



# Bible Study

# Booklet

**Studies 8-10**

# **Sermon Notes**

## **Week 8 – Fostering Faithfulness**

## **Study 8 – Fostering Faithfulness**

**1) How would you define faithfulness generally? How would you define faithfulness to God? Consider the following verses as you form your definition. 1 Kings 2:1-4 and Isaiah 38:2-3**

**2) In what areas of our lives is faithfulness important? What might faithfulness look like in each of these areas?**

**3) In what ways do you think our society encourages unfaithfulness?**

**Please read 2 Timothy 3:1-5**

**4) Which sins listed here may contribute to the general unfaithfulness of our generation? Discuss how those mentioned may undermine a person's faithfulness.**

**5) Please read Hebrews 11 and then choose 4 (or more) characters before answering the following:**

**a) How was this person's faithfulness revealed?**

**b) What pressures did they face while striving to be faithful?**

**c) What principles can we learn from them about faithfulness?**

Please read Luke 16:10

6) Why is it so important that we are faithful in the little things?

7) Do you find it easier to be faithful in the big things, or in the little things?  
Why?

8) PERSONAL QUESTION: Are there any areas in your life where you are lacking in faithfulness? What practical steps can you take to foster more faithfulness?

# Prayer Points

# **Sermon Notes**

## **Week 9 – Grafting Gentleness**

## Study 9 – Grafting Gentleness

1) Why do you think people sometimes assume that a *gentle* person is also a *weak* person?

2) When do you find it hard to be gentle?

Please read Matthew 21:1-17

3) According to verse 5, the prophet Zechariah describes Jesus as *humble*. (Some translations say *gentle*) How does Jesus display humble gentleness in verses 1-7?

4) How does this differ from the way that we would expect a king to make an entry? Why do you think Jesus did what He did?



**5) What do you think the crowd's response to Jesus in verse 9 tells us about gentleness?**

**6) There is a sudden change of tone as Jesus enters the temple. What motivates Jesus' actions in verses 12-13? Was Jesus overreacting?**

**7) What do Jesus' actions teach us about anger? What do Jesus' actions teach us about gentleness? In what kind of situations is a firm response more appropriate than a gentle response?**

**8) How does Jesus demonstrate gentleness to the blind, the lame and the children in verses 14-16?**

9) Why do you think the chief priests and scribes were indignant about Jesus' actions and the children's words?

10) Do you think Jesus' response to their challenge (v16) was firm? Gentle? Or both? What can this teach us?

11) What can we learn about gentleness as we observe Jesus throughout this passage?

# Prayer Points

# **Sermon Notes**

## **Week 10 – Sowing Self-Control**

## **Study 10 – Sowing Self-Control**

- 1) Can you think of any recent examples in the news of someone's lack of self-control affecting themselves or someone else?

Please read Proverbs 25:28

- 2) How does Solomon describe someone who has no self-control? Discuss why this is a fitting analogy.

- 3) How would you define self-control?

Please read Genesis 39:1-12 and then discuss the following questions.

- 4) What thoughts could have gone through Joseph's head when he was first approached by Potiphar's wife?

**5) What was the extent of this temptation?**

**6) What two convictions gave Joseph the self-control needed to repeatedly resist the temptation? See verses 8 and 9? What does this teach us?**

**7) What do Joseph's actions in verse 12 teach us about self-control? When might we need to do the same?**

**Jerry Bridges once wrote:**

**"Our minds are mental greenhouses where unlawful thoughts, once planted, are nurtured and watered before being transplanted into the real world of unlawful actions... The thought life, then, is our first line of defence in our battle for self-control."**

**8) What do you think Jerry Bridges is getting at? Do you agree with him?**

**9) How does Philippians 4:8 speak into this situation?**

**10) FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION: Of all the Spiritual Fruit we have looked at in this series...**

**a) which fruit do you think you have made the most progress in since becoming a Christian?**

**b) which fruit do you think still requires the most work?**

# Prayer Points