

### The People Promised to Be Faithful 1 year olds - 4 year olds

#### Leader Notes

**Bible Passage:** Nehemiah 9-10

**Christ Connection:** God has always done what is right even when His people have done what is wrong. We have God's kindness and love through Jesus, who died on the cross so we can have life with God forever.

**Bottom Line:** I am faithful to God because He is always faithful to me.

**Leader Context:** <https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2023/06/05/ask-leaders-june-11>

**THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS:** Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

#### Discussion Questions

- **When was a time God was faithful to you?**
- **Did God leave His people when they sinned?** No matter what we do or think, God always loves us and is faithful to us. He didn't leave His people in the Bible and He won't leave us either.
- **Do we need to be faithful for God to love us and save us from our sin? Why not?** Romans 5:8 Obedience does not save us from our sin. Faith in Jesus only, saves us.
- **Why is it important to remember the faithfulness of God?** Remembering God's faithfulness should us be more faithful to Him



#### Social

#### Fishing Game or I Spy

**What You Need:** Instruction Page, Game Sets

#### What You Do:

- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

**Say:** That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

**Small Group Prayer:** "Dear God, thank You for your faithfulness, even when we sin against You. Thank You for being compassionate and gracious to us. Help us trust Your Son, Jesus. Amen."



#### Bible Story Video



“God’s people were living in Judah. Nehemiah led the people in Jerusalem to turn away from their sin. Let’s learn what they did with our story basket. They wore sackcloth, rough cloth used to make sacks. They spent time worshiping God, reading His Word, and telling Him about the wrong things they had done. (*Show God’s people picture*)

The leaders stood and led God’s people in prayer. They prayed, “You Lord, are the only God. You created the heavens and the earth and all that is in it, the sea and all that is in them. You give life to all of them, and all the stars of heaven worship You.” Let’s put our hands together, close our eyes and spend a minute praying the same prayer. *Say this in your head, “You Lord, are the only God. You created the heavens and the earth and all that is in it, the sea and all that is in them. You give life to all of them, and all the stars of heaven worship You.” Keep your eyes closed until I say, open them.*

They remembered everything God had done in the past and how He protected, rescued, and provided for them. But the people had turned from God. They worshiped idols and did not trust Him. Yet God was forgiving, kind, and loving. He did not leave them. *Now you can open your eyes. Has there been a time that you did not trust God? Let’s chat more about that very soon.* God made His people happy, but the people turned from Him. God sent prophets to warn them, but they did not listen. God let their enemies take over, but He did not leave them because God is kind and loving.

The leaders prayed to God for help. They prayed, “We promise to follow and worship only You.” The people agreed to obey God. Say that with me, “God, we promise to follow and worship only You.” Great job! Then the leaders and some of the people stayed in Jerusalem, and everyone else went to live in the other cities nearby.

This story helps us remember, God has always done what is right even when His people have done what is wrong. (*Show Jesus poster*) We have God’s kindness and love through Jesus, who died on the cross so we can have life with God forever.”

### Make a Prayer Chain

**What You Need:** paper strips cut into 1" width, tape, markers, Prayer stickers (1 set per kid)

#### What You Do:

- Give each kid 5 pieces of paper strips and a set of prayer stickers.
- Invite kids to think of ways they can talk to God.
- Ask them to look at their stickers for ideas.
- As they name an idea on a sticker, ask them to place it on one of their pieces of paper.
- Help kids link their chains together with tape.
- Pray with kids and use their paper chains as a way to know what to pray about.

**Say:** “We thought of many things that we can talk to God about. Look how long your chains are. The leaders in our Bible story today led God’s people in prayer. They talked to God. They prayed, “You Lord, are the only God. You created the heavens and the earth and all that is in it. you protected, rescued, and provided for us. We promise to follow and worship only You.” When you go home today you can help your family pray a similar prayer using your prayer chain.



## Transition

### Toss a Beanbag

*Transition Activities are provided so that you can separate the group and have small groups doing each activity at the same time. Allow your helper to lead one activity while you do the other activity.*

**What You Need:** large paper heart taped to the floor, beanbag

#### What You Do:

- Attach the heart shape to the floor using tape.
- Invite kids to form a circle around the heart.
- Take turns tossing a beanbag toward the heart.
- When the beanbag lands on the heart, guide kids to say, "*God is forgiving, kind, and loving.*"
- Play several rounds, varying how far away kids are from the heart.

**Say:** "You did a great job tossing the beanbag toward the heart shape. Each time it landed on the heart we said, "God is forgiving, kind and loving." God is all three of these things. God has always done what is right even when His people have done what is wrong. We have God's kindness and love through Jesus, who died on the cross so we can have life with God forever."

## Going Home

### Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.

- Pass out coloring pages for kids to take home.
- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.