BIBLE LESSONS
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LESSON 10: THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT— FAITHFULNESS

AIM: To highlight the faithful aspect of God’s character and the need for us to be faithful in our relationship with God and others.

WORD DEFINITION: The biblical word denotes that which is firm and can be counted on. The faithful person, therefore, is one who is dependable, trustworthy, loyal, reliable in relationships and absolutely honest.

OPENING ACTIVITY: Ask children what a rainbow symbolizes. One of them will probably tell you it is a promise from God that He will never again destroy the earth with a flood. Children can work through this puzzle and colour the rainbow, but be sure to set a time limit; unfinished work can be completed at home.

MEMORY VERSE: Never let go of loyalty and faithfulness (Prov 3:3)

The memory verse can be written on a rainbow shape

STORY: NOAH (Genesis chapters 6-8, 9:1-17)
The story of Noah illustrates both the faithful character of God as well as man. Make it clear that God was counting on Noah, so that the human race and the animal kingdom, so wonderfully designed and created by God, would be continued after the flood. Therefore, there was a big responsibility on Noah.

Another interesting point especially for older children is that every person born since the flood relates back to Noah. He is our common ancient ancestor, along with Adam and Eve.

After God created the earth, people gradually became extremely wicked and God felt very sorry that he had made them. He decided to send a great flood and destroy all the wickedness and start afresh.
So God told him to build a huge boat called an ark. This may have been the first boat ever made. God gave Noah all the directions and told him that when it was finished, Noah was to take every sort of animal into the ark and then God would send the flood, but he would keep Noah and his family and the animals safe.

Noah could have said, "I've never built a boat before!" or "What if the boat won't float?" or "What if God changes his mind?", but he didn't. Noah was a man who could be trusted. He not only listened to God but he obeyed him as well.

As time went by, Noah's neighbours began to laugh at the huge wooden ship, and they laughed at Noah, too. He tried to warn them by telling them of God's plan and asking them to change their wicked ways and return to God. But no one wanted to listen. This didn't worry Noah, he kept on working just as God told him. God knew he could trust Noah, and Noah knew he could trust God.

The day came when the ark was finished and the animals placed inside. The ark was very big (133 metres long, 32 metres wide and 13 metres high), and so they all fitted in comfortably. When they were inside God himself shut the huge door and then sent the rain. Now, before this day, rain had never fallen on the earth, as God used to water the earth with a heavy dew each night. But as Noah and his family were inside the ark, they could hear the rain falling on the roof and they knew that God had told them the truth.

It rained and rained without stopping for 40 days and 40 nights. All the rivers flooded and the Bible says that the earth broke up and water gushed up out of the earth. It rained and rained until even the high mountains were covered in water. Noah waited for 150 days after the rain stopped before the ark landed on Mount Ararat. But God had not forgotten Noah. He was waiting for the water to go down before bringing Noah and all the animals out of the ark.

After a few more weeks of waiting, Noah sent a raven out of the ark but there was still too much water around for it to land. Then a week later, he sent a dove, but it, too, returned to the ark when it could find no place to land. After another week, he sent the dove again. This time, it returned with an olive branch in its beak. Noah knew the waters had gone down. Another week later, he sent the dove out again, and this time it did not return—the earth was dry.

Noah and his family released the animals and set a heap of stones together and burnt a sacrifice in thankfulness to God. In the sky, God sent a rainbow and gave a promise that he would never again destroy the earth by flood. So every time we see a rainbow, it reminds us that God is always faithful and always keeps his promises.

God was pleased with Noah's faithfulness and blessed him. Even though this story is thousands of years old, Noah is remembered today because of his faithfulness. God also wants us to be faithful and trustworthy with everyone.

DISCUSSION
Ask the children to share examples of situations where they can show their faithfulness.

Remind the children that Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to help us to be faithful, trustworthy, and loyal to God and others.
God was pleased with Noah’s faithfulness and blessed him. Even though the Flood happened thousands of years ago, Noah is remembered today because of his faithfulness.

God also wants us to be faithful and trustworthy with everyone.

Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to help us to be faithful, trustworthy and loyal to God and others.

God was faithful and kept His promise. Noah and his family worshipped God.
NOAH WAS FAITHFUL

Join up the dots. There is no water in sight, but what is Noah building? You can find this story in Genesis chapter 6, verses 9-22.
BIBLE QUIZ

Read the questions and circle your answers.
Write the Memory Verse at the bottom of the page.

1. Noah built an ark to keep his family and the animals safe when God destroyed the earth with water. True / False

2. God chose Noah to build an ark because he had built many boats before. True / False

3. Noah was faithful to God even though everyone around him became wicked. True / False

4. Noah took his wife and the animals on the ark, but left his sons behind. True / False

5. God was relying on Noah to be faithful so that the human race could continue. True / False

6. God was sorry he chose Noah to build the ark because he was disobedient and unfaithful. True / False

7. God flooded the whole earth, and it took so long to stop raining, He forgot about Noah. True / False

8. Noah’s neighbours laughed and mocked him, but he remained faithful to God. True / False

Noah’s first act after the flood was to build an altar of stones so he and his family could worship God. True / False

9. God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise to never again flood the earth. True / False

MEMORY VERSE: Proverbs 3:3 ….
NOAH was FAITHFUL

All the animals are in Noah's ark, floating safely on the flood water. Work out a flight path so the dove can get back to the ark without hitting a cloud.

You can read about this in Genesis 7:1-8:12.