Opening session by OL Leader (guest speaker or clergy) in main Zoom group:

20 minutes

**Opening Question:**

*(Leader should ask the group)*

How would you fill in this blank: “Faithfulness is --------.”

Have campers answer this question on paper or a notebook.

**Teaching:**

Faithfulness is a combination of trust and commitment, rooted in love – as expressed in 1 Corinthians 13:7: “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”.

To be faithful to someone means that you love them so much that you 1) completely trust them AND you are someone that can be trusted in the same way and 2) deeply committed to the preservation/well-being of the other.

Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit because, if we are filled with a loving trust in God, we will naturally be committed to God and trust in His will. In turn, following the Greatest Commandment, we will be compelled to commit ourselves to the care and service of others.

When we can show that we can be trusted with the things given or gifted to us, we prove that people can ultimately put their faith in us. Ultimately, it speaks to who we are as Christians. We should always seek to let your yes be yes and our no be no. By proving ourselves trustworthy, we can show our faithfulness to others.

Panagia is the ultimate example of a person with showed faithfulness. She answered “Yes” when the angel said she would bear and give birth to God. In her free will, she could have answered no. It was her loving trust in God and her commitment to His will that allowed her to be faithful.

Trusting and committing to something or someone is difficult and requires constant work. Even the Apostles, the closest individuals to Christ who walked and talked with Him in person, asked for their faith to be increased — even though they had already seen signs, miracles, and even the Lord’s resurrection. But Christ, in responses to the Apostles, paints a picture of mustard seeds and mountains. *“The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’ And the Lord said, ‘If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamore tree, “Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,” and it would obey you.’” (Luke 17:5-6).* Christ promises them that if they can have even a little bit of faith, they will be able to accomplish wonderful, big things in Christ.

**Activity:**

(Leader should ask the group)

List three people you trust and explain why you put your trust in them.

Have campers write down their responses on paper or a notebook.

**Teaching 2:**

Consider the individuals you listed. You might trust them now because they have proven to you that they can be trusted. However, there was a point when you put just a little bit of faith in them for the very first time, even though you had nothing to go on, and they proved to be trustworthy. Chances are, you have made an equal commitment to them to be a trusted person… working to show that you are committed and trustworthy as well.

Again, having faith or trust in something can seem like an almost impossible task because it is asking us to put our hope in things we have not seen. That might seem like the case when we think of our faith or trust in Christ. We have been promised through Christ that the things we read in the Bible are true. We must remember that God has promised many things to many people in the Bible, and He has always delivered on His promises. So, we know His Word to be true. Furthermore, when we see the ways that God takes care of us, this assures us that His word is true.

**Wrap-up**

Shortly, we will break into our groups and consider some of the following things:

- What do you think it means to be faithful?

- Is it easy to have faith?

- Is it ok for us to have doubt?

- How can we become more faithful to God and to one another?

*Note: Campers and Staff are moved from main Zoom room to their Breakout rooms*

**Discussion Questions** (for breakout groups):

***Ask campers to put a Thumbs Up (Yes) or the Thumbs Down (No) to respond to the following: It is easy to have faith.***

- What makes it easy?

- What makes it difficult?

- What helps you to have faith in God?

***Ask campers to put a Thumbs Up (Yes) or the Thumbs Down (No) to respond to the following: I have doubted my faith in others at times.***

- What makes us doubt our faith in others?

- In what ways do we work through that doubt?

***Ask campers to put a Thumbs Up (Yes) or the Thumbs Down (No) to respond to the following: I have doubted my faith in God at times.***

- What makes us doubt our faith in God?

- Is there a relationship between faith and doubt? Is doubt sin?

- What are some things we can do when we have doubts about God?

- Do you think God loses faith in us?

Read the following Scripture:

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.” (Hebrews 11:1-3)

• What does this passage tell us about faith?

• How can we believe what we have not seen?

***Ask campers to put a Thumbs Up (Yes) or the Thumbs Down (No) to respond to the following: I have witnessed /experienced faithfulness in Church services or at Church.***

- If yes, how?

- If no, where do you think you can look to find examples of faithfulness?

• Consider the story of the mustard seed in the Bible. What does the mustard seed have to do with faith? • How do the Cross and the mustard seed relate?

**Devotional (Cabin Talk):**

“Let us commit ourselves, and one another, and our whole lives to Christ our God.” This is a powerful statement, said by the priest multiple times during the Divine Liturgy. Commitment to someone or something means you have faith and trust. So committing ourselves, one another, and our whole lives to God requires us to have faith, trust deeply, and

* What does it mean to commit our whole lives to Christ?
* What makes it difficult to commit our whole lives to Christ?
* How can we work through those challenges and commit ourselves more fervently to Christ?
* How can we show our faithfulness and commitment to Christ in our everyday lives?
* It is one thing to commit ourselves to Christ, but how can we commit one another to Christ our God?