



# BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **11th Grade | Unit 1**

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# BIBLE 1101

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# The Faithfulness of God

## Introduction

Faithfulness is one of God's **attributes**. Other attributes of God that you have studied or will study are love, mercy, grace, justice, **immutability**, eternity, holiness, and goodness. Attributes are those things that are essential to, or characteristic of, a person or thing. The Bible teaches us by statements about God and by records of what God has done that God is a loving God, a merciful God, a just God, an unchangeable God. The Bible teaches that God has always existed and will always be. It teaches that he is perfect in holiness and goodness. You have studied most of these attributes. The study of this LIFEPAK® is the biblical teaching about God's faithfulness.

The knowledge of and belief in the faithfulness of God as declared in Scripture can develop in you a firm conviction of God's credibility.

If the study of this LIFEPAK® convinces you of God's truthfulness and his trustworthiness, you can benefit in many ways. Honest doubts can be removed. God can begin to speak his Word to you with authority. You can pray with confidence. Worship can become a genuine and personal expression. Your service can be marked with readiness and boldness.

In the light of what you will learn in this LIFEPAK, the ever-changing scene can testify to the unchangeableness of our God. The monotonous routine of life can be changed into an exciting adventure into God's faithful plan and purpose. God's faithfulness can heal the wounds caused by the fickleness of friends. You will learn that although people often fail you, Jesus never will.

When you learn of God's faithfulness you will more fully understand why he requires faithfulness of you. Your faithfulness is needed to introduce an unfaithful world to a faithful God. Your stability and confidence should shine as a light in a dark place.

If you really learn God's faithfulness—if you accept it with your heart as well as your head—his Word will be your handbook. You will start to count on him—on his love for you and on his provision for all of your needs. You will also let him make you faithful to him. All of these benefits and more are yours if you will allow the God who is faithful to teach you.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you should be able to:

1. Write from memory Scripture verses relative to the faithfulness of God.
2. Illustrate the faithfulness of God from biblical history.
3. Describe the characteristics of God's faithfulness.
4. Contrast the uniqueness of God's faithfulness with the faithfulness of others.
5. Enumerate the manifestations of God's faithfulness.
6. List and explain some of the implications of God's faithfulness.
7. Relate God's faithfulness to our stewardship.



# 1. THE AFFIRMATION OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

In his Word God asserts his faithfulness. He states repeatedly that he can be trusted to take care of his people. The record of what he has done for his people affirms the truth of what he says. In addition

to these testimonies from the divine side, the Bible records many **witnesses** of man to the faithfulness of God. God constantly cares for his people in normal experiences and in stressful experiences.



**Read Psalm 89; Psalm 136; Psalm 23; and Job 1-2, 13 and 40-42**

## Section Objectives

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Write from memory Scripture verses relative to the faithfulness of God.
2. Illustrate the faithfulness of God from biblical history.

## Vocabulary

**Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.**

**attribute**

**covenant people**

**immutability**

**witness**

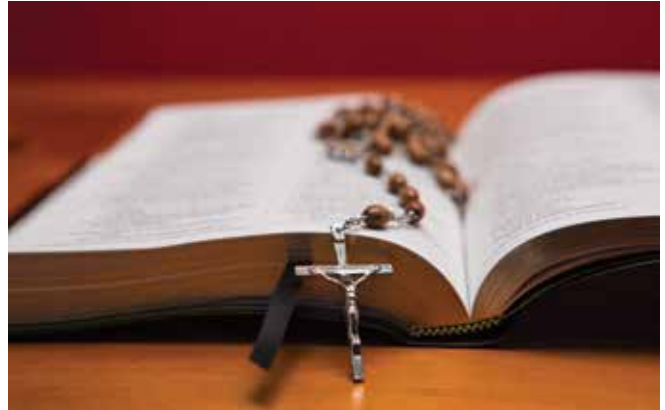
**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

## THE DECLARATION OF GOD AS TO HIS OWN FAITHFULNESS

God is a self-revealing God. We could know nothing of God if this statement were not true. God has used various ways to reveal himself. Two of these ways are his Word (what he has said) and his work (what he has done). These two witnesses are in agreement and complement each other. Together they give us a more complete revelation of God's faithfulness. God makes a claim to faithfulness; his works support his claim.

**The testimony of God's Word.** God declares in his Word that he is faithful. Psalm 89 is a dialogue between the writer of the psalm and God. Verses nineteen to thirty-seven record the words of the Lord concerning his promises and plans for David, his anointed servant. In this declaration, the Lord God makes clear that all of the plans and promises are guaranteed by his faithfulness. In addition to the term *faithfulness*, such words and phrases as "establish," "for evermore," "stand fast," "to endure," "not...fail," "not break," "nor alter," and "not lie" are used by God.

In other places in the Bible, commands or promises spoken directly by God to a man or men are accompanied by such expressions as (Joshua 1:5 "...I will not fail thee nor forsake thee." To Isaac God said (Genesis 26:3), "...I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father." When God gave



Jacob the dream about the ladder that reached from earth to heaven (Genesis 28:12-15), the Lord stood above it and said, "... Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of." The writer of the letter to the Hebrews, probably referring to what God said to Jacob, states (Hebrews 13:5) "... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." In the passage given, as well as in others, God clearly states in his own words that faithfulness is an essential element of his character.

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### Write these verses.

**1.1** Read Psalm 89:19-37 and list by number the verses in which the term "my faithfulness" is found. Write out the statement that God made in each instance.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Match the words or phrases to the verse in Psalm 89 in which they are found. Write the letter on the line.

- |      |       |        |    |  |
|------|-------|--------|----|--|
| 1.2  | _____ | vs. 2  | a. | made a covenant  |
| 1.3  | _____ | vs. 3  | b. | my covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips          |
| 1.4  | _____ | vs. 3  | c. | I will not lie unto David  |
| 1.5  | _____ | vs. 4  | d. | establish  |
| 1.6  | _____ | vs. 28 | e. | mercy will I keep forever more   |
| 1.7  | _____ | vs. 28 | f. | will I make to endure forever  |
| 1.8  | _____ | vs. 29 | g. | my loving kindness will I not utterly take from him nor suffer my faithfulness to fail |
| 1.9  | _____ | vs. 33 | h. | have sworn   |
| 1.10 | _____ | vs. 34 | i. | to all generations   |
| 1.11 | _____ | vs. 35 | j. | my covenant shall stand fast   |

Write the definition.

- 1.12 Using a Bible dictionary or a Bible encyclopedia, write a definition of God's faithfulness.

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Answer these questions.

- 1.13 What did God promise Joshua?

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- 1.14 What did God promise Isaac?

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- 1.15 What did God promise Jacob?

---

- 1.16 What did the writer of the letter to the Hebrews say God had promised?

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- 1.17 What is the significant similarity among the four promises?

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**Memorize these verses.**

**1.18** Memorize Psalm 89:33–35.

**1.19** Memorize Joshua 1:5–6.

**CHECK**

\_\_\_\_\_ Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**The testimony of God's work.** God's work falls into two categories—the work of creation and the work of preservation. God's works are an expression of his character. Because God is true, unchanging, steadfast, and reliable, his works necessarily reflect this attribute of faithfulness.

God's work of creation was the first manifestation of his purpose, namely, to have a people with whom he could fellowship and who would bring glory to him. The second manifestation of his purpose—a continuing one—is the preservation of his creation. The preservation of his creation may be seen in five areas: (1) the universe; (2) mankind; (3) his chosen people, Israel; (4) his called-out ones, the Church; and (5) his Word, our Bible.

In Psalm 136, both the work of creation (the universe) and the work of preservation (his chosen people, Israel) are attributed to his faithfulness by the repetition of the clause, "for his mercy [loving kindness] endureth forever."

God preserves mankind because of his faithfulness. Jesus taught his disciples that they should love their enemies as well as their friends so that they might be true sons of the heavenly Father, "for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

Jesus told Peter and the other disciples (Matthew 16:18) that the gates of hell cannot prevail against his Church. The preservation of God's **covenant people** and of his Word are declared in the beautiful fifty-fifth chapter of Isaiah. One verse (Isaiah 55:11) especially mentions his Word, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

All of God's works testify to the unchanging nature of his purpose for Israel, and through Israel for the Church—for each of his chosen ones, ultimately through Christ. Everything God has done and is doing testifies to his faithfulness.

**Complete these activities.**

**1.20** Read Psalm 136 and give a descriptive title to each of the following sections.

- a. 1-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. 4-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. 10-24 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. 25 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. 26 \_\_\_\_\_

**1.21** Read Psalm 136:4-9, and list five works of creation that are recorded there.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.22** Read Psalm 136:10-24, and enumerate the preserving and establishing work of God relative to Israel. Look for the phrase “to him that” or “to him which” as indicators. Write the phrases here.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer these questions.**

**1.23** What verse in the book of Matthew gives a promise of the preservation of God’s Church? Give the reference and write the promise.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.24** What does Isaiah 55:11 say? Write it in your own words.

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.25** What are the five areas in which God’s preserving faithfulness may be seen?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_



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