



## Faithful in All Things

?

WHEN HAVE  
YOU WANTED  
TO TRY  
SOMETHING  
NEW BUT  
WERE AFRAID?

## The POINT >

Faithfully trust God as you minister  
to others.

### > REVELATION 3:7-13

<sup>7</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

<sup>8</sup> “‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup> Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. <sup>12</sup> The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it,

and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

<sup>13</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’



# FOR LEADERS (15 minutes)

THE POINT // FAITHFULLY TRUST GOD AS YOU MINISTER TO OTHERS.

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

Growing in Christlikeness is accomplished as we act intentionally to pursue Christ and as God works in our lives.

## Message to Leaders

Jesus commended the church in Philadelphia for being faithful—they experienced difficult things, but still lived out their commitment to follow Christ. When we faithfully pursue Jesus, refusing to compromise, God will bless us in real ways, including shaping us more fully into the image of Jesus.

## › Engage Option 1

Ask a student to come up front and challenge him or her to complete a difficult task (e.g., eat something gross, hold a handstand for one minute, etc.). Offer an unknown prize for completing the task. Allow for two smaller prizes if the student cannot complete the task and select a new student to attempt the challenge. The greatest prize will be awarded only for completion. Say, **“Persisting in our faith and devoting all of our life to Christ will allow us to experience the ultimate reward that no one else can offer.”**

## LEADER PACK ELEMENTS

If you have the optional Leader Pack, consider the following:

**ITEM 6:** Consider displaying the **Faith in Jesus** poster to introduce students to the main idea.

## › Engage Option 2

Decorate the room to look like the end of a race or marathon with a finish line. Say, **“Life is like a race that is full of challenges and hurdles, but when we run with endurance and live faithfully every day, God can use us to minister to others as we finish strong.”**

## › Engage Option 3

Search the Internet for “What is Faith? - J.I. Packer.” Play the video as you begin the session. Say, **“When we live by faith, we can partner with God to serve others and help them to experience the hope found only in Him.”**

**NOTE:** Always make sure you preview any video clip you show students and ensure it is appropriate for your church and ministry.



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

THE POINT // FAITHFULLY TRUST GOD AS YOU MINISTER TO OTHERS.



## THE SETTING

Located at the eastern end of a valley and next to the Cogamis River, the city of Philadelphia served as a strategic location both for military and trade. While the city itself was significant, the church in Philadelphia seemed small, weak, and insignificant on the surface. But in the Lord's eyes, as He would proclaim in His letter to this congregation, they were great due to their enduring faithfulness to Him.

### FACT:

The first swim goggles were invented to help divers find pearls, and they were made of turtle shells.<sup>1</sup>

Several years ago, my family brought a 9-year-old girl out of a vulnerable situation and into our home. Within a month of her moving in, we went on our yearly vacation, which involved a lot of time at the pool. However, there was a problem. Our daughter had never been swimming, and she was terrified!

It took me at least an hour to get her into the water, and another three days before she would even attempt to swim. Despite my describing the fun she would have and promising that I would make sure she was okay, she simply wasn't willing to take a chance. She had experienced so many broken promises before that she wasn't willing to trust me.

By the end of the week, however, I finally convinced her to take the risk and give swimming a try. More importantly, I convinced her to trust me. Today, she loves to swim, and all summer long, we can't get her out of the pool.

Chances are, you've been hurt by broken promises. Maybe you've even come to the same conclusion as our daughter—that people aren't trustworthy. The truth is that people will let us down. However, Jesus never will. He is faithful to fulfill His promises, and if we will trust Him, Jesus will make sure that we are okay.



# IMPART (30 minutes)

THE POINT // FAITHFULLY TRUST GOD AS YOU MINISTER TO OTHERS.

## REVELATION 3:7-8

*“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. “I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. **REVELATION 3:7-8**”*

Jesus’ sixth message was to the church in Philadelphia—a name that means “brotherly love.” Philadelphia was a place with rich soil and many vineyards (which might explain why they worshiped Dionysus, the Greek god of wine). To this church, Jesus identified Himself by several titles: “the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.”

His reference to the key of David refers back to Isaiah 22:22, Isaiah’s prophecy about Eliakim. Eliakim had been put into the position of palace secretary. He could literally open or close any door he wanted with the key, a privilege of his high position in David’s court. When Jesus claims that He, as the offspring of David, is the one who truly holds the key, it helps us to see His position of power and authority. Jesus alone has the right to allow people into the heavenly city and into the presence of God. Jesus has not only the authority to open the door, He is the door. The salvation made possible by Jesus is the only way we can come into the presence of God.

This door was open to the believers in Philadelphia, and as long as Jesus intended it to be open, no one could close it. It was not open because of the church’s strength and influence. In fact, Jesus noted that the church had little power. Power was not the issue. Faith was, and that’s exactly what the church in Philadelphia had. Their faith was evident in two ways:

- **They kept His word:** They remained true to what they had learned and received. They had not allowed any distractions or the sinful culture around them to distract them from following Jesus.
- **They did not deny the name of Jesus:** No matter what trials or persecution they faced, the believers refused to deny the name of the One who saved them. This is such an important message for us today. When we trust His Word and place our unwavering faith in the name of Jesus, the door of His salvation is open to us. Any power we may try to gain on our own is ineffective and unnecessary. We need only to trust Christ.

### DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE (P. 46)

- 1 When have you been glad Jesus opened a door for you?
- 2 What are some obstacles that may hinder us from trusting God?



# IMPART

THE POINT // FAITHFULLY TRUST GOD AS YOU MINISTER TO OTHERS.

## REVELATION 3:9-10

*Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.* **REVELATION 3:9-10**

In class, everything your teacher says is important, right? However, from time to time, she'll say, "Pay special attention and write this down." We usually hear this type of language in regard to an upcoming test or a concept that is foundational to other things we'll learn later. Whatever the case, when we receive this kind of message, we know that what follows is especially important.

There were people who had opposed the church's witness, and Jesus referred to them as "the synagogue of Satan." They claimed to be Jews, however, they were living a lie. During His earthly ministry, Jesus told a group of Jews that if they were Abraham's offspring, they would live faithfully as Abraham did (John 8:39). The apostle Paul also wrote, "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise" (Gal. 3:29). The Jews in Philadelphia rejected the truth of Christ, and therefore, they were not true Jews. Though they had rejected Christ and His followers, one day they would recognize the truth and bow before Him as Lord of all creation.

No matter how these false Jews opposed the church and its beliefs, these believers remained faithful. No matter how difficult the challenges that came from those who failed to see the truth, they endured. The church in Philadelphia was made up of people who were wholeheartedly devoted to Jesus.

In response to their faithfulness, Jesus promised them the protection only He could give in verse 10. Many scholars see this as a reference to a time of great tribulation. However, there is disagreement on what Jesus means in saying He will keep you from the coming trials. Some believe Christ will remove His followers from the tribulation, and others believe this means God will protect His children from experiencing the wrath that comes during the time of tribulation. Either way, the main idea is that Christ promises protection for those who endure.

When we think about the future, particularly times of great trial, we may be tempted to be afraid. However, we must remember that if we are followers of Christ who remain true to His Word, we have no need to worry. God is in control, and He will take care of us. Just as He promised the believers in Philadelphia, when we remain faithful, we can trust His protection.

*We are living in uncertain times,  
but the promises of God are true,  
and if we remain faithful, Jesus will  
see us through. #BSFLtheChurch*



### DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE (P. 47)

- 3** What are some things we can do to obey Jesus' command to endure?
- 4** How do you remain faithful to God during difficult times?
- 5** What helps you trust in God's protection?



## REVELATION 3:11-13

*I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’* **REVELATION 3:11-13**

Difficulties and tribulations may come, but Jesus promised, “I am coming soon.” From our twenty-first century perspective, we might be tempted to think Jesus did not keep His promise—after all, He hasn’t returned yet. However, we need to understand that Jesus has not broken His word, and from the perspective of eternity, His return is soon! Jesus’ promise to come was intended to comfort the Philadelphian believers, and it should comfort us too.

Because Jesus is coming soon, believers can hold on to what we have knowing that all of life’s challenges will soon be over. We should live with the expectancy that He could return at any time. No matter what we face, no matter how uncertain the days ahead are for us, we can rest assured that Christ is coming again. And when He comes, we will ultimately be delivered from all trials, persecutions, and difficulties.

To the one who finishes the race, Christ will make the victor a pillar in the temple of God. This was a promise of security in the presence of God, and it might have been especially meaningful to this church. Philadelphia had experienced a devastating earthquake in 17 A.D., and the inhabitants continued to feel tremors for years. Even today, the only thing that remains from some of the ancient temples are the massive pillars. Here, Jesus promised that we are secure and unmovable in Him.

Many pillars in the ancient temples had inscriptions of the names of people who were prominent in the temple or city. We do something similar today when we name a building or a bridge in honor of someone influential. You may even have articles in your church named after someone who served faithfully and made a difference. For those who belong to Him, Jesus “will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God,” identifying that they are His. For the members of the church in Philadelphia, who had been outcasts in their city, this was particularly meaningful. They had experienced rejection, but Jesus promised they would be recognized as worthy in His kingdom.

No matter what we face in life as children of God, Jesus assures us that we have been given a new name and we are citizens of His eternal kingdom. Like the believers in Philadelphia, we must continue to hold on to the truth. We are living in uncertain times, but the promises of God are true, and if we remain faithful, Jesus will see us through.

### DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE (P. 47)

**6** List some ways your church is like the church at Philadelphia.

**7** What are some tools that God gives us to help us remain faithful?

**8** Where do you have an opportunity right now to faithfully trust in God?



# LIVE IT OUT (10 minutes)

THE POINT // FAITHFULLY TRUST GOD AS YOU MINISTER TO OTHERS.



GOD  
JESUS  
HOLY SPIRIT  
BIBLE  
SALVATION  
CREATION  
CHURCH

## PEOPLE

FAMILY  
COMMUNITY  
& WORLD

### LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

*Growing in Christlikeness is accomplished as we act intentionally to pursue Christ and as God works in our lives.*

Jesus commended the church in Philadelphia for being faithful—they experienced difficult things, but still lived out their commitment to follow Christ. When we faithfully pursue Jesus, refusing to compromise, God will bless us in real ways, including shaping us more fully into the image of Jesus.

## >CHRIST

Trust is belief that leads to action. This means that if we truly trust Jesus, we will live in ways that demonstrate that trust. Answer the following questions honestly:

**9** Do you confidently trust Jesus?

**10** How does your life prove that you trust Him?

**11** What is Jesus calling you to do that you haven't yet followed?

**Commit to demonstrating trust in Jesus by living out this calling. Pray that He would give you the boldness and strength to trust Him completely.**



# LIVE IT OUT

THE POINT // FAITHFULLY TRUST GOD AS YOU MINISTER TO OTHERS.

## > COMMUNITY

---

As Jesus' followers, we are to be completely trustworthy.

**12** Who is someone that you trust fully?

**13** How has being able to trust this person made a difference in your life?



Let this person know the difference he or she has made in your life and how much you appreciate it. Send your person a card or text or even call him or her on the phone.

## > CULTURE

---

In our culture, people are generally critical or skeptical. Most people have been burned many times and aren't inclined to trust others.

**14** This week, share the reasons you see Jesus as trustworthy with a non-believing friend. Include a specific story about how He has been faithful to you, and invite your friend to put their trust in Christ.