

“Whenever I’m afraid, I put my trust in you.” Psalm 56:3

“Whenever I am afraid, I put my trust in God.” (Repeat 2x)

We can trust God no matter what challenges we face in life. We are invited to put our trust in God in every situation, including during times when we might be afraid. We are given courage to face our fears while trusting in God.

A four-year-old spilled his cola on the rug and wanted to clean up the mess himself. So, his mother told him that the mop was just outside the back door. Quickly, he ran to the door, but realized that it had become dark outside. Suddenly scared, he told his mother what the problem was. Assuring him, she told him that Jesus is everywhere, even in dark places, and that he'll always protect him. This put a smile on his face! So, he opened the door just enough to poke his head outside and called out "Jesus, if you're out there, could you pass me the mop?"

T.R.U.S.T.- In the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament, the words used for “trust” are foundational to defining the fundamental lifestyle characteristics of the people of God. Most directly, “to trust” means “to rely on, depend on, believe, be convinced of something, have faith” with the sense of being completely confident and feeling utterly safe. As we consider our relationship with God, the essence of “trust” is a recognition of who God is and who we are.

We could be tempted to trust in many things: social networks (friends, coworkers, social media), physical or military might, money, our own understanding and intellectual prowess. And sometimes, it may even take us getting to the point when we recognize and learn that all of these things, however natural or great it is to have them, are ultimately insufficient, that then, and only then, will we look outside ourselves and find that our trust in God is most important. To trust God rather than any of these earthly things is to express confidence in God’s character and to acknowledge that God is more reliable than anything we might possess or attain. To rely on God is to acknowledge our helplessness and to resign ourselves to his care- no matter the cost.

Did you know? There are Old and New Testament Campers that trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. Each of these campers experienced the gift of a trusting relationship with God and learned to trust God to go with them, lead the way, share wisdom, give them peace, and spark joy. Through these stories, we can be inspired toward a trusting relationship with God in which we too can trust God to go with us as we celebrate the good news of Jesus in our lives and in the lives of others. Through these stories we can learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God, whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world and share the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ. That is what this whole next week with Vacation Bible School is going to be about. A Summer Camp Adventure with God learning to trust God in and throughout our life.

Let's look briefly at who some of those Old and New Testament campers were and how God walked with each.

Genesis 28:10-22... God goes with Jacob... And just as God went with Jacob, we can trust God to go with us! Even as we face the fear of the unknown and the possibilities of aloneness like Jacob, we can put our trust in God to go with us on the journeys to where God leads us.

“If we cannot understand God's plans for us, then learn to trust His unfailing character instead” – Christian.net

“God meets daily needs daily. Not weekly or annually. He will give you what you need when it is needed.” -Max Lucado

Ruth 1... Ruth Chooses to Go... And just as Ruth chooses to go God's way because she knows God lead her, we too can trust God to lead the way! Through the story of Ruth choosing to stay with Naomi and follow her back to Bethlehem, we are invited to ponder the ways we can trust and see God leading in our own lives and in the lives of others.

“Let your cares drive you to God. I shall not mind if you have many of them if each one leads you to prayer. If every fret makes you lean more on the Beloved, it will be a benefit.” – Charles H. Spurgeon

“God, who foresaw your tribulations, has specially armed you to go through it, not without pain but without stain.” – C.S.Lewis

Luke 2:41-52... Young Jesus shares wisdom... And just as God spoke through young Jesus in the synagogue, we too can trust God to share wisdom in and through us. We are invited

to consider how we, like young Jesus, can both begin the journey of pursuing God's wisdom and trust God to share wisdom that will go with us throughout our lives.

“A little faith will bring your soul to heaven; a great faith will bring heaven to your soul.” – Charles H. Spurgeon

Mark 4:35-41... Jesus Calms the storm... And just as Jesus appeared to the frightened disciples amid the storm at sea to bring them peace, we too can trust God to give us peace amid our storms and lives. Like Jesus, we can all ask God for peace during the storms that crash against our lives and know that God is with us throughout it all.

“When trouble comes, focus on God's ability to care for you.” – Charles Stanley

“Fear visits everyone. But make your fear a visitor and not a resident.”- Max Lucado

Acts 8:26-40... The Good News Sparks Joy... And just like those in the early church who experienced a joy unlike anything they had ever dreamed of, we too can trust God to spark an overwhelming joy in us. We are invited to consider how, like Philip, we can respond to God's love and grace ourselves, how we can share it with others, and how we can trust God to spark joy in our lives as we live out this key part of our own discipleship.

We trust not because “a God” exists, but because “this God”, “our God”, exists.

We all have a great deal in common, and perhaps the most important of all, is our need to trust in God first and foremost in and through our lives. God is there for us. God is with us. God is our rock and our refuge. God is our advocate and comforter. God is our steadfast and everlasting love. God is our abundant and overflowing joy. Just as God has been for our Old and New Testament ancestors, we too are to trust and believe that God is for us in our everyday.

“Whenever I am afraid, **I put my trust in God.**”

“Whenever I am anxious, **I put my trust in God.**”

“Whenever I have a challenge in front of me, **I put my trust in God.**”

“Whenever I don't know what the next step is, **I put my trust in God.**”

“Whenever I am looking for joy, **I put my trust in God.**”

“Whenever, **I put my trust in God.**”