

## WEEK 3

# GOD IS

## A THREE-WEEK SERIES

### ADULT DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### 2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5

*Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.*

1. Paul is always asking the churches to which he writes letters to pray for him. Why do you think he does this so often? Why is he asking the Thessalonian Christians for prayer? How will praying in this way help Paul, Silas, and Timothy? How will it help the church at Thessaloniki?

2. Paul, Silas, Timothy, and all of the Thessalonian Christians were being persecuted for their beliefs. Why does that make Paul's words that God will guard them from the evil one so important? How does this statement that God will guard us from the evil one line up with what happened to Job? Paul indicates that God's guarding of us is linked to our cooperation and obedience. Why is our active participation in this process so significant?

3. Why is it hard for us to be faithful? Consider what it means when someone is "unfaithful" in a marriage. If one spouse is unfaithful in a marriage, does the other spouse then does the spouse that was wronged have to honor his/her commitment to faithfulness? What does it mean when someone says, "God is faithful"? State some reasons why it is wonderful to be loved by a God who remains faithful when we are unfaithful.

4. Today, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. When we studied Jesus' ascension to heaven a few weeks ago, we talked about how Jesus promised a helper would come for the disciples. They disciples prayed as they waited for the Holy Spirit to come. God kept his promise. Share a time when God was faithful to you in the past? How does God's faithfulness to keep His promises help you in difficult times?

5. What are some things you're worried about right now? What are some areas of your life or situations where it is difficult to remember/act as though God is faithful?

## STUDENTS DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. After this week's scripture, video, and discussion how has the phrase, "God is faithful" gained new and/or significant meaning than it had before?
2. Paul, Silas, and Timothy 110% believed that God would be faithful in guiding and protecting them wherever he led them to go. In what areas do you fully believe that God is faithfully always with you? In what areas of your life do you struggle understanding God's faithfulness or fail to even think about it being there?
3. What "unknowns" are you worried about in life? The next year? 6 months? One Week? Write down/discuss what it means to you when you hear that because of God's faithfulness, he will prepare you for anything that comes your way.
4. Paul, Silas, and Timothy believed it to be in the best interest of others to understand God's true faithfulness; that is what motivated them to continue to preach the Gospel. Have you ever thought about/been concerned for your friends/others to understand God's faithfulness in their lives? How have you shown God's faithfulness to them in the past? How can you better show and communicate God's faithfulness to them in the future?

### **This week's challenge:**

- GOD HEARS YOU. He is faithful in his presence and faithful in relationship with you. By yourself, write down the joys, struggles, pain, questions, etc. that you have on your heart as a prayer. As you are doing that, envision that God is sitting right next to you. He understands where you are coming from and will prepare you to walk through each and every one of those scenarios you wrote down. Do it more than one day this week and maybe even make it a regular practice. HE IS FAITHFUL.

## KIDS DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. Paul was writing to people who had decided they didn't need to do anything while they waited for Jesus to return. Have you ever felt this way? Like there was NOTHING you could do to serve God so why try?
2. Paul wanted the people to know that GOD IS FAITHFUL! Do you understand what faithfulness is? Talk about the meaning of the word faithfulness with your family and share some examples of faithfulness with each other.
3. Paul asked for his friends to pray. He wanted them to pray that God's Word would spread FAST and that God would protect them from evil. If you could ask your friends to pray right now, what would you ask of them?
4. One of the greatest things about God is the ability to ALWAYS depend on him. Our parents will let us down. Our friends will let us down. Our siblings will let us down. Our teachers will let us down. But God keeps His promises and is with us. How have you seen or felt God's faithfulness?
5. God will prepare us for ANYTHING that we have to face. What are you afraid to face in your future? How can God's faithfulness help your worry?

### **Family Activities:**

- Preschool & Elementary: Find a balloon to blow up and gather your family or neighbors or friends. Try and keep the balloon in the air for as long as you can. Play a few rounds and find your longest time. Talk about why the balloon eventually hits the ground and is "let down". Remember that God will never let you down! He is faithful!