

Depend on Your Faithful God to Keep His Promises!

Memory Verse: I Thessalonians 5:24 “He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.”

Main Teaching: Depend on your faithful God to Keep His Promises

Word Up: God is faithful!

Supplies:

- Word Up Visual – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for “He is God” and “Jesus Loves Me / Amazing Grace” - Worship (Sing About the King 1CD)
- One quarter, nickel and dime, and a penny for each child– Object Lesson
- Memory Verse Visual – Memory Verse (Resource Pack)
- One paper cup for every two kids in your class - Activity
- Missionary Story Visual– Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Cards with God’s promises written out for each small group– Small Group / Wonder Time (Resource Pack)
- Memory Verse Token for I Thessalonians 5:24 for each child – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

15 min – Small Group
 10 min – Word Up / Worship
 10 min – Object Lesson
 15 min – Memory Verse
 10 min – Activity
 5 min – Missionary Story
 10 min – Small Group Wonder Time

INTRODUCTION

Aren't you thankful that God is faithful? The Children you teach may be going through difficult situations. Some may have a family member who is sick or in prison. Others might be experiencing fear because of what is going on in the world around them. For the saved child, God promises He will never leave him or forsake him. Today's lesson is a **Growth Narrative** focusing on trusting our faithful God.

As you teach, you can trust that God is faithful. He will use you as you share His Word. Pray that God will work in the lives of the children through this lesson.

Concepts covered in this lesson include:

God: Faithful – God never breaks His promises.

Man: Relying on God – I can always count on God, even when things don't make sense.



SMALL GROUP

Food Quiz

I'm going to say several different kinds of food. If I say a food you like to eat, show me by pretending to eat it. If I say a food you do not like to eat, show me by putting your hand over your mouth. *(Name several different foods and have children indicate their preferences. Be sure to also show them your preferences—they enjoy learning about you.)*

It can be fun to talk with other people about what you like and don't like. Did you know you can also talk with God about that? God already knows your likes and dislikes, but He wants you to enjoy talking with Him about every part of your life. Let's practice that right now by talking with God about our favorite foods and thanking Him for providing them. *(Have children share their favorite foods and write them in the prayer notebook. Invite volunteers to pray out loud, but also remind them that they can talk with God silently if they want to.)*

WORSHIP

"He is God"

"Jesus Loves Me / Amazing Grace"

CLUB RULES

Review the rules, focusing on any your club really needs. If there is a part of club that isn't running well (moving from small group to large group for example), take some time to role play and practice what that should look like.



WORD UP!

"God is faithful!"

Have you ever made a promise to someone and then you weren't able to keep it? *(Allow response.)* Sometimes we break a promise because something happens that we can't help or maybe we decide we just don't want to do what we promised. I'm so glad that God isn't like that. He always keeps His promises. He is always faithful. When you hear one of your teachers say **"Word Up!"** in club today, call out **"God is faithful!"** *(Say with children.)*

OBJECT LESSON

The invitation to receive Jesus is going to be given in the middle of this object lesson. Be sure an ask a co-teacher to be ready to council kids who respond or have a teacher ready to finish the object lesson so you can go and council kids that respond.

In God We Trust Penny

Hand out a few different coins to kids. Have them tell you things they observe about the coins.

I have a story to tell you. This story is about a man who was very rich. He invited some friends who didn't have as much money to go out to a really nice restaurant for dinner. As they were walking in to the fancy restaurant, the man stopped and looked down at the sidewalk. He reached down, picked up a penny, paused and looked at it and dropped it in his pocket and kept walking. His friend thought this was strange that this rich man stopped to pick up a little, insignificant penny. Half way through dinner, the friend finally asked him "Why did you pick up that penny?"

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." (You can give out a few coins to kids and have them read what is on them.) She read the words "United States of America" "No, not that; read further." "One cent?" "No, keep reading." "In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?" "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin."



Did you know that God is the one who made you? He made the mountains, and the trees and all of the animals. But His most special creation was you. God loves you and wants to have a close friendship with you. But there is something that separates us from God, and that is sin. Sin is anything we think, see, say or do that makes God sad or breaks his laws. It might be saying mean and hurtful things about your friends behind their back, or not obeying your mom or your teacher. We have all done things that God would call sin, and our punishment for sin is to be separated from God. But God had a wonderful plan so that you and I don't have to be separated from Him. He sent His son Jesus down to earth as a human. Jesus was born as a baby, and grew up, but He was different than all the other kids – He was perfect! When he grew up there were some mean men that didn't like Jesus, and they took Him and put Him on a cross. Jesus, who was perfect, willingly died to take the punishment for our sins. But Jesus didn't stay dead. Three days later, Jesus came back to life again! And now Jesus lives back in heaven with God. The Bible says He is in Heaven preparing a place for everyone who believes in Him.

The man went on to say to the lady "Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription – In God we trust". It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

There are reminders that we can trust God everywhere. When you are facing a hard time, maybe you can hold on to a penny and remember "In God we trust". Tell God you do trust Him to help you whenever you need it!

(Pass out a penny to each of the kids.)

INVITATION

If you have never believed in Jesus, you can put your trust in Him today! Do you know that you have sinned? Do you know that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin? Have you made the decision to put your trust in Him? The Bible says in John 3:15 "*whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*" When you believe in Jesus, trusting that He died on the cross for your sins, you can have eternal life – a life that starts with Jesus right now and goes on forever and ever with God in heaven someday. Will you put your trust in God today? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you would like to put your trust in Jesus for the very first time today, or you want to talk to someone more about doing that, please show me by raising your hand. If you raised your hand, please meet me (*designate location*) and I'll show you more from God's Word how you can have eternal life.

If you have already believed in Jesus as your Savior, think of one thing they need to trust God for. Talk to God in your mind and tell Him what you are trusting Him for. Close in a prayer verbalizing something you need to trust God for.



MEMORY VERSE

"He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it." (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

INTRODUCTION

Jayden and Ryan were best friends. They would go skating and biking, play games together and spend time at each other's houses. Ryan promised he would do something special with Jayden on Saturday. But on Saturday Ryan changed his mind and did something with someone else. Maybe you've had something like that happen to you. It is sad when friends aren't faithful. But there is someone who is always faithful (keeps promises) to His children! Our memory verse today tells who that is.

PRESENTATION

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:34 from Bible then from visual with children.) God is the one who is always faithful! This verse is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:24 in the New Testament which is the second part of the Bible. Last week we talked about the letters to the churches that are part of the Bible. These letters are called epistles. Paul may not have known that the letters he was writing would be saved and read by Christians (people who believe in Jesus) for the next two thousand years, but the Holy Spirit did. All of Paul's letters were written at the direction of the Holy Spirit, just as the rest of the Bible was. Our verse today is found in another letter from Paul. This book is the first of two letters to the believers in Jesus who lived in the city of Thessalonica. (Read verse again from visual with children.)

EXPLANATION

He who calls you—The one who calls you is God. Call doesn't mean a call on the phone! Rather it is talking about people who have believed in Jesus when God showed them the truth of who He is.

is faithful—If someone is faithful it means you can count on him to never let you down. A faithful person always keeps his word. This verse tells us that God is faithful. God always keeps His promises. When God says something in His Word, the Bible, He will do it! You can always depend on God to be trustworthy.

he will surely do it—Because God is faithful, He will always do what He says He will do! This verse says that you can count on God to do what He says He will do.

APPLICATION

Saved: If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, you can **depend on your faithful God to keep His promises.** "Word up!", "God is faithful!" (Say with children.) This verse is a very special promise from God to you. You can know that God is faithful—He will always do what He says He will do. He promised to give you eternal life when you believed in Him as your Savior. Not only that but as a believer, you can also depend on God to keep the other promises in His Word.

Unsaved: If you have not believed in Jesus as your Savior, this verse reminds you that God is "calling" you to believe in Him. He is showing you the truth of His love and faithfulness. He wants you to know you can have your sins forgiven because of what Jesus did for you on the cross. God is faithful to keep His promise to give eternal life (new life with God that starts now and lasts forever) to those who believe in Jesus as Savior. Will you believe in Him today? This verse says you can trust God to keep His promises.

REPETITION**"Clap a Word"**

Repeat the verse twice then choose one child to stand behind the visual with his back to the visual and the class. Choose another child to point to a word on the visual. Lead the children in reciting the verse but when you get to the chosen word, clap instead of saying it. The child behind the verse visual then tries to guess the word. Choose two different children and repeat as time allows.

Sing Memory Verse Song *"He will do it"*

ACTIVITY**Cups**

This is a fun action game that gets kids to mix with other kids. Make sure kids introduce themselves to their partner each time. Have kids stand up facing a partner. Hand out one cup to each set of kids. Place the cup on the floor in between the kids. The goal of the game is to pick up the cup before your partner. You can't touch the cup until the leader says "cup". The leader calls out body parts that the kids have to touch on themselves (head, hips, stomach etc.) when they leader calls "cups" whoever grabs the cup first wins. You can have the losers go to one side of the room and the winners go to the other side. Everyone can still play, but keep the winning side for the undefeated kids until you have a final winner. If you have younger kids, just let them keep paring up and playing, don't separate out the winners.

MISSIONARY STORY**Adhiambo Learns the Truth (Part 2)**

Adhiambo wanted to know more about God and how to please Him. She memorized questions and answers from the Bible, began going to church and was baptized. She thought these good things would get her to Heaven but they could not erase her sin or give her peace. How did she learn the truth?

When elementary school was almost finished, Adhiambo had to pass a difficult test to go to high school. The test covered everything she had learned since first grade! When she found out her score, she couldn't believe her eyes. Out of 100 points she had scored 99!

Adhiambo went to high school at a boarding school—a school where the students lived while attending classes. She loved the classes and all her books. Best of all, she attended a Christian club. Christians are people who believe in Jesus. At this club, she learned that Jesus had died to pay for her sins! At last she understood that Heaven is not a reward for doing good things. You could only have your sins forgiven and be with God in Heaven through Jesus. She believed in Jesus as her Savior!

One day Adhiambo read a poster outside the school dining room. A missionary named Louise from America was going to help train students to teach children about Jesus. She thought, *I want to teach children that trusting Jesus is the way to have your sins forgiven!* She signed up for the class.

Missionary Louise met every week with Adhiambo and 19 other girls. Near the end of the class Louise said to Adhiambo, "Now it's time for you to teach your first lesson." Adhiambo felt like her stomach turned upside down. How could she, the girl who "couldn't do anything right," teach a Bible lesson?

Adhiambo silently prayed for courage. She taught her lesson but she was so nervous she forgot some of the story. The lesson should have lasted 20 minutes but she finished in five!

"Thank you! That was a nice, short lesson," Louise said kindly.

Adhiambo kept practicing her lessons and the Lord gave her strength. She taught many boys and

girls how much God loved them and how He wanted them to believe in Jesus.

After high school Adhiambo lived at home for two years and attended college. That meant listening again to her stepmother's cruel remarks. "You can't do anything right!" She would yell at Adhiambo. Whenever she heard these words, Adhiambo felt like crawling into a hole in the ground.

But one weekend Adhiambo attended a large children's meeting. The teacher was speaking to the children but God spoke to Adhiambo's heart too. The teacher read Ephesians 3:20 from the Bible. (*Read from your Bible.*)

"God can do more than I could ask or imagine!" Adhiambo repeated out loud. "God will make me a teacher! He will take care of me even more than I could imagine!"

Would Adhiambo become a teacher? We'll find out next time.



SMALL GROUP / WONDER TIME

"God's Amazing Promises"

The Bible is a wonderful book full of God's amazing promises! Let's read some promises from God's Word then praise God for them. Here's an example. (*Read 1Thessalonians 5:24 from visual.*)

Now let's try some more promises. After I read the promise from the Bible, raise your hand if you would like to praise God for that promise.

(*Read the following promises or others you choose: Philippians 4:19: God promises to supply your needs;*

Romans 8:28: God promises to work out everything for good;

Romans 8:38-39: God promises nothing will separate you from His love.)

This week as you read your Bible and pray, remember to praise God for who He is and all He has promised!

DISMISSAL

Hand out memory verse token to each child and encourage them to memorize the verse and bring the token back completed next week. Remind the kids to look for ways to trust God this week.