
Offering: Containers for offering
Announcements: Flyers for next meeting
Lesson Introduction: Posterboard
Memory Verse: Transparency or posterboard
Bible Story: Gold ring, cross on a necklace
Object Lesson #1: Iron, cloth
Object Lesson #2: Ring, 2 straws, cola
Object Lesson #3: Party pass, extra pens
Object Lesson #4: Party passes, disguise

Kids Club Rally

Welcome:
KIDS Rules
Prayer _____
National Anthem _____
Theme Song _____
Praise Songs _____
Review Questions #1 _____
Game #1 Let's Go Fishing
Review Questions #2 _____
Game #2 It Takes 2
Special Emphasis
Offering _____

Worship _____
Special Ministry _____
Announcements _____
Lesson Introduction Everyone...
Flash Point: Faithfulness: Never...
Memory Verse Revelation 19:11
Bible Story Engaged To God
Object lesson #1 Iron On
Object lesson #2 With This Ring
Object lesson #3 His Party Pass
Object lesson #4 Can't Go In
Story Time Once Was Enough
Ending Prayer

FAITHFULNESS

Welcome

Props: Mad Scientist (MS) costume. Chair.
Preparation: Dress a volunteer to look like a mad scientist. (Be creative.)
Leader: Enters with a volunteer. Blindfold the volunteer. Tell them that you want them to follow your directions. Explain that you will be faithful to look after them and not allow them to be hurt. Give the volunteer directions to walk in different directions all with their blindfold on. Then place a chair behind them and ask them to trust you by placing their hands on their head and sitting down. The volunteer is to carefully sit down. Take off the blind fold. Ask, "Was I faithful to not let you be hurt?" The answer is, "Yes."
Being faithful means that you will do what you say you will do. Jesus wants us to be faithful.
Mad Scientist: Interrupts, coming out announcing to the leader. I'm faithful! Look, I've been here every week. Here let me do that. **MS** takes the blindfold and puts it on the leader. Here let me do this for you. He places the blindfold the leader. Then he tells the leader to follow his directions. **Leader:** I'm not so sure I should but I guess I'll to play along. **MS:** gives the leader directions to walk, causing him to walk into the wall. Lastly he tells the leader to put his hands on his head while he puts a chair behind for him to sit on. You can sit down now. **Leader:** Hands on his head. OK. Shall I sit down now? **MS:** Puts the chair too far behind the leader for him to sit on, and answers, "Yes, you can sit down now!" **Leader:** Instead of sitting takes off the blindfold and looks where the chair is. To the MS he says, "You weren't faithful at all." After you made me walk into the wall I knew I couldn't trust you. I think it's time for you to go. **MS:** Exits laughing saying, "I was just joking! (Laughing).
Leader: Being faithful is very important. If you say you will do something, then you will do it or you will make sure that you explain why you can't. If you have friends and they have you do things that can hurt you or others then you need to not follow them. Even if they say they are only joking. The best leaders are faithful leaders.

Kids Rules
Opening Prayer

Select a child to pray. (Alternate with different children from week to week).

Suggested prayer: Dear Jesus, Please help us to have fun while we learn about being faithful, like you are. Please help us all to be generous, patient and tenderhearted, and faithful with each other as we learn to obey you. (If there is a special need represented in your group, include it in the prayer). Thank you Jesus. Amen.

National Anthem
Praise Songs
Review Questions

1. What was last weeks Flash Point? Tenderhearted with an open hand not a fist!
2. Finish the Flash Point: Patience: Hard 2 find. Important 2 have.
3. Last weeks Memory Verse. Be kind and tenderhearted to each other. Forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ. Ephesians 4:32
4. Finish the Flash Point: Character: It's not there. It's not there. It's there!

Game #1
Let's Go Fishing

Props: Stick, magnet, paperclips, paper, bucket.
Preparation: Write out eight prizes on eight pieces of paper. Be creative.
Participants: Recommend eight players. All ages may play. If the small children do not normally have the chance to play, this is a good time for them. Make up eight fish with a metal paper clip attached. Inside the fish place the name of a prize. Make sure the prize item cannot be read until it is opened.
Game Rules: Each player is given a chance to go fishing. A gag gift such as Dr. Juice.

(Doctor Juice is a box of juice covered with a fake label with fake ingredients adds to the fun.) If you can, have at least one extra special prize such as a free icecream bar or a trip to McDonald's. Allow only one fish per contestant. Give each child playing a chance to fish. After each successful catch, announce what the child won.

Review Questions

1. Finish the Flash Point: Generosity... gives us velocity to grow and go.
2. What is velocity? Means quick or fast.
3. Flash Point: Character... with actions.
4. Memory verse, I Cor. 15:33. Do not be fooled: Bad company corrupts good character.

Game #2
It Takes 2

Props: String, paper clips, candy with hole in it, bread.
Preparation: Cut two pieces of string about two feet long. Thread a paper clip on to the string and make it so that it can hook into the round candies. Push the candies with the center holes, into the bread so that they stand on end and can be hooked by the paper clips.
Players: Four players.
Playing: Pair the contestants into two groups. Tell them they are to place one end of the string into their mouths with the paper clip (hook) dangling between them. On the signal to start they will have 30 seconds to hook as many candies as possible, and then drop the candies into the glasses. They are to keep their hands clasp behind their back the entire game. The team with the most candies in their jar is declared the winner.

Offering
Children in Special Ministry
Worship
Announcements

Lesson Introduction
Everyone Has One

Props: Poster board.
Preparation: Prepare a poster board following the clipart above.
Presentation: Place the poster board tombstone around your neck. Point out to the audience that they all have a birth date. So this poster is for them. Everyone who is alive is heading for the day they will have their own tombstone.
Take a vote, ask them what date is most important, their birth date or the day they will die. (Encourage a show of hands.) Some people think that their birth date is the most important day of their lives and in some ways that is true. Other people may feel that the date that they die is very important. That is true. But the most important part of the tombstones date is neither the birth date nor the date of the persons death. The most important part is the dash "--" or line between the two dates. What we do with our lives determines the value of the birth date and the death date.
If you have not followed Jesus the dash between your birth date and funeral will only mean you never will get to go to heaven. How terribly sad. If you have used the dash "--" between the birth date and your funeral to faithfully follow Jesus, you will find that the dash is the most important part of your life. How are you using your dash?
Flash Point: Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.

Quiet Seat Time

Teaching Tip

We are working on making a photo directory of all the children included in our weekly ministry. The purpose; like a shepherd we want to know our sheep.

FAITHFULNESS

Memory Verse

I saw heaven open, and there was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True.
Revelation 19:11

Props: Transparency or poster of today's scripture verse. It can be used as a coloring page for the class or as a take home item.
Preparation: Practice and become familiar with today's memory verse. Use the music provided on the Kids Praise and Worship tape.
Presentation: Godly character, comes from where? (Encourage the audience to reply, "From the heart." Sing today's memory verse.

Flash Point

Review: Practice the previous weeks **Flash**

#1. Character: It's not there. It's not there. It's there!
#2. Patience, hard 2 find. Important 2 have.
#3. Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.
#4. Tenderhearted with an open hand not a fist.
#5. Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.

Points with actions and definitions.
Jesus has been given many names which describe his character. One of His names is Faithful. You should never leave home without taking Jesus with you. Today's **Flash Point: Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.**

Bible Story
Engaged to God
Read Ephesians 1:13-14, 5:25-33

Props: Gold ring, cross on necklace, envelope, matches and candle.
Presentation: Faithfulness is like this ring. (Hold it up). For some a wedding ring does not mean very much. Some men wear their wedding ring when they are with their family or wife. But when they are away from home and see a pretty lady they hide their wedding ring. (Act it out). A man and women who marry, make promises to each other. Often they exchange rings to demonstrate that they have made this vow.
Some people do the same with God. (Put on a necklace with a cross on it). They wear a cross around their neck to show people that they believe in Jesus. As long as they are doing what's right the cross hangs there for all to see. But if they want to do something they know God would not like they will slide the cross around to their back. (Demonstrate). Somehow they think that God will not see them if they place the cross behind them. Some children have a game they play. When they want to tell a lie, they put their fingers behind them and cross their fingers. That way they tell themselves they can lie, because their fingers are crossed. If I told you I would take you to get an ice cream cone, yet I had my fingers crossed behind my back. Would that make you happy? (Encourage a response). No it wouldn't. Crossing your fingers does not make lying OK.
God has done something for you. If you believe in Him, He has placed a special seal or promise in your heart. Take the envelope and candle. Melt a small pool of wax onto the flap. Take the ring and press it into the wax, making an impression of the ring. To everyone who has decided to follow Jesus, (Eph. 1:13-14) God has placed a promise with His imprint. Like the imprint on this envelope. (Hold up the envelope). God's seal is placed deep inside us. The seal is an imprint showing His touch on our life. Even though we can not see it, God's vow or promise towards us, is a guarantee from God. We have an inheritance to be received on the day we go to heaven. God is **faithful** to keep (hold up the ring.) His promises. He will never stop loving you. It is your choice whether you will hold to His promise. If you choose you may throw away what God offers you. (Act out throwing or hiding the ring). **Flash Point: Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.**

Object Lesson #1

Iron On

Ephesians 5:25-27

Props: Iron, cloth.
Preparation: Need a wrinkled cloth.
Presentation: Enter with a wrinkled piece of material and an iron. Lay the material down and act like you are going to press out the wrinkles. As the audience watches (Struggle, with the cloth and cold iron.) It takes **faithful** attention to make our clothes ready to wear, especially if we have a special party we want to go to. Do you like to go to special parties? To go to God's party, (heaven) in wrinkled dirty clothes is not acceptable.
What is wrong with this iron? I'm being **faithful** in ironing, but it's not pressing the material, it's not taking out the wrinkles. (Have the audience respond.) "You do not have the iron plugged in," or have a helper come and explain the problem. **Faithfulness** without God is like the iron with no heat. The iron without heat is useless, and so it **faithfulness** without God. I can pray faithfully, and I can faithfully go to church all my life, but if I do not have God in my heart (like heat in the iron) I will not go to heaven. Can I iron and smooth out this piece of cloth if I have no heat in the iron?
This is also true of our lives. God's goal in our lives (Hold up the material.) is to clean us an take out the wrinkles, removing the sin from our lives. If we allow God to work in our lives, it is like plugging in (or heating) the iron. God provides the power **if we will let Him**. God wants to work on us, taking out all the dirt (sin), and wrinkles (unfaithfulness) in our live. **Flash Point: Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.**

Object Lesson #2

With This Ring

Props: Ring, two straws, cola.
Preparation: Have two straws and a cold cola. Have two small children assist.
Younger children will give higher impact. Make sure your volunteers know what to do.
Presentation: (To the sound of wedding music). Two children (young boy and girl) come out and they are announced man and wife. The boy puts the ring on the girls finger and she flashes it for everyone to see. The boy gives her a kiss on the cheek and they exit.
Announcement: **"Some time later."** Same little boy enters, with a different girl and they sit down ordering a bottle of cola. It is delivered and they both stick their straws in the same bottle, leaning over to drink, staring at each other, obviously in love.
(If possible, give the sound effects of danger approaching.) Wife enters see's her husband flirting with the girl, shouts, "How dare you!" (She slaps him off the chair. Practice doing this without injury. A helper to give oversight is recommended.) She then drags him home. (The three actors may add sound effects as desired).
Though this skit or drama may be humorous, it demonstrates what is true. We all need faithful friends. When we are unfaithful we hurt ourselves and others. How many want to marry someone who will not be faithful. Remember, Jesus name is Faithful. **Flash Point: Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.**

Object Lesson #3

His Party Pass

Revelation 19:9

Props: Party Pass, extra pens.
Preparation: Write on a piece of paper, "Party Pass: I vow to follow the One who is Faithful and True." Leave a space for a signature and date. Duplicate enough one for everyone in your audience. Make it as nice as you can. On the back side you may want to print the verse, Jesus says, "Come!" Everyone who hears this should also say, "Come!" If anyone is thirsty, let him come; whoever wishes it may take of the water of life as a free gift. Revelation 22:17
Presentation: How many of you like a party? (Encourage a response.) I heard of a great party

and I want you to come. I mean it is really a great party that is planned, and there are all kinds of food, fun and games. I really don't know everything that is planned, but I am going to go. I was told that we could invite everyone here to go with us. The guy that is planning the party is really wealthy. He is spending a super amount on making sure that everyone who goes will have a good time. We also have plenty of extra party invitations. Enough for everyone. Who wants to go? Raise your hand.

Distribute the Party Passes to all that want the pass. Make sure to tell them only those who have a ticket and it must be signed, will be allowed in. Commitment to Jesus, the one called, "Faithful and True," is required for all those who want to go to His party. His party will be the greatest ever. If you don't get ready you won't be able to attend. **Flash Point: Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.**

Object Lesson #4

Can't Go In

Matthew 13:42

Props: Party Passes, disguise.

Preparation: Have one helper or volunteer that will not sign a party pass. Dress him up in a disguise with sun glasses, a wig, and whatever else you want to use. Make sure the actor speaks loud enough for the people on the back row to hear him. This message is important!

Presentation: In front of the audience ask, everyone who is planning to go to the party for Jesus who is called 'Faithful and True', to hold up their signed party passes. Have one helper dressed in his disguise come in and say, "Hey, I don't want to sign any party pass." **Leader:** If you don't want to sign, It's up to you. **Actor:** You mean I can still go to the party, right? **Leader:** Wrong! Only those with party passes can enter. **Actor:** Well, I'm not going to sign. And that's final. **Leader:** I'm sorry to hear you say that. Sorry to that we won't see you later. Bye. Turn to audience. How many of you are planning on attending the party. Encourage 100% response. We will be there, and we'll be looking for you. **Flash Point: Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.**

Story Time

Once Was Enough

Picture 18:1 Once upon a time there was a little girl name Mia. Mia's father worked for the city sweeping streets six days a week. When her father came home late each night he was often very tired and dirty. The streets he swept were dusty, dirty and the busses and trucks belched out black diesel smoke. Mia's mama also worked very hard taking care of their five children and two grandchildren. They had a good family, though they were poor and their home very crowded. But they were missing something and Mia did not even know it.

Picture 18:2 One day when Mia was nine years old, she stayed overnight with her friend Darcy. At bedtime Darcy's mom read them both a story. Then she tucked the blanket in around the girls. Before she left the room she prayed with them to have a good nights sleep. Then she looked them both in the eyes and said, "Don't ever forget, Jesus loves you and so do I". Darcy looked at her mom and replied, "I love you too mama." With that Darcy's mom gave them both a kiss good night.

LESSON EIGHTEEN

Picture 18:3 Mia was so surprised she could not go to sleep. Before Darcy went to sleep Mia ask her, "Does your mom always kiss you good night?" Darcy was surprised at the question, "Yes, every night," she replied. Darcy was soon asleep. Mia laid there next to her sleeping friend and thought about what Darcy's mom had said and done. No one had ever told Mia that they loved her, and no one had ever kissed her. All night long she thought over and over to herself, "This is the way it should be."

Picture 18:4 The next day when Mia went home her mom and dad seemed happy to see her. Her mom asked, "Did you have fun at Darcy's house?" Mia replied with a sad face, "Yes mother." Her mom was busy getting supper ready for the family and asked her to go help get the table ready. Mia, was very quiet as the family ate. After eating she helped her mother clean up the dinner dishes. She was doing a lot of thinking. For the first time in her life she now knew what she was missing. Mia's face was still sad and her mom asked. "What's wrong?"

Picture 18:5 Mia started crying. She asked her mom if she could go to bed. Her mom felt her forehead and said, "Yes, Good night, Mia." Mia ran to her bed covering her head with her blanket. She hated her parents. Why didn't they love her? Why had they never kissed her? Why had they never told her they loved her? Mia thought to herself, "They must not really love me.

" With the cover over her head she could hear her mom and dad talking to each other softly and heard her brothers and sisters playing. All Mia could think of was, "My mom and dad do not love me!"

Picture 18:6 Mia's mother came over to her bedside, she knelt down beside her and pulling the covers back ask Mia, "Are you feeling all right? Are you ill? What's wrong?" Mia, looked up at her and asked, "Why don't you ever kiss me? Why don't you ever tell me you love me?" Mia's mother was startled. "Well I guess because no one ever kissed me when I was little. When I was little that is just the way it was." One of the babies started crying and Mia's mother went to care for it. Mia cried herself to sleep.

Picture 18:7 For many days Mia was angry. It was not fair, her parents did not love her. Finally she decided to run away. She packed up her clothes and stuffed them into a backpack, and left without letting anyone know. When she got to Darcy's house she stood outside and could not make herself go in.

She knew no one would believe her and she knew they would not let her live with them. Mia felt awful, hopeless, and discouraged. Instead of going home she went down to a park and sat watching the people playing with the children. Even after everyone else went home and it was dark she sat there thinking. Suddenly, she knew what she would have to do. She had a plan. There was a way...

Picture 18:8 Mia went home. Her mother ran to her when she came to the door and her father put down the phone. There both looked worried. Her mom asked, "Where have you been Mia?" Mia didn't answer. Instead she walked over to her mom and tugging on her dress had her lean over and she gave her a kiss on the cheek and said, "I love you." Her mom was so shocked she couldn't say a word. Mia then went over to where her father was sitting and kissed him on the cheek and said, "I love you papa." She gave them both a big hug and then she went to bed, leaving two very startled parents looking at each other.

Picture 18:9 The next morning before her dad went to work, she ran to her dad and gave him a kiss, saying, "I love you papa." Before she went to school she kissed her mom on the cheek saying, "I love you mama." And that's what she did faithfully every morning and every night week after week. Sometimes her mother or father would act embarrassed and would laugh about her kisses. But Mia kept on. She had her plan and she was not going to change.

One night Mia forgot to kiss her mother. Shortly after she had went to bed her mom came in acting and pretending to be very unhappy. She said crossly, "Where's my kiss?" Mia sat up. "Sorry, I forgot." She gave her a kiss. "I love you mama." She laid down again. "Good night mama." Her mama stood by the door. Soon her mama said, "I love you Mia. Don't you ever forget my kiss again." Mia laughed and said, "I won't." And she didn't.

Picture 18:10 Many years later Mia had her own child. She made sure the first thing she did was kiss her baby's cheeks until they were pink. She also told her baby, "I love you." Whenever Mia went back home to visit her parents, the first thing her mom would say was, "Where's my kiss?" And when it was time to leave her mom would say, "Mia, don't forget." Mia would interrupt with a laugh, "Yes, Mama, I know, Jesus loves me and so do you."

Wrap Up

Faithfulness starts when you ask Jesus to come into your heart and to be the Lord and leader of your life. Mia was sitting in the park when she realized that the answer to her problem was in her heart. She needed to give her love. If you haven't ask Jesus into your heart let's take time to do it now. (Take time for a prayer of salvation.)

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, Please help me to be faithful like You. I want to go to the party you are planning for us. You are so wonderful. Thank you Jesus for your invitation and your faithfulness. In Jesus name. Amen.

Party Gate Pass

I vow to follow the One who is Faithful and True

Name:_____

Date:_____

Jesus says, "Come!" Everyone who hears this should also say, "Come!" If anyone is thirsty, let him come; whoever wishes it may take of the water of life as a free gift. Revelation 22:17

Party Gate Pass

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