

# Unit 1: Fruits of the Spirit

## Lesson 1.7: Fruits of the Spirit – FAITHFULNESS

### Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

**Scriptural Reference:** Matthew 25:21; Daniel 6

### Activities:

*\*Choose based on time available. Instructions and supplies listed below.*

Activity 1: Faithfulness Challenge Chart

Activity 2: Faithfulness Word Search

### Words of the week:

հավատք - ha-va-dk - faith

հավատարմութիւն - ha-va-dar-moo-tyoon - loyal

խոստում - khos-doom - promise

### Objective:

Students will understand that faithfulness means being reliable, trustworthy, and committed—keeping our promises and doing what we say we’ll do. They will explore how faithfulness shows in our relationship with God and with others. They will also memorize Matthew 25:21: “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”

### Moral Character Focus:

**Knowledge:** Children will learn that faithfulness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, shown when we keep our commitments and remain steady even when it's hard.

**Understanding:** Children will recognize that God is perfectly faithful to us, and He calls us to be faithful to Him and to others.

**Application:** Children will identify practical ways to show faithfulness in their daily lives, finishing what they start, keeping promises, and staying committed to God.

**Values:** Children will develop a desire to be faithful because God is faithful to us and we want to reflect His character.

### Memory Verse:

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”

— Matthew 25:21

# Lesson

## Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՛ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն:

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

*\*Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

## Lesson Body: Fruits of the Spirit - FAITHFULNESS

### What does it mean to be faithful?

Faithfulness means being someone others can count on. It means keeping your promises, finishing what you start, and being reliable even when it's hard or boring. A faithful person doesn't give up when things get difficult. They don't quit just because something more fun comes along. They stick with their commitments.

In the Armenian Church, we learn that faithfulness is one of the fruits the Holy Spirit grows in our hearts. That means it's not just about being good at one thing—it's about who we become when we follow Jesus. Like a tree that keeps producing fruit year after year, a heart filled with the Holy Spirit keeps being faithful in big things and small things.

Faithfulness means showing up when you said you would. It means doing your chores even when you don't feel like it. It means praying even when you're tired. It means being a true friend who doesn't abandon people when things get tough. Faithfulness is a choice we make every day to be trustworthy and reliable, just like God is with us.



### Words of the Week:

**հավատք - ha-va-dk - faith**  
**հավատարմութիւն - ha-va-dar-moo-tyoon**  
**- loyal**  
**խոստում - khos-doom - promise**

### Memory Verse:

**“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”**

**— Matthew 25:21**

**Memory Verse Practice: “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” (Matthew 25:21)**

**Say it together: Then try saying it in different ways: loudly, in a whisper, with hand motions (pointing up on “master,” touching heart on “faithful,” spreading arms on “much”).**

**Practice it until everyone can say at least part of it!**

## God’s Faithfulness to Us

God is perfectly faithful. He never breaks His promises. He never abandons us. He never changes His mind about loving us. Even when we make mistakes, God remains faithful. Even when we turn away from Him, God is still there waiting for us to come back.

God was faithful to Noah during the flood. He was faithful to Abraham when He promised him a son. He was faithful to Moses when He led the Israelites out of Egypt. He was faithful to send Jesus to save us. And He is faithful to us every single day. When the Holy Spirit lives in us, we can share that same faithfulness with others.

## Faithfulness in the Church

In the Armenian Divine Liturgy, we remember God’s faithfulness to His people throughout history. We celebrate how God kept His promises and never abandoned His Church, even through difficult times. The Armenian Church itself is a testimony to faithfulness—for over 1,700 years, through persecutions and hardships, Armenian Christians have remained faithful to God.

When we come to church every week, we are practicing faithfulness. When we pray regularly, we are being faithful. When we participate in the sacraments and remember our baptism, we are staying faithful to the commitments God made to us and we made to Him.

## How the Holy Spirit Grows Faithfulness in Us

Faithfulness is like a muscle that gets stronger with practice. The Holy Spirit grows faithfulness in us when:

- We keep our promises, even small ones
- We finish our homework and chores without giving up
- We stay friends with someone even when it’s not always easy
- We pray and read the Bible regularly, not just when we feel like it
- We tell the truth even when a lie would be easier
- We stay committed to our church and our faith
- We keep trying even when we fail

Each time we choose to be faithful in small things, God prepares us to be faithful in bigger things. The more we practice faithfulness, the more it becomes part of who we are.

## A Story of Faithfulness: Daniel in the Lions' Den

Long ago, there was a man named Daniel who loved God with all his heart. Daniel lived in Babylon, far from his homeland, serving King Darius. The king trusted Daniel and put him in charge of many important things because Daniel was faithful. He always did what he said he would do, and he did it well.

But some of the other leaders were jealous of Daniel. They didn't like that the king trusted him so much. So they made an evil plan. They knew Daniel prayed to God three times every day: morning, noon, and night. Daniel always opened his window toward Jerusalem and prayed faithfully, just as he had done his whole life. The jealous leaders thought, "We can use his faithfulness against him!"

They went to King Darius and said, "O King, you should make a new law. For the next thirty days, no one can pray to any god or person except you. Anyone who breaks this law will be thrown into the den of lions." The king, not realizing it was a trap, agreed and signed the law.

Now Daniel faced a choice. He could stop praying to God for thirty days and be safe. He could pray in secret where no one would see. Or he could remain faithful to God no matter what. Daniel didn't have to think long about what to do. That very day, he went home, opened his window toward Jerusalem, knelt down, and prayed to God, just like he always did. He prayed three times that day, just like always. Daniel was faithful to God, even though he knew it could cost him his life.

The jealous leaders caught Daniel praying and ran to tell the king. King Darius was heartbroken! He loved Daniel and tried to find a way to save him, but the law could not be changed. Sadly, the king had to send Daniel to the lions' den. As the guards threw Daniel in with the hungry lions, the king said, "May your God, whom you serve faithfully, deliver you!"

That night, the king couldn't eat or sleep. He was so worried about Daniel. Early the next morning, he rushed to the lions' den and called out, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve faithfully, been able to deliver you from the lions?" And Daniel answered, "O King, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me!" God protected Daniel because of his faithfulness!

The king was overjoyed. He had Daniel brought out of the den (not a scratch on him!) and he punished the wicked men who had tried to hurt Daniel. Then King Darius made a new law: everyone in his kingdom should honor Daniel's God. Because Daniel remained faithful to God, even when it was dangerous, God was faithful to Daniel and protected him. Daniel's faithfulness also showed the king and the whole nation that God is real and powerful.

That is true faithfulness: staying committed to God no matter what, keeping your promises even when it's hard, and trusting that God will be faithful to you too.

### Discussion Pause:

1. Why do you think Daniel kept praying to God even though he knew he could be thrown to the lions?
2. What would you have done if you were Daniel? Would it have been hard to keep praying?
3. How did Daniel's faithfulness to God affect King Darius and others around him?
4. God was faithful to Daniel and protected him. Can you think of ways God has been faithful to you?
5. What are some ways we can be faithful to God every day, even in small things?



## Activity 1: Faithfulness Challenge Chart

**Materials needed:** Paper or poster board for each child, markers, stickers or stamps, ruler (optional)

**Instructions:**

1. Introduce the Activity: “Daniel was faithful to God by praying three times every day, no matter what. This week, we’re going to practice being faithful by doing something for God every day!”
2. Create the Chart: Help each child create a simple chart with seven columns (one for each day of the week). At the top, write “My Faithfulness Challenge.”
3. Choose Commitments: Have children choose 2-3 things they will be faithful to do every day this week:
  - Pray before bed
  - Read one Bible story or verse
  - Help with one chore without being asked
  - Say something kind to someone
  - Thank God for one thing
4. Decorate: Let children decorate their charts with pictures of lions (to remember Daniel), praying hands, or other symbols of faithfulness.
5. Track Progress: Each day they complete their commitment, they can mark the chart with a sticker, check mark, or drawing.
6. Follow-Up: Next week, let children share how they did. Celebrate their faithfulness and encourage them to keep going!

**Teaching Connection:** “Just like Daniel was faithful every single day in praying to God, we can be faithful in small ways every day. When we keep our commitments, even when we don’t feel like it, even when we’re tired or busy, we’re building faithfulness in our hearts. God doesn’t ask us to be perfect; He asks us to be faithful. Every day you keep your commitment is a victory!”



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Faithfulness

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | U | N | W | K | I | N | G | S | L | S | B | V | A | T | K | C | Z |
| S | E | V | B | I | B | L | E | J | D | O | R | D | A | O | D | Z | A |
| P | G | D | W | K | M | F | S | E | E | C | Y | H | P | P | R | T | I |
| P | Z | P | I | T | I | N | W | A | N | O | X | A | L | R | Z | V | L |
| Y | V | L | I | C | R | D | N | L | U | P | K | Y | L | O | E | W | A |
| H | N | V | Q | H | A | A | L | O | V | D | R | C | C | M | D | E | W |
| R | I | Y | O | G | J | T | P | U | C | A | M | A | R | I | U | J | F |
| F | A | I | T | H | B | B | I | S | L | N | K | P | Y | S | H | D | C |
| V | T | J | L | Z | W | J | L | O | W | I | Z | G | I | E | X | C | H |
| J | B | S | E | R | V | I | C | E | N | E | P | Q | O | H | R | H | C |
| F | F | F | J | L | I | O | N | S | J | L | N | P | B | D | B | Y | P |
| V | B | U | Q | B | Q | N | O | R | N | X | D | S | S | Y | B | U | O |

Find the following words in the puzzle.  
 Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

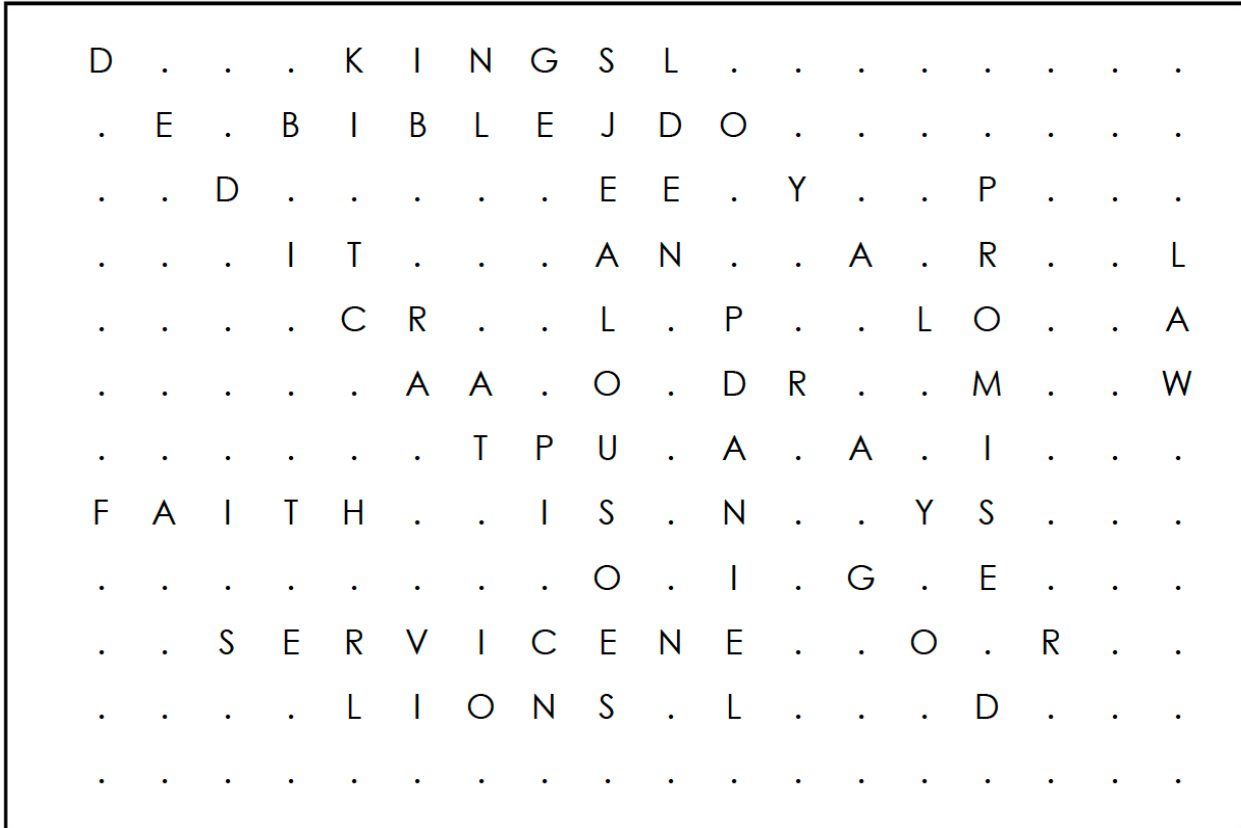
DEDICATION  
 PROMISE  
 JEALOUS  
 SERVICE  
 DANIEL  
 PRAYER

FAITH  
 LOYAL  
 BIBLE  
 LIONS  
 KINGS  
 TRAP

GOD  
 DEN  
 LAW

**SOLUTION**

**Faithfulness**



Word directions and start points are formatted: (Direction, X, Y)

DEDICATION (SE,1,1)  
 PROMISE (S,15,3)  
 JEALOUS (S,9,2)  
 SERVICE (E,3,10)  
 DANIEL (S,11,6)  
 PRAYER (SE,11,5)

FAITH (E,1,8)  
 LOYAL (SE,10,1)  
 BIBLE (E,4,2)  
 LIONS (E,5,11)  
 KINGS (E,5,1)  
 TRAP (SE,5,4)

GOD (SE,13,9)  
 DEN (S,10,2)  
 LAW (S,18,4)

# Review

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## Memory Verse Review:

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” (Matthew 25:21)

## Words of the Week Review:

հաւատք - ha-va-dk - faith

հաւատարմութիւն - ha-va-dar-moo-tyoon - loyal

խոստում - khos-doom - promise

## Lesson Review:

### Questions:

1. What is faithfulness, and why does it matter? *(Faithfulness means being someone others can count on—keeping promises, finishing what we start, and being reliable even when it’s hard. It matters because it shows we are trustworthy and reflects God’s character)*
2. How is God faithful to us? *(God never breaks His promises. He never abandons us. He never changes His mind about loving us. Even when we make mistakes, God remains faithful to us)*
3. What was Daniel faithful to do every single day, and why was this dangerous? *(Daniel prayed to God three times every day—morning, noon, and night. This became dangerous when the king made a law that no one could pray to anyone except the king for thirty days, or they would be thrown to the lions)*
4. When Daniel knew praying could get him killed, what did he do? *(Daniel remained faithful to God. He went home, opened his window, and prayed just like he always did. He didn’t stop, hide, or make excuses. He stayed faithful no matter what)*
5. How did God show His faithfulness to Daniel, and what happened because of it? *(God sent His angel to shut the lions’ mouths, and Daniel wasn’t hurt at all. God protected him because of his faithfulness. Because of this, King Darius made a law honoring God, and the whole kingdom learned about God’s power)*

## Life Application

### ***What are we going to do with what we have learned today?***

Faithfulness isn’t just about big moments like Daniel in the lions’ den. It’s built in small, everyday choices. This week, practice faithfulness by keeping one simple promise each day: finish your homework before playing, do your chores without being reminded, or pray before bed even when you’re tired. When you feel like giving up or when something more fun comes along, remember that God is watching over the small things and preparing you for bigger responsibilities. Just as Daniel was faithful in his daily prayers and God protected him, when you’re faithful in little things, God sees it and grows that fruit of the Spirit stronger in your heart.

\* *Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

**Close with prayer:**

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev vog-hormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.