

Ripe 'N' Ready: Faithfulness

Questions To Ponder

- Did you play practical jokes on people as a child?
- What is the most significant promise you have made? Were you able to keep that promise? Why or why not?

Discussion

- Read Ephesians 1:4-6.
How does understanding God's intentions described here affect your worldview? Your view of yourself?
- John said that when we've been hurt by broken promises, scams, betrayals and such, we learn to be wary, maybe even sceptical of trusting other people. How much do you think our experiences with other humans affect the ease or difficulty we have in learning to fully trust God?
- Read Romans 4:3, 17-20.
How did Abraham respond to God as a result of his faith (v. 20)? What is the lesson for us today?
- "I'm learning that there is a big difference in believing *in* God versus actually *believing* God." (Tom Wright) Can you describe an instance when you graduated from the former to the latter?
- Read Genesis 18:12-13.
Sarah laughed when she heard God say they would have a child. Share a time you doubted that God would be faithful in your life.

- Read Hebrews 13-16.
What does it mean to you that not all these people of faith met with “success” in that the promise they were looking ahead to did not occur in their lifetimes? What does this tell you about the life of faith? Do you find this encouraging or discouraging? Why?
- How does our being faithful to trust God through the ups and downs in our lives relate to the fruit of the spirit? Do you see yourself as growing in faithfulness? In trustworthiness? What does that look like to you?
- What are the areas in your life where you need to lean in and put further trust, further confidence in God? Remind yourself that God loves you and is FOR you.

Spend time in prayer expressing your gratitude to Jesus, for choosing to be faithful to his purpose, to sacrifice his life on the cross so that we may be offered the gift of salvation.