

Loyalty

Proverbs 21:21 ESV

“Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness and honor.”

“Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens.”- J.R.R. Tolkien

What is loyalty? Loyalty is a strong feeling of support or allegiance. While the bible doesn't talk about loyalty very much by name, it demonstrates the concept of loyalty throughout the Bible. Other than Jesus Christ, arguably no one in the Bible had the kind of loyalty that Ruth had. Ruth stayed with her mother-in-law (Naomi) even after her husband died, and supported her. She could've easily returned home to her own family and was even encouraged to do so by her own mother-in-law. When Naomi told her she had nothing left to give her, Ruth pleaded with her.

Ruth 1:16 NIV

“Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”

As people we long to have friends and family who are on our side no matter what we do because we were created to be in relationship with a God who does just that. Our desire for undying loyalty stems from our need to be in a relationship with the God who would die out of loyalty and love for us.

So the most important loyalty in anyone's life is to Christ, the one who loved us so much that He died so that we could have eternal life. Jesus asks for our ultimate loyalty, above our spouse, above our children, and parents. Above or friends, above our country, and above any other cause, including our own lives. While loyalty to people is good, loyalty to our God will bring the most life to ourselves and those around us. We must always make sure that our loyalties are in the right order: Love God, then love people. If we do this, then the other areas of our lives will be in right order.

Going around the table answer these questions as a family.

- 1) **What is Loyalty to you? and How can you tell someone's loyalty?**
- 2) **Who in your life has been the most loyal to you? Give an example of how that person to you is loyal.**

Uncomfortable

Joshua 1:9 ESV

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

“When God wants you to grow, He makes you uncomfortable.”

The Bible talks at least as much about how important our discomfort is as our loyalty to God. Sometimes God wants you uncomfortable.

“You mean God does NOT want me happy, comfortable, and satisfied?”

No, He does. You’ll find true happiness and satisfaction in God and God alone, but when we become loyal and faithful to God, don’t think it gets easy and comfortable. God wants to test our faith and loyalty to him. In fact, God will put us in the most uncomfortable situations in our growth.

Being uncomfortable and suffering for Christ is what we sign up for when we decide to follow Him. Stepping out of our comfort zones and into His will for our lives is what He desires.

Go around and as a family answer these questions:

- 1) **What has been the most uncomfortable situation you’ve been in?**
- 2) **How did you handle that situation ?**

Stepping out of our comfort zones can include doing the smallest things, whether it’s inviting a friend to church or youth, speaking to people/friends about Jesus, and even telling someone Jesus loves you!

A Challenge for this week: Do something that will get you out of your comfort zone. And ask God for guidance while doing it. Remember: “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”- Philippians 4:13