

Sunday School Lesson, July 14, 2024
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Lesson—God is Faithful¹

Text—Psalm 71:12-21

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Recall past experiences of God's faithfulness even in times of difficulty.
2. Affirm God is a faithful and loving sustainer.
3. Find avenues through which we lead others to a relationship with God.

Why This Lesson Matters: Our interpretations of past events profoundly influence our experience of the present. In Psalm 71, the poet's hope is maintained by expressing continual praise for God's past acts of faithfulness and love.

Key Verse—(Psalm 71:14) *I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more. (KJV)*

Song of Praise and Worship: *"I Call You Faithful"* by Donnie McClurkin

II. Points to be Emphasized

- ❖ *The Psalmist expresses hope that God's faithfulness will continue into his old age, just as God had been faithful from his youth.*
- ❖ *Just as God's faithfulness is expressed in terms of time, God's power is expressed in spatial terms such as in verse 19, referencing the high heavens.*
- ❖ *The speaker was no stranger to misfortune, as is evident in the references to the many troubles and calamities. Yet, he maintained hope that God would bring restoration, honor, and comfort as expressed in verse 21.*

III. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

Some of the most beautiful poetry ever written is found in the 150 entries of the Book of Psalms. The work is attributed to various writers, including David, Asaph, the sons of Korah, King Solomon, Moses, and several other anonymous contributors. The Psalms span an estimated 900 years of Israel's history. These poetic masterpieces were written to God for the blessing and benefit of believers throughout history. The Psalms also cover a multitude of emotional and spiritual

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnb.com

subjects, and some of these themes include love, trust, lament, praise, wisdom, and thanksgiving.

Psalm 71, from book two of the Psalter (Psalms 42-72), an anonymous author testifies of God's constant help from his childhood. Psalm 71 is an example of how the Psalms engage life circumstances. The anonymous author wrote to God, expressing concerns about aging. The writer not only long for God's abiding presence, but also indicates his desire to instruct and inform the next generation. Likewise, we too, should intentionally invest in the spiritual growth and maturity of those coming behind us to avoid the rise of a generation that does not know God (see Judges 2:10)

IV. *Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson*

The "pray-er": not identified; It could be King David, or just an ordinary Israelite.

V. *Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)*

<i>God</i>	<i>Help</i>	<i>Mouth</i>
<i>Praise</i>	<i>Reproach</i>	<i>Righteousness</i>

VI. *Topical Outline of the Lesson*

1. Introduction
2. Stay Close to God (Psalm 71:12-13)
3. As for Me (vv.14-15)
4. I Will Praise You (vv. 16-18)
5. No One Like You, God (vv.19-21)

Food for thought and question for consideration: (What have we learned Charlie Brown?)

- Looking back over your life, are you able to recount the many times that God has been faithful?
- What praise will you offer God for past faithfulness and for how you will need Him in the present and future?