

Quarter At-A-Glance

September 2019

Responding to God's Grace

The study this quarter focuses on God's gift of faith and how we respond to it both personally and communally. The sessions from the Old and New Testaments illuminate how God's grace impacts the lives of all believers, as demonstrated by their obedience, gratitude, and holy living.

UNIT 1 • God Is Faithful

This unit has five sessions that tell the story of God's faithfulness. In Genesis, God is faithful to Abraham by blessing his nephew Lot, and God is faithful in answering Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel. In Exodus, God is faithful to the people of Israel by providing manna when they complain of hunger. In Numbers, Caleb and Joshua remind the Israelites of the faithfulness of God who hears their cries and forgives.

Lesson 1: September 1, 2019

Faith and Doubt

Genesis 19:1, 15–26, 29

People's lives are often affected by what others have done or are doing on their behalf. How do the actions of others affect our lives? Genesis says that God preserved Lot when Sodom was destroyed because of the righteousness of his uncle Abraham.

Lesson 2: September 8, 2019

God Answers Prayer

1 Samuel 1:9–20

People often feel that no one hears them when they express their deepest desires. Is

anyone really listening? Hannah, who had no children, asked God for a son, promising to dedicate him to God's service, and soon she conceived and gave birth.

Lesson 3: September 15, 2019

Bread from Heaven

Exodus 16:1–8, 13–15

People are often unhappy with what they have in life. How can people be truly satisfied? Despite the complaining of the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness, God provided meat and bread for them.

Lesson 4: September 22, 2019

God Hears Our Cry

Numbers 13:1–2, 17, 25–28; 14:1–2, 5–10

When life puts obstacles in our paths, we are tempted to abandon the promises the future holds. Why don't we believe the promises made to us? Caleb and Joshua believed that God would lead Israel to possession of the Promised Land and tried to persuade the people to trust God's faithfulness.

Lesson 5: September 29, 2019

God Forgives

Numbers 14:10–20

Everyone wrongs others, even those who love them and those whom they love. When we have done wrong, is forgiveness possible? According to Numbers, God forgave the rebelling people of Israel and promised to lead their descendants forward to the Promised Land.

UNIT 2 • Responses to God's Faithfulness

This unit has four sessions that explore reactions to the many benefits accrued to humans because of God's grace. Deuteronomy teaches that faith requires a response of obedience. The story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath in 1 Kings shows that faithful obedience saves Elijah, the widow, and her son. Luke's Gospel tells about gratitude for God's faithfulness in the anointing of Jesus and the healing of the centurion's servant.

Lesson 6: October 6, 2019

Obedient Faith

Deuteronomy 4:1–8, 12–13

People desire and appreciate faithfulness in all of their relationships. How are we to respond to the faithfulness of others? Deuteronomy 4 and 5 set forth obedience as God's expectation of Israel in response to God's faithful deliverance.

Lesson 7: October 13, 2019

Blessed for Faithfulness

1 Kings 17:8–16

When people are denied the necessities of life, they may give up hope. What is the reward for faithful obedience in times of hardship? The widow of Zarephath faithfully ministered to God's prophet, and God miraculously provided for her throughout the time of famine.

Lesson 8: October 20, 2019

Faith Can Heal

Luke 7:1–10

People often have faith in others based on their good reputation. How does one demonstrate that trust? The centurion in Luke demonstrated his trust in Jesus' ability to heal by telling him just to speak a word.

Lesson 9: October 27, 2019

Faith Saves

Luke 6:37–48

People often respond to forgiveness with loving acts. What can we do to show gratitude to those who forgive us? In Luke, the sinful woman showed her gratitude to Jesus by washing his feet with her tears and anointing him with expensive oil.

UNIT 3 • Faith Leads to Holy Living

This unit has four sessions that examine letters to early churches that tell them how to live as faithful followers of Christ. 2 Corinthians tells the people to examine themselves to see if they are living in faith. 1 Thessalonians urges Christians to be positive examples of faith. 1 and 2 Peter teach that faith requires holy living and goodness.

Lesson 10: November 3, 2019

Self-Examination

2 Corinthians 13:1–11

People often set goals to achieve personal growth. What can we do to gauge our personal development? Following previous difficulties, Paul now forcibly reminds the Corinthians to examine themselves in comparison to God's standards for faithful living.

Lesson 11: November 10, 2019

Be Examples of Faith

1 Thessalonians 1:2–10

People often look for positive examples to emulate. How can we be positive examples? The Thessalonians were praised because they were positive examples to others, exhibiting strong faith and committing loving acts even in the midst of trials and persecution.

Lesson 12: November 17, 2019

Live Holy Lives

1 Peter 1:13–25

People admire and emulate those who live in accord with what they say. How can we put our beliefs into action? 1 Peter teaches believers that they must live holy lives and do good, loving deeds for others, thus demonstrating that they trust in God and have been born anew.

Lesson 13: November 24, 2019

Stick to Your Faith

2 Peter 1:1–15

People can be harmed by the corruption in the world. How can we guard against those negative influences? 2 Peter stresses the importance of supporting one's faith with goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, mutual affection, and love.

