



## WEEK 8 • GROWING IN FAITHFULNESS

RENÉ SCHLAEPFER | OCTOBER 27 & 28

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22,23a

### **Faithfulness:**

- Day-to-day \_\_\_\_\_
- Long-term \_\_\_\_\_

“Faithfulness is a long obedience in the same direction.”

--Eugene Peterson

### **THE BENEFITS OF FAITHFULNESS**

A **faithful** man will abound with blessings, but he who makes **haste** to be rich will not go unpunished. Proverbs 28:20

Faithfulness makes...

- Healthy \_\_\_\_\_ possible
- Healthy \_\_\_\_\_ possible
- Healthy \_\_\_\_\_ possible

“Well done, thou good and **faithful** servant...” Matthew 25:21,23

## A CASE STUDY IN FAITHFULNESS

Fix your thoughts on Jesus... He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as **Moses was faithful** in all God's house. Hebrews 3:1a,2 (See Numbers 11-16)

Problems Moses faced leading the Israelites:

- Critical food shortage (Numbers 11)
- Confusion over spiritual gifts (Numbers 11:24-30)
- Criticism about his marriage (Numbers 12:1)
- Discouragement and fear about the future (Numbers 13)
- Grumbling (Numbers 14:1-9)
- Death threats (Numbers 14:10)
- Mutiny of key leaders (Numbers 16)

## FOUR KEYS TO FAITHFULNESS WHEN I WANT TO QUIT:

**1. Reveal** \_\_\_\_\_ ...to a trusted advisor

"Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give us meat to eat!' I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favor in your eyes!" Numbers 11:12-15a

This fights enemy of faithfulness #1: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Release** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ responsibilities

The Lord said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them... They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone. Numbers 11:16-17b

- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ what you \_\_\_\_\_

A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I

wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!" Numbers 11:27-28

This fights enemy of faithfulness #2: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Refocus \_\_\_\_\_

(The LORD said) "I will disown them... I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they are!" Numbers 14:12  
(Moses said) "The LORD is slow to anger and filled with unfailing love, forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion... In keeping with your magnificent, unfailing love, please pardon the sins of this people, just as you have forgiven them ever since they left Egypt."

Numbers 14:18a,19

This fights enemy of faithfulness #3: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Remember \_\_\_\_\_

I will proclaim the name of the Lord.

Oh, praise the greatness of our God!

He is the Rock, his works are perfect,  
and all his ways are just.

A **faithful God** who does no wrong,  
upright and just is he. Deuteronomy 32:3,4

He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;

**his faithfulness** will be your shield and rampart. Psalm 91:4

This fights enemy of faithfulness #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Fix your thoughts on Jesus... He was faithful... Hebrews 3:1,2a

### THE KEY QUESTION:

\_\_\_\_\_?

# **NON-RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS**

## **SECOND HARVEST FOOD DRIVE**

Help us reach one million pounds this year! Use the envelope in your bulletin, bring food to the bins in the lobby, or give online at [thefoodbank.org/tlc](http://thefoodbank.org/tlc). If you manage a business and would like food drive mini-barrels at your workplace, you can pick those up at the tables in the lobby. Note: The most cost-effective way to help is through cash donations, because of Second Harvest's buying power.

## **WINTER SHELTER DINNERS**

Help serve dinner to those staying in the Winter Shelter on 7th Ave. TLC will "adopt" the shelter for 3 weeks. We need volunteers for 21 different nights! Dates to be announced, but you can sign up today in the lobby or by emailing [robin@tlc.org](mailto:robin@tlc.org)

## **PORTABLE SHOWERS FOR HOMELESS**

Once a month on Saturday afternoons, help monitor the portable showers made available to the homeless in our area. Showers are set up at Resurrection Church in Aptos. We also need vehicles that can tow the showers from Soquel to Aptos. Sign up today in the lobby or by emailing [robin@tlc.org](mailto:robin@tlc.org)

## **LOADS OF LOVE**

Drive the LoLo van (with 2 washers and 2 dryers) to a location homeless folks frequent, and help them do their laundry. While you wait, enjoy talking with the clients. Sign up today in the lobby or by emailing [robin@tlc.org](mailto:robin@tlc.org)

## **KINDNESS GRANTS**

If your home group has an "act of kindness" idea but no funds to pursue it, e-mail [robin@tlc.org](mailto:robin@tlc.org) to apply for a small "kindness grant". Specify the project and budget.