

Seventh Sunday in Kingdomtide

Faithfulness as a Kingdom Value

Old Testament: Ruth 1:16-17 (NRSV)

¹⁶But Ruth said, 'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁶Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!'

Hosea 2:19-20 (NRSV)

¹⁹And I will take you for my wife for ever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy.

²⁰I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the LORD.

New Testament: Mark 8:34 (NRSV)

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'

General Concept: A faithful church is loyal and obedient to Christ.

Key Concepts in the Different Age Levels in Sunday School

N/K/YE: The church always obeys Jesus.

ME/OE: The church is loyal and obedient to Jesus.

Y: The church shows faithfulness by being obedient and loyal to Jesus.

A: The church manifests faithfulness by actively doing Jesus' mission.

Exegesis of the Biblical References

The text of Ruth 1:16-17 signifies the depth of commitment of Ruth to Naomi, her mother-in-law and to the God of Naomi, Yahweh, and her people. The terminology of verse 16 is reminiscent of marriage vows and covenant making in the Old Testament. It is a statement of total and unconditional loyalty to Naomi and her faith tradition. Ruth made a very crucial decision that will determine the shape and future of her life to follow Naomi and not to return anymore to her own country Moab. She absolutely made a decision that will change the rest of her life. This marks a critical turning point that will fix her destiny in the ensuing history of Israel. As she declares with full loyalty to Naomi, "Entreat me not to leave you or to return from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God; where you die I will die, and there I will be buried," she has then cast her lot and entrusts her whole fate and future in following the great God of Israel, completely abandoning whatever connection, whatever roots she still has in Moab. Out of her loyalty and faithfulness, she has become a truly transformed being. Her loyalty and faithfulness have provided for her and Naomi. These have a redeeming and transforming impact on her life and on the life of Naomi, and eventually, the life and future of Israel. Loyalty and faithfulness to a relationship produce its redemptive, transforming impact even on a nation. This is itself one of the clear signs of living the life in the kingdom of God.

In the text of Hosea 2:19, the word "betroth" refers to "take a wife forever..." the verb refers to a legally binding agreement to be in a relationship of trust and commitment to each other which precedes the wedding. In this text God commands Hosea to marry a harlot woman to signify the wickedness of the people Israel. For in God's eyes the people had engaged in harlotry by going after other gods like the Baals that were worshipped all over

the land. This is why Hosea was given a mission to marry the harlot woman, because Israel was judged as having become a harlot in God's eyes. The word betrothed refers to one being in a relationship of loyalty to God's will and commitment to follow and submit oneself to God.

Here emerges our calling as Christians today. We are called to a relationship of loyalty and commitment to the will of our God. In this light we need to submit ourselves with all our hearts and souls, with all our strength and mind to our God in loyal and committed service. In Mark 8:34, Jesus says, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." The model to follow therefore of such loyalty and commitment is no less than Jesus himself. To be part of God's mission and ministry involves a total commitment in the pursuit of Jesus' own mission here on earth even if it will entail costly sacrifices even of one's life. This is what it means to be a loyal partner in a divine-human covenant relationship. This is to enter into God's mission with that mode of selflessness displayed by Jesus himself.

Companion Guide for the Teachers and other End-users

One of the key concepts in the Old Testament is God's faithfulness. Israel is betrothed to Yahweh in faithfulness, and to reciprocate Israel ought to be faithful to Yahweh. In the New Testament, the church is portrayed as the bride of Christ. The closest of human intimacies is a biblical metaphor for faithfulness.

The kingdom represents the full unfolding of God's faithfulness to creation and the perfection of its response to the Creator. In the meantime, the church is where people learn and mature in faithfulness to God and to the church under the tutelage of the Spirit. Because those who have been redeemed in Christ continue to exist in a sinful state they still bear the marks of sinful nature but under God's grace. Hence, the church's faithfulness to the Lord is still on the way to achieving perfection under the discipline of the Spirit.

Learning to be faithful is accomplished by practice and learning from it. Constant and consistent acts of obedience to the commands of the Lord make a faithful church. Loyalty is equivalent to active faithfulness as it is loaded with strong affection and a readiness to take action. A loyal church takes offense when the cause of the kingdom suffers injury and is ready to take action to advance its course. The church's loyalty to Christ is tested by outside forces that seek to hinder and counter its mission as well as from within by members who have succumbed to the lure of the Tempter. The church's loyalty is purified and strengthened each time it overcomes testing.

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. explain that to be faithful to God is to obey God;
2. show pictures that show obedience to God; and
3. demonstrate obedience through a poster.

II. Concept: The church always obeys Jesus.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), a paper crown, cut-out letters of "O-B-E-Y", stick puppets of Jesus and Peter, pictures that show obeying Jesus (loving each other, serving one another) and disobeying Jesus (fighting against each other, not sharing), poster on "I WILL OBEY JESUS"

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: As the learners enter the room, the teacher wears the paper crown and greets them with a BIG SMILE.
2. Opening prayer: Dear God, thank you for this beautiful Sunday. Thank you for bringing us to this place and learn from you. Teach us to follow you. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen."
3. Opening song: "It's a Great Thing to Praise the Lord"
It's a great thing to praise the Lord
It's a great thing to praise the Lord
It's a great thing to praise the Lord
Walking in the light of God.
Walk, walk, walk in the light (3x).
Walking in the light of God.

B. Getting Ready

1. Let the children sit together. Point to the crown and ask the children what it is. Ask them who they know wears a crown (a king or queen) and why a crown is worn. (A crown is a symbol of power.)
2. Prepare the class to play the game "Bring Me". Tell the pupils that you will play the king in this game. The teacher gives instruction and the children obey. Ex. Bring me a Bible. Continue asking the children other things available in the classroom.
3. After the game, ask the children.
 - a. What did the king make you do in the game?
 - b. How did you feel when you were able to follow the king?
 - c. How did you feel when you were not able to follow the king?
 - d. Who is the king in our life? (Jesus is the king in our life.)

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the children to sing "Follow the Leader"
Do a little motion one, two, three (3x).
Everybody follow me.
Follow, follow, follow me (3x).
Everybody follow me.

2. Say: "In the story, find out what Jesus, the king, said to his followers."
3. Tell the story.

Jesus Scolds Peter

(Mark 8:31-34)

One fine day, in a faraway land, Jesus tells His followers, "I must suffer and die."

At that time, the elders, the priest, and the writers in the temple did not like Jesus. They wanted to kill Him because they cannot accept Him as their king. But, after three days, the Son of Man will wake up again from the dead.

Peter does not like what he heard. He does not accept what Jesus said that he is to die. Peter takes Jesus aside from other followers and scolds Jesus.

Jesus scolds Peter back. Jesus tells Peter, "Go away from me, Satan! You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of humans."

Next, Jesus calls the people including His followers. He tells them: "If You want to be my follower you have to do these: deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me." Then, Jesus continues to teach His followers.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Prepare and use stick puppets of Jesus and Peter when asking and answering these questions.

1. What did Jesus say to his followers? ("I must suffer and die.")
2. Who wanted Jesus dead? (The elders, the priests, and the writers in the temple who do not like Jesus. They wanted to kill Him.)
3. Why did they want Jesus dead? (The elders, the priest, and the writers in the temple cannot accept Him as their king.)
4. Why did Peter scold Jesus? (Peter did not like what he heard that Jesus will die.)
5. What did Jesus say to Peter? ("Go away from me, Satan! You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of humans.")

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: At home, who do we obey? (Mom, dad, lolo, lola, ate and kuya) Why do we have to obey them? (We get into trouble or get hurt if we don't. We do good when we obey.) Say: We obey Jesus for the same reason. We obey to show that we are good. We follow Jesus because following Jesus will keep us out of trouble.

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse found in Mark 8:34.
(NK) Jesus says, "If anyone wants to be my follower, one must follow Me."
(YE) Jesus says, "If you want to be my follower, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me."
2. **For N/K:** *Show and tell.* Give the children show cards showing a happy face and a sad face. Say some things when children obey or disobey. Let the class react by showing how they feel using their show cards.
3. **For YE:** *Human acrostic.* Before doing this, prepare cutout letters of O, B, E, and Y and cutout illustrations. Select some children who will decorate each letter: for O, a boy and a girl smiling; for B, a boy and a girl with their forefingers in their temples to show that they believe; for E, a boy and a girl enjoying their exercise; and Y, a boy and a girl doing the Y position happily. Show the letters and guide the children to say the following. As they say the acrostic, have the learners use their body to form the

letters O-B-E-Y.

Obey Jesus. (Jesus wants us to be good always.)

Believe. You will be called. (Jesus calls all of us to follow Him.)

Enjoy it. (We follow Jesus with a happy heart.)

You can do it. (We all can obey Jesus.)

- 4 **For both groups:** *Poster making.* Give each child a poster showing the words: "I WILL OBEY JESUS" and let them make it colorful. Let the children write the memory verse in their posters.

G. *Closing Worship*

1. Request the children to stand and hold their poster. Let them repeat after you. "I WILL OBEY JESUS." (We, the Church always obey Jesus. We obey Jesus because He is our master and king.)
2. Offering: Put a basket offering at the center and instruct the kids to bring their offering as you sing together: "We're Giving Because We Love Jesus"
We're giving. We're giving because we love Jesus.
We're giving. We're giving because we love Him.
3. Closing song: "Read Your Bible, Pray and Obey"
Read your Bible, pray and obey (3x).
Read your Bible, pray and obey
And you grow, grow, grow (3x).
Read your bible, pray and obey.
And you grow, grow, grow.
4. Closing prayer: "Dear God, we want to grow in You. Help us to read your word. Teach us to obey your word. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Middle and Older Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. explain that to be faithful and loyal to God is to obey God;
2. share their ways that show obedience to God; and
3. demonstrate using creative activities ways of showing obedience at home, in school and in the church.

II. Concept: The church is loyal and obedient to Jesus.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), For banner making: long band paper or cloth (cacha), tape, stick, pentel pen, coloring materials, copy of the story enough for each child

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: As the learners enter the room, greet them with a BIG SMILE.
2. Opening prayer: Lead the prayer and instruct your learners to follow after you: "Dear God, thank you for this beautiful Sunday. Thank you for bringing us to this place and learn from you. Teach us to be loyal and obedient to you in all the days of our lives. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen."
3. Opening songs: "I'll Praise the Lord Forever"
I'll praise, I'll praise, I'll praise the Lord forever.
I'll praise, I'll praise, I'll praise the Lord forever.
I'll do my best, I'll do my best,
I'll do my best for You, Oh, oh, oh.
I'll obey, I'll obey, I'll obey the Lord forever
I'll obey, I'll obey, I'll obey the Lord forever
I'll do my best, I'll do my best,
I'll do my best for You, Oh! Oh! Oh!
"Follow the Leader"
Do a little motion one, two, three (3x).
Everybody follow me.
Follow, follow, follow me(3x).
Everybody follow me.

B. Getting Ready

1. Let the children sit together and tell them that you will have an activity. The activity is entitled "Mirror Me". Have them form pairs. The first person will make a movement or facial expression. Then, the second person will mirror the first person. Let the first child do three movements, then the pair reverse roles.
2. After the game, ask the children,
 - a. How do you feel when you're following the other person?
 - b. Do you find it easier or difficult to follow? Why?
 - c. How is this like following Jesus as Christians?

C. Learning Time

1. Say: One virtue in God's kingdom is faithfulness. Faithfulness is shown by being obedient and loyal to Jesus Christ who is the head of the church. Being obedient

and loyal is what Jesus wants from His followers. This virtue is taught by Jesus to his first followers.”

2. Prepare a written copy of this story. Divide the class into two groups and have the groups read a sentence alternately.

Jesus Scolds Peter

(Mark 8:31-34)

One fine day, in a faraway land, Jesus tells His followers, “I must suffer and die.”

At that time, the elders, the priest, and the writers in the temple did not like Jesus. They wanted to kill Him because they cannot accept Him as their king. But, after three days, the Son of Man will wake up again from the dead.

Peter does not like what he heard. He does not accept what Jesus said that he is to die. Peter takes Jesus aside from other followers and scolds Jesus.

Jesus scolds Peter back. Jesus tells Peter, “Go away from me, Satan! You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of humans.”

Next, Jesus calls the people including His followers. He tells them: “If You want to be my follower you have to do these: deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me.” Then, Jesus continues to teach His followers.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Ask the following questions. Tell the class to read the answers from the copy of the story given to them.
 - a. What did Jesus say to his followers?
 - b. Who wanted Jesus dead?
 - c. Why did they want Jesus dead?
 - d. Why did Peter scold Jesus?
 - e. What did Jesus say to Peter?
2. Tell the class to simulate a TV program and let them call it “Sunday Morning Live”. Tell the learners that they are to re-enact what happened when Jesus and his disciples walked around Caesaria Philippi. One would act as a reporter doing a live reporting on Jesus' movements and giving a background on the account. Assign one as Jesus and another as Peter. The rest plays the crowd. Have the narrator focus on the heated exchange of lines between Jesus and Peter.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How does the church show loyalty and obedience to Jesus?

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Discuss the memory verse: “Whoever wants to become my follower, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow me.” (Mark 8:34)
2. **For ME:** *Think-Pair-Share*. Discuss how the class can demonstrate obedience to Jesus at home, in the church, or in school. Pair the learners and ask them to discuss their answers. Give them 5 minutes to talk and discuss their answers. Conclude by coming back together as a whole group and have each pair share their answers.
3. **For OE:** *Banner making*. Tell the children to look for a partner. Discuss how the class can demonstrate obedience to Jesus at home, in the church, or in school. Tell each pair to make a banner showing how they can demonstrate loyalty and obedience to Jesus.

G. Closing Worship

1. Request the children to stand by partners and show their output. Ask them to say the memory verse found in Mark 8:34.
2. Pledge, commitment, action: I will remember to draw from my faith in Christ the wisdom and strength I will need in times of trouble.
3. Offering: Put a basket offering at the center and instruct the kids to bring their offering as they sing together: "We're Giving Because We Love Jesus"
We're giving. We're giving because we love Jesus.
We're giving. We're giving because we love Him.
4. Closing song: "To Be Like Jesus"
To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus.
All I want is to be like Him, all through life's journey.
From earth to glory, All I want is to be like Him.
5. Closing prayer: "Dear God, we want to be like Jesus. Help us to be faithful in You. Teach us to obey your words and be loyal to You all the time. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Youth Level

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. use the story of Ruth, Hosea, and Jesus to describe faithfulness and loyalty to God;
2. explain how the church promotes faithfulness to God by obeying God;
3. describe one's faithfulness as the fruit of belief; and
4. demonstrate ways that they can show obedience and loyalty to God in their relationships, at home, and involvements in church and in schools.

II. Concept: The church shows faithfulness by being obedient and loyal to Jesus.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets on ways that they can show obedience and loyalty to Jesus

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: As the learners enter the room, greet them.
2. Opening prayer:
3. Opening song: "Trust and Obey" (HFJ # 312) first three stanzas

B. Getting Ready

1. Have the class form pairs. The first person will make a movement or facial expression. The second person will mirror the first person. Let the first person do three movements or facial expressions, then the pair reverse the roles.
2. After the game, ask the children:
 - a. How do you feel when you're following the other person?
 - b. What was the most important factor to successful following?
 - c. How is this like following Jesus as Christians?
3. After hearing their answers, tell them that one of the values of God's kingdom is faithfulness.

C. Learning Time

1. Unlock the meaning of the following underlined words:
 - a. The character of a person tells who he or she is; what that person does, feels, and thinks; describes all the choices made by a person.
 - b. Faithfulness is shown by being obedient and loyal to Jesus Christ who is the head of the church. Being obedient and loyal is what Jesus wants from His disciples. The value of faithfulness is taught by Jesus to His first disciples.
 - c. Unfaithfulness is the act of a person who breaks his or her promises; not being true or loyal; not being someone that others can trust or count on.
 - d. Spiritual adultery is done when a person breaks his or her promise to love and serve God with all their hearts and souls and minds and bodies; when a person puts other things in life before God; when a person loves other things more than his or her love for God.
 - e. Grace is God's gift of mercy to us.
 - f. A disciple is a follower. A Christian disciple is a person who accepts and assists in the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ.
 - g. Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit,

Christian disciples overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christ-like.

2. Tell the class to read in unison Ruth 1:16-17, Hosea 2:19-20, Mark 8:34. Discuss each set of verses using the given points of study
3. **Ruth 1:16-17. Ruth made a noble choice. God rewards her for her faithfulness.**
 - a. Ruth, a Moabite woman, leaves her homeland in Moab after the death of her husband to go and live with her mother-in-law. This act shows her *devotion and faithfulness to Naomi and Naomi's God*. This noble decision converted Ruth to Judaism.
 - b. God calls certain persons by which God uses to show God's great love for God's people. Ruth is one such person.
 - c. The heartwarming story of Ruth is one of the best examples of how God rewards those who make wise spiritual choices, like showing genuine and steadfast loyalty to one's family.
 - d. Every choice we make has consequences whether good or bad. Ruth made a noble choice. She *refrained from spiritual adultery*. When Ruth chose God and Ruth became the great-grandmother of a king of Israel, David, and in the course of time, became an ancestor of Jesus, the Christ, Son of the Living God.
4. **Hosea 2:19-20. God used the story of Hosea and Gomer to powerfully show God's love for God's people even when they fall into sin.**
 - a. God uses the idea of marriage to show how God wants to be close to God's people.
 - b. The story is not actually unfaithfulness to marriage but *unfaithfulness to God*.
 - c. The Israelites were able to see God's faithfulness better when they saw Gomer's faithfulness to his wife.
5. **Mark 8:34.** This verse shows "**Christian discipleship**". A Christian disciple is characterized with the following convictions.
 - a. A Christian disciple *puts Jesus first in all things*. To be a Christian disciple is to be set apart from the world.
 - b. A Christian disciple *obeys and does Jesus Christ's teachings*.
 - c. A Christian disciple is aware that being a follower of Christ, our job is not to produce fruit but to *abide in Christ*. In the process of abiding by Christ, the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit and this fruit is the result of our faithfulness, obedience, and loyalty to God.
 - d. A Christian disciple *loves other disciples*. Love for other disciples is not a feeling but an action. In doing so, the attitude of a Christian disciple becomes the same as that of Christ.
 - e. A Christian disciple does evangelistic works to *make disciples of others*. Through the intervention of the Holy Spirit, disciples are made.

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

1. Ruth chose Naomi's God. Hosea chose to follow God by taking back his unfaithful wife. Why is choosing God a wise and noble decision? (Refer to Matthew 6:33 and John 12:48.)
2. What should we remember when we make spiritual choices? (Our choices may result in good or bad consequences. The choices we make now can impact not only our eternal destiny, but also the eternal destiny of our family. Choosing God is an

opportunity for us and our loved ones to make the needed changes in our life. Choosing God serves as our guide in doing what is right.)

3. How are the youth warned about faithfulness and obedience? (Young people are warned not to follow the example of a father or a mother who does NOT choose to live a godly life and faithfully follow God.)
4. Have some church members fallen away by being unfaithful and disobedient to God? (Given that situation and as members of the youth group, get involved in church programs in Christian discipleship to strengthen the faith of members and show in your little way, the kind of grace and mercy that God has taught you.)
5. Describe obedience and loyalty in your own words. Complete these sentences.
 - a. Obedience is to _____.
 - b. Loyalty is to _____.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How can the church show faithfulness to God? (The church has strengthening and nurturing ministries that teach faithfulness by being obedient and loyal to Jesus.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Discuss the memory verse: "If anyone want to become my followers, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34)
2. *Think-Group-Share*. Divide the class into two groups. Assign the first group to discuss their ideas and answers on the ways they can obey Jesus. The other group is assigned to discuss ways they can be loyal to Jesus. Give them 10 minutes to talk and discuss their answers. Let both groups use the same table.
 - a. First Group: Ways to show obedience to Jesus Christ.
 - b. Second Group: Ways to show loyalty to Jesus Christ.

Areas	Your Actions
1. Relationships (with your parents, peers, church leaders, and pastors etc.)	
2. Church Involvements (e.g. Worship, Bible Study, Sunday School, Evangelism)	
3. School/Home	

3. Conclude by coming back together as a whole group and have each group share their answers.

G. Closing Worship

1. Memory verse: "...If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34b)
2. Offering
3. Closing song: "Trust and Obey" (HFJ # 312) last two stanzas
4. Closing prayer: "Dear God, we commit to you our lives with the desire to obey and be loyal to you in all the days of our lives. Help us. Strengthen us. Fill us with Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Adult Level

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. explain that faithfulness to God is manifested by following God's commands;
2. describe one's faithfulness as the fruit of belief;
3. list the biblical persons or persons in the community whose actions support faithfulness to God; and
4. make a commitment to participate in church activities that show following God's call to do mission.

II. Concept: The church manifests faithfulness by actively doing Jesus' mission.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: (As the learners enter the room, greet them.)
2. Opening prayer: *God of Hope, give us the grace to trust you when our life's burden seems too much to bear. May your Spirit dispel the darkness and bring us with new hope to trust you always. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.*
3. Opening song: "Trust and Obey" (HFJ # 312) first three stanzas or "Find Us Faithful"
We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road, And those who come before us
find the way, Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary, Their lives a
stirring testament Of God's sustaining grace.
Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, Let us run the race not only for the
prize, but to those who come before us, let us leave to those behind us, the
heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives.
Chorus: Oh, may all who come behind us, find us faithful, May the fire of our
devotion , light their way, May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe,
And the lives we live inspires them to obey, Oh may all who come behind us find
us faithful
After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone, and the children sift through
all we've left behind, May the clues that they discover, and the memories they
uncover, Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find.

B. Getting Ready

1. Think and do a motion or facial expression. Tell the class to follow you as you sing the song: "Follow the Leader".
Do a little motion one, two, three (3x)
Everybody follow me.
Follow, follow, follow me.(3x)
Everybody follow me.
2. At the end of the song, point to another person to make a motion and everyone will follow.
3. After the singing, ask your learners:
 - a. How do you feel when you're following the other person?
 - b. What was the most important to successful following?
 - c. How is this like following Jesus as Christians?
4. After hearing their answers, tell them that one of the values of God's kingdom is faithfulness.

C. Learning Time

1. Unlock the meaning of the following underlined words:
 - a. The character of a person tells who he or she is; what that person does, feels, and thinks; describes all the choices made by a person.
 - b. Faithfulness is shown by being obedient and loyal to Jesus Christ who is the head of the church. Being obedient and loyal is what Jesus wants from His disciples. The value of faithfulness is taught by Jesus to His first disciples.
 - c. Unfaithfulness is the act of a person who breaks his or her promises; not being true or loyal; not being someone that others can trust or count on.
 - d. Spiritual adultery is done when a person breaks his or her promise to love and serve God with all their hearts and souls and minds and bodies; when a person puts other things in life before God; when a person loves other things more than his or her love for God.
 - e. Grace is God's gift of mercy to us.
 - f. A disciple is a follower. A Christian disciple is a person who accepts and assists in the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ.
 - g. Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit. Throguh the Holy spirit, Christian disciples overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christlike.
2. Tell the class to read in unison Ruth 1:16-17, Hosea 2:19-20, Mark 8:34. Discuss each set of verses using the given points of study
3. **Ruth 1:16-17. Ruth made a noble choice. God rewards her for her faithfulness.**
 - a. Ruth, a Moabite woman, leaves her homeland in Moab after the death of her husband to go and live with her mother-in-law. This act shows shows her *devotion and faithfulness to Naomi and Naomi's God*. This noble decision converted Ruth to Jaudaism.
 - b. God calls certain persons by which God uses to show God's great love for God's people. Ruth is one such person.
 - c. The heartwarming story of Ruth is one of the best examples of how God rewards those who make wise spiritual choices, like showing genuine and steadfast loyalty to one's family.
 - d. Every choice we make has consequences whether good or bad. Ruth made a noble choice. She *refrained from spiritual adultery*. When Ruth chose God and Ruth became the great-grandmother of a king of Israel, David, and in the course of time, became an ancestor of Jesus, the Christ, Son of the Living God.
4. **Hosea 2:19-20. God used the story of Hosea and Gomer to powerfully show God's love for God's people even when they fall into sin.**
 - a. God uses the idea of marriage to show how God wants to be close to God's people.
 - b. The story is not actually unfaithfulness to marriage but *unfaithfulness to God*.
 - c. The Israelites were able to see God's faithfulness better when they saw Gomer's faithfulness to his wife.
5. **Mark 8:34.** This verse shows "**Christian discipleship**". A Christian disciple is characterized with the following convictions.
 - a. A Christian disciple *puts Jesus first in all things*. To be a Christian disciple is to be set apart from the world.
 - b. A Christian disciple *obeys and does Jesus Christ's teachings*.

- c. A Christian disciple is aware that being a follower of Christ, our job is not to produce fruit but to *abide in Christ*. In the process of abiding by Christ, the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit and this fruit is the result of our faithfulness, obedience, and loyalty to God.
- d. A Christian disciple *loves other disciples*. Love for other disciples is not a feeling but an action. In doing so, the attitude of a Christian disciple becomes the same as that of Christ.
- e. A Christian disciple does evangelistic works to *make disciples of others*. Through the intervention of the Holy Spirit, disciples are made.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Ruth chose Naomi's God. Hosea chose to follow God by taking back his unfaithful wife. Why is choosing God a wise and noble decision? (Refer to Matthew 6:33 and John 12:48.)
2. What should we remember when we make spiritual choices? (Our choices may result in good or bad consequences. The choices we make now can impact not only our eternal destiny, but also the eternal destiny of our family. Choosing God is an opportunity for us and our loved ones to make the needed changes in our life. Choosing God serves as our guide in doing what is right.)
3. How are parents warned about being models of faithfulness and obedience? (Parents should not forget that their children will, for the most part, follow their example, whether it's good or bad. Remember that doing what is wrong will put you in jeopardy as a leader and an example.)
4. Have some church members fallen away by being unfaithful and disobedient to God? (Given that situation and as members of the youth group, get involved in church programs in Christian discipleship to strengthen the faith of members and show in your little way, the kind of grace and mercy that God has taught you.)
5. What could be the possible hindrances from actively participating in doing Jesus' mission? (Expect varied answers.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: What programs are being done by churches to realize Jesus' mission?

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

Tell the class to study the following action plan. They may choose to adopt or prepare another action plan to address their challenges.

Project Title	Kitchen Soup
Goal	Feed the hungry with food and the soul with Jesus' teachings
Method	Feeding, Telling Bible stories
Target Place	An outreach place
People Involved	Christian Women Association
Time Frame	Year Round, every Saturday 6:00-9:00 AM

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "To the Work, To the Work" (HFJ # 324)
3. Closing prayer: "Dear God, we commit to you our lives with the desire to obey and be loyal to you in all the days of our lives. Help us. Strengthen us. Fill us with Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."