

Series: Five Ways Weird

Session Title: Faithfulness

Date and Time: _____

Number of Students: _____

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Three different coloured markers
- ☐ Three pieces of large newsprint or chart paper
- ☐ Pens; copies of page A6
- ☐ DVD copy of *The Notebook*

Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Identify faithfulness to your word as part of what it means to be a Christian.
- Identify that faithfulness to your church as part of what it means to be a Christian.
- Identify faithfulness to your relationships as part of what it means to be a Christian.
- Identify a faithfulness mentor and make plans for an interview.

Pastoral Objectives:

Preparation

Prepare three pieces of chart paper or newsprint in this way. Divide the paper in half from side to side so that there are two halves, one on top of the other. Each half will have one question on it. The first question should be written by you at the very top of the paper. The second should be written just below the dividing line. The questions are printed below:

Paper 1, Q1: **Why is it so hard for most people to be faithful to their word and to keep their commitments?**

Paper 1, Q2: **What would it take for me to become a person who always keeps his/her word and honours his/her commitments?**

Paper 2, Q1: **Why is it so hard for most people to stay in their home church forever? Why do so many people ‘church hop’?**

Paper 2, Q2: **What would it take for me to be totally and forever faithful to my church?**

Paper 3, Q1: **Why is it so hard to be faithful in our human relationships? Why do almost fifty percent of marriages end in divorce?**

Paper 3, Q2: **What would it take for me to be totally faithful to my wife/husband? How can I stay married forever?**

This will be used in task one.

Lead In:

Show the clip from the movie *The Notebook* where the wife finally realizes that the story is about her and her husband. The scene is near the end. Play as much as you think will be necessary to make the point that what made the man in this movie such a great husband was his faithful presence with his wife. He never gave up on her even though in her illness she had nothing to offer him in return. As the students are watching ask them to identify what made this man the best of all husbands. After the clip is over take suggestions. You will hear some suggestions from people who have seen the whole movie such as: “he built her a painting room” or “he waited for her.” Wait until you have received at least one along the lines of “he never left her even though she forgot who he was and had nothing to give him in return.”

Consider transitioning into the tasks by saying something like this:

The reason this movie is so touching is because that kind of faithful love is so unusual. Most of us really only love when there is something in it for us. To be faithful means to love and care for someone long past the point where there is something in it for you. That is faithfulness and that is unusual to say the least. God said that as his followers we are supposed to exhibit this rare trait. He said it would be noticed because it so uncommon. Tonight we are going to look at that most elusive of all traits: faithfulness.

Task One Instructions:

Divide the students up into three groups. Give the students these instructions:

“Over the last couple of weeks we have often travelled around to different pieces of paper. This week the paper is going to travel to you. Each group is going to get a piece of newsprint with two questions on it. You will have five minutes to decide as a group how to answer those two questions. When you have decided, record your answer on the newsprint with the coloured marker I will provide. When I give you the sign, pass the papers to the next group clockwise. Everyone point clockwise! Good. Then you will have five minutes to answer the next question. There are three papers in all. Go!” Pass out the papers and the markers. Make sure that each group has a different coloured marker.

When all three rotations have been completed, rotate the papers one last time so that they are back where they started. Have the group that began with the paper, summarize the answers to both questions for the rest of the group. Ask the listening students to decide if they agree or disagree until you have a complete set of reasonable answers.

Task Two Instructions:

You can keep the same groups for this task or switch them up. One way to easily switch groups is to ask two people from every group to stand up and rotate to the next group. When students are in their groups (new or old), hand out pens and copies of page A6. Instruct them to follow the instructions on the handout and release them to begin.

When the students are done, make sure to do feedback. You could solicit answers from the whole group verbally, you could have groups report on the different sections, or you could repeat the overhead style feedback from the first session. Either way, allow for student to student feedback and then step in to ensure a good final set of answers.

Conclusion:

Consider wrapping up the evening by saying something like this:

Faithfulness is probably the rarest of Christian virtues. Statistics indicate that in Canada there is only a five percent difference in divorce rates between Christians and non-Christians! Wow! That should be much higher. If your generation figured out how to be faithful I think you would earn the right to speak to this world about Jesus. The love of God is different and weird. God requires ambassadors who are just as different and weird. Learn to be faithful and you will never lack an opportunity to speak.