

FRUIT of the *Spirit*

Sunday, September 27, 2020 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 7 | **FAITHFULNESS**

Multiple Scriptures

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

– Galatians 5:22-23

God is **FAITHFUL**

trustworthy, dependable Numbers 23:19; Deuteronomy 7:9; 32:4; Psalm 25:10

steadfast, the long haul Lamentations 3:21-23; Psalm 119:89-90; Philippians 1:6

and he wants us to **BE FAITHFUL**

faithful to Jesus Hebrews 10:23

faithful to others Proverbs 17:17; Eccl 4:10

Moses Hebrews 3:1-2; Deuteronomy 32:3-4; Numbers 11-16

like **JESUS.**

costly John 17:4; Hebrews 12:1-4

north star or shooting star? Hebrews 13:8; Hebrews 12:2



What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

Welcome to Life Groups! We're studying the fruit that the Holy Spirit grows in our lives as we stay close to Jesus.

Getting Started

Getting to Know You: Part of our goal together is getting to know one another. *What "old person" things do you do?*

Review your message notes and this week's Scripture. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

A Commitment to Be There

** This week's questions are adapted from: Phyllis J. LePeau et al., Fruit of the Spirit: 48 Bible Studies for Individuals or Groups (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013).*

There is an old saying that when times are hardest you know who your friends are. That summarizes the first chapter of the book of Ruth.

Naomi's situation was at its worst. She had lost her husband and sons, which meant that she had also lost her source of income, security, and identity. She was without hope. It is at this point that Ruth, her daughter-in-law, does an astonishing thing — she decides to stay with Naomi. Ruth demonstrates a commitment to be there

1. Who was your best friend growing up? In high school? College? As an adult?
2. Why is faithfulness an important quality in friendship?
3. **Read Ruth, Chapter 1.** What do we learn about Naomi in **verses 1–5**?
4. Ruth and Orpah are introduced as Naomi's daughters-in-law (**v. 4**). What basis do these three women have for mutual trust (**verses 1–5**)?
5. Consider a time when you shared a difficult experience with someone. How did it strengthen your friendship?
6. What do **verses 6–13** reveal about Naomi's relationship to God?
7. When you have faced a painful experience, how has it affected your attitude toward God?
8. The famine is over, and Naomi prepares to return to Bethlehem with her daughters-in-law. Why does Naomi encourage Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab (**verses 8–14**)?
9. What cost does Naomi face by encouraging Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab? How do both Ruth and Orpah show faithfulness to Naomi by their different responses?

The word clung (v. 14) is a verb meaning a committed, faithful "cleaving" in a deep personal relationship.

10. Read Ruth's familiar words in **verses 16–17**. How would you summarize her words of dedication?
11. Naomi's homecoming is painful (**v. 19–22**). How does Naomi view herself and her situation?
12. What provisions has God made for Naomi even in the midst of this bitter time?

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13. How does Ruth's example encourage you to be faithful in good times and in bad?

Pray

This week as you pray individually or as you close your Life Group, use the P.R.A.Y. acronym.

P – Praise: Pray short, sentence prayers of praise to God aloud. Anyone in the group can pray, in any order, thanking God and praising him for who he is and what he's done.

R – Repent: Spend sometime quietly repenting to God of your sin. If you're in your group, do this silently in your own heart before the Lord.

A – Ask: Ask God for what it is you need and/or want him to do. After someone asks, another in the group should "back it up" and pray asking for the same request.

Y – Yield: Yield to God's will, to his Word, and to however he may choose to answer your prayers.



SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE

Practice meditating on **Galatians 5:22-23**. Read it 8 or 9 times. First read it quickly, then read it slowly focusing several seconds on each main word. Then begin to memorize these two verses. Make it your goal to be able to know these two verses by heart by the end of September!

Word Find for Deuteronomy 7:6-10 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

⁶For you are a **people holy** to the **LORD** your God. The **LORD** your God has **chosen** you to be a **people** for his **treasured possession**, out of all the **peoples** who are on the **face** of the **earth**. ⁷It was not **because** you were **more** in **number** than any **other people** that the **LORD** set his **love** on you and **chose** you, for you were the **fewest** of all **peoples**, ⁸ but it is **because** the **LORD** loves you and is **keeping** the **oath** that he **swore** to your **fathers**, that the **LORD** has **brought** you out with a **mighty hand** and **redeemed** you from the **house** of **slavery**, from the **hand** of **Pharaoh king of Egypt**.

⁹**Know therefore** that the **LORD** your God is God, the **faithful** God who **keeps covenant** and steadfast **love** with those who **love** him and **keep** his commandments, to a thousand generations, ¹⁰ and **repays** to their **face** those who **hate** him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who **hates** him. He will **repay** him to his **face**.

S C H I Y H O K N O W D M N
C Y B S R K P Y S N P P I U
K I N G S L A V E R Y E G M
P D E K E E P H A R A O H B
A G F F R I O A R A C P T E
S I A A E R S N T H O L Y R
W L I T D B S D H T V E H W
O O T H E R E F O R E P A Y
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