Unit 7, Session 3

The Blessings on God’s People

Summary and Goal
In the last session we looked at the deadly effects of sin with its ultimate consequence being separation from God forever. We are all sinners, but just as God made a way for the Israelites to be saved from the consequence of their rebellion, God has made a way for us to be saved from ours. Just as the Israelites repented of their sin and looked to the bronze snake in faith to be healed, we look to Jesus, who died on the cross, to be saved from the consequences of sin. In this session, we will look at the faithfulness of God to keep His promises to bless His people. Because God is faithful, we can trust that He will keep His promises, even in the midst of our unfaithfulness.

Session Outline
1. God blesses His people by delivering them (Num. 23:19-23).
2. God blesses His people by keeping His covenant promises (Num. 24:5-9).
3. God blesses His people by providing a conquering King (Num. 24:17-19; 1 Cor. 15:25-26).

Session in a Sentence
God is faithful to keep His promise to bless His people.

Christ Connection
Balaam could not curse God’s people but blessed them instead and proclaimed God’s faithfulness. Balaam’s blessings ultimately were realized centuries later in Jesus. Jesus is the conquering King who fulfilled God’s covenant promises and delivered His people from sin and death.

Missional Application
Because we have received God’s faithful blessings out of His kindness and grace, we seek to be a blessing to the world around us, ultimately by sharing how others can experience God’s greatest blessing of salvation through Christ.
**Introduction**

**READ:** Tell the story on page 29 in the Daily Discipleship Guide (DDG) about Crowfoot receiving a lifetime railway pass that he likely never used.

During the late 1800s, the Canadian government wanted to construct the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) to unite the country from coast to coast, but doing so required land from some Native American territories. In 1883, when the Blackfoot Confederation of tribes retaliated against the railroad, a Native American chief named Crowfoot, a spokesperson for the Blackfoot Confederacy, negotiated with the government for compensation of land elsewhere. In recognition of Crowfoot’s statesmanship, the CPR vice-president awarded him with a lifetime railway pass in 1887. Crowfoot wore this pass on a chain around his neck for the rest of his life, though he most likely never used it.¹

**INTERACT:** Ask group members the following question.

What are some promises we might hold on to but never use?

(offer of a friend for help in a time of need; roadside assistance; insurance benefits; product coupons; product rebates)

**SAY:** God’s promises are designed to give us a sure and steadfast hope in life. We aren’t to hang God’s promises around our necks like ornaments and never use them; instead, we are to hang our lives on God’s promises. They have eternal significance, and God will be faithful to fulfill every last one of them. Therefore, even today as we wait for Him to fulfill them, we can live in the reality of their fulfillment that is to come.

**SUMMARIZE:** In this session, we will look at the faithfulness of God to keep His promises to bless His people. Because God is faithful, we can trust that He will keep His promises, even in the midst of our unfaithfulness.

*For additional teaching options and other resources, please visit www.GospelProject.com/additional-resources.*
**Point 1: God blesses His people by delivering them (Num. 23:19-23).**

**EXPLAIN** the timeline leading up to Balaam’s second oracle before reading the passage for this point.

- Near the end of their wilderness wandering, the Israelites were led to the east side of the Jordan River, across from the promised land. They sent messengers to **King Sihon** of the Amorites asking permission to pass through their land, but they were met with an army in response. The Israelites defeated them and took possession of all their cities. Then they headed north and **King Og** of Bashan came out to attack them. The Lord also handed him and his land over to the Israelites (Num. 21:10-35).

- Turning south, they camped in the plains of Moab across the river from Jericho. **King Balak** of Moab was afraid of the Israelites because of their numbers and their success over the Amorites, so he wanted to hire Balaam, a diviner from Pethor, to come and curse them so he could defeat them in battle (22:1-6).

- After some interesting events, including the angel of the Lord and a talking donkey (encourage group members to read up on these events in their Daily Study devotions), Balaam arrived with the intent to speak as the Lord directed him. His **first oracle** did not curse the Israelites but blessed them instead, much to Balak’s consternation. Undeterred, Balak took Balaam to another place where he could look out over the Israelites, and God gave the diviner a **second oracle** to share (22:7–23:18).

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read Numbers 23:19-23 (DDG p. 30).

> 19 God is not a man, that he might lie, or a son of man, that he might change his mind. Does he speak and not act, or promise and not fulfill? 20 I have indeed received a command to bless; since he has blessed, I cannot change it. 21 He considers no disaster for Jacob; he sees no trouble for Israel. The **LORD** their God is with them, and there is rejoicing over the King among them. 22 God brought them out of Egypt; he is like the horns of a wild ox for them. 23 There is no magic curse against Jacob and no divination against Israel. It will now be said about Jacob and Israel, “What great things God has done!”

**EXPLAIN:** Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 30) to show why it was impossible for Balaam to curse the Israelites—because God had promised to bless them.

In Balaam’s second oracle, we are reminded that God does not lie and He does not renege on His promises. Ever. Therefore, it was impossible for Balaam to curse the Israelites because God had promised to bless Israel. The Lord is steadfast and faithful in His commitment to His people because He is unchanging. If God were anything less than one hundred percent faithful to His word, He would not be God. He would either not be true or not be powerful enough to keep His word; He would be just like us—flawed and weak. But while we are like Him, created in His image, He is not like us.
Commentary: Though we were created in the image of God, we are, of course, not completely like Him. God is completely holy and perfect (Isa. 6:3). God is the Creator of the universe. With a word, He created all things, and with a word, He can bring the most powerful of nations to nothing (Isa. 40:17). He changes the seasons and establishes kings and removes them (Dan. 2:21). God’s plans are best, so all that He says, He will do, and every promise He has made, He will keep.

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

How should knowing that God is unchanging encourage us to trust Him more and live more faithfully? (we know that He is with us no matter what because He said He will never forsake His children; we can believe that He rewards those who seek Him and His will by faith; the promise of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus is a certainty on which we can build our lives)

EXPLAIN: Use the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 30) to highlight that the Moabites were right to be afraid, only they were afraid of the wrong thing—God was the One who delivered His people.

The Moabites feared the Israelites, thinking they had delivered themselves from Egypt and defeated the Amorites. It was not the Israelites, however, who should have caused them to tremble but rather God who delivered the Israelites. God displays His immeasurable power to all the world though His people who are weak and sinful. He does so with the goal that all the world will recognize that there is nothing and no one greater than our God and therefore praise Him.

Voices from the Church

“God’s grace and faithfulness are stronger than those who would hurt us ... There is no greater power than the one we have in Jesus. If your life is hidden in Christ, you have no reason to fear any curse from anyone because God has all power.”

—Africa Study Bible
Point 2: God blesses His people by keeping His covenant promises (Num. 24:5-9).

SAY: After God denied Balak’s request a second time, Moab’s king took Balaam to yet another location, the top of Peor, hoping that Balaam might curse the Israelites from there (23:27-28). Balaam, however, perceived that God desired to bless Israel, and the Spirit of God came upon him (24:1-2). He began the third oracle by describing both Israel’s current state of blessing and the future blessings they would enjoy.

READ Numbers 24:5-9 (DDG p. 31).

5 How beautiful are your tents, Jacob, your dwellings, Israel. 6 They stretch out like river valleys, like gardens beside a stream, like aloes the Lord has planted, like cedars beside the water. 7 Water will flow from his buckets, and his seed will be by abundant water. His king will be greater than Agag, and his kingdom will be exalted. 8 God brought him out of Egypt; he is like the horns of a wild ox for them. He will feed on enemy nations and gnaw their bones; he will strike them with his arrows. 9 He crouches, he lies down like a lion or a lioness—who dares to rouse him? Those who bless you will be blessed, and those who curse you will be cursed.

EXPLAIN: Reference the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 31) as you explain how God’s protection and provision for the Israelites were a fulfillment of His promises, even though they were not yet in the promised land. And note how God’s faithfulness to His promises applies to those who are in Christ by faith.

While the Israelites rested in the wilderness, they were likely unaware of Balak’s repeated attempts to curse them. God, though, was aware and He was working on behalf of His people to protect and preserve them, as He had promised. Even in the wilderness, where the Israelites were forced to wander for forty years because of their unfaithfulness, God had blessed them and given them all they needed in abundance. Just as God was with the Israelites, providing for them and protecting them in the wilderness, He is with us as well.

- The rest and ample provisions that the Israelites enjoyed in that moment were not the true rest and the greatest provisions God had in store for His people. God’s present provision for His people anticipated their future abundance. He had promised to give the Israelites rest in the land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey (Ex. 33:14). Because all of the promises of God are as sure as the rising sun, the Israelites could trust that God was going to do what He said He would do. The rest and provisions they enjoyed on the east side of the Jordan River were only shadows of the substance that was to come.
- As God’s people in Christ, we also can live confidently, knowing that God’s promises are sure and that He is the One working now to fulfill all He has promised to us in Christ (1 Pet. 1:3-5).
INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

How should God’s faithfulness to protect and provide for His people address our temptation to worry about the needs of tomorrow? (we do not need to worry because God is faithful to take care of our needs; God is able to take care of our needs even when we don’t know what we need; if God is able to provide and protect, then we can be content in whatever situation we find ourselves in)

EXPLAIN: Use the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 31) to emphasize the overwhelming faithfulness of God in spite of any and all who would try to curse His people and frustrate His promises, even ourselves.

Three times Balak attempted to bribe Balaam into cursing the Israelites, and each time Balaam responded with the Lord’s blessing for His people. Not a person or a thing in this world can stop God’s promises (Rom. 8:38-39). In fact, anyone who tries is cursed, for God is like a lion lying down ready to crush anyone who attempts to come against Him and His children. No one can stop God from being faithful to us, even ourselves. Our faithlessness can’t stop the promises of God from being fulfilled (2 Tim. 2:13).

FILL IN THE BLANKS: Provide group members with the answers for the call-out in their DDG (p. 31).

God Is Faithful: God’s faithfulness means He keeps His word and always fulfills His promises. God’s faithfulness is demonstrated in His fulfillment of the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We reflect God by keeping the promises we make to Him and to others.

Essential Doctrine “God Is Faithful”: God’s faithfulness means He keeps His word and always fulfills His promises (1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:13; 1 Pet. 4:19). God’s faithfulness is demonstrated in His fulfillment of the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The apostle Paul linked the attribute of “faithful” to God’s coming through on His word: “He who calls you is faithful; he will do it” (1 Thess. 5:24). We reflect God by keeping the promises we make to Him and to others.

INTERACT: Ask group members the following question.

What should our response to our sin be knowing that God’s promises are secure no matter what? (we should quickly and openly confess our sin and ask for forgiveness; we should resist and fight against temptation and sin in order to honor the One who saves us by faith in Christ; we should keep our promises to God and others to reflect our faithful God)
Point 3: God blesses His people by providing a conquering King (Num. 24:17-19; 1 Cor. 15:25-26).

**SAY:** It was not Balaam who refused to curse the Israelites but rather God, and this God who was not done with the Israelites was not done with Balak yet either. He had a **fourth oracle** for Balaam that looked into the future, past the conquest of the promised land to a time when God would provide a king for His people.

**READ** Numbers 24:17-19 (DDG p. 32).

17 I see him, but not now; I perceive him, but not near. A star will come from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel. He will smash the forehead of Moab and strike down all the Shethites. 18 Edom will become a possession; Seir will become a possession of its enemies, but Israel will be triumphant. 19 One who comes from Jacob will rule; he will destroy the city's survivors.

**EXPLAIN:** Reference the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 32) as you explain that this passage foretells of a coming king who would conquer the Moabites: **David**.

Balak's plan for Balaam to curse the Israelites had not worked. This was a victory, yes, but it was not the victory God’s people needed. The Israelites would need to battle the Moabites at some point, and God chose that one day He would provide a king for His people—**David**—to bring them this victory. David would be the first fulfillment of this fourth and final oracle from God through Balaam, but he would not be the last.

**SAY:** It would be a while before God fulfilled this promise, as we will see studying the storyline of Scripture, but God would eventually provide the Israelites with kings to lead them and conquer their enemies. But no king God raised up was completely faithful to Him, and their failures to be faithful affected the entire nation.

**EXPLAIN:** Highlight the strengths and failures of the first few kings God would raise up for His people.

- **Saul**, the first king of Israel, disobeyed God twice early on in his reign by making an unlawful sacrifice (1 Sam. 13) and not completely destroying the Amalekites as God had commanded (1 Sam. 15).
- **David**, a man after God’s own heart, succeeded Saul and would be the greatest king to reign over Israel. When God spoke through Balaam of the future defeat of the Moabites at the hands of a king of Israel, He was speaking of King David (2 Sam. 8:1-12). But as good as David was for Israel, he was not the perfect king God’s people needed. He committed adultery and murdered a man to try to cover it up (2 Sam. 11).
- **Solomon**, the wisest king ever to live, eventually abandoned his wisdom, accumulated a multitude of wives from other nations, and then worshiped their foreign gods (1 Kings 11).
- **Rehoboam** chose to listen to foolish counsel, which split the kingdom in two (1 Kings 12).
- Then a **series of kings** ruled over the divided kingdoms, many of whom were wicked, and some exceedingly so (e.g., 1 Kings 14:9; 16:25; 16:30), eventually leading to exile from the promise land.
SAY: Each of these kings was a lamppost illuminating a core truth for the Israelites: They needed someone far greater than even the greatest king they could imagine. They needed a true King, an obedient King, a perfect King—and so do we.

EXPLAIN: Use the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 32) and the leader content below to show how Balaam’s fourth oracle points to David but also past him to Jesus.

David was a great king, the promised conqueror of the Moabites, but because of his own sin, he would not be able to provide God’s people with the greatest victory they truly needed, the victory over the greatest enemies of sin and death. So one day, God would send another king—Jesus—the perfect, sinless Savior who would crush sin and death on behalf of His people. This fourth oracle from Balaam points to David but also past him to the One whose birth would be heralded by a star and who is the “descendant of David, the bright morning star” (Rev. 22:16).

- Jesus lived the perfect life that we were supposed to live and died the death that we were supposed to die. The King of kings offered His perfect life in exchange for our sin-stained souls so that His righteousness might be credited to us (Rom. 3:21-26). In the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, God has begun to put all things under the feet of Jesus, securing salvation for all who live by faith in Him.

READ 1 Corinthians 15:25-26 (DDG p. 32).

25 For he must reign until he puts all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be abolished is death.

Commentary: In 1 Corinthians 15:25-26, Paul quoted Psalm 110, a psalm of David, to remind the church in Corinth of the promise of God for a conquering king ultimately fulfilled in Christ. Christ will destroy all of His enemies and reign forever. God has made a promise, and He will not revoke it, neither does He lack the power to bring His promise to pass. In the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, God has secured the victory over sin and death that no one else could attain. The promise of eternal life through our King, Jesus Christ, has been made and kept. Even though we still live in a broken and sinful world as broken and sinful people, God will be faithful to give us eternal life with Him, life unhindered by sin forevermore.

INTERACT: Ask group members the following questions.

What has caused you to long for the fulfillment of King Jesus’ reign and the final victory over sin and death? (be prepared to give an answer of your own to jump-start the conversation)
EXPLAIN: In fear, Balak called upon Balaam to curse the Israelites in the wilderness so that he could successfully attack them. However, God had promised to bless the people of Israel, so Balaam couldn’t curse them. Instead, Balaam blessed the people and shared prophecies of God’s future blessings for the nation, which are ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus’ life, death, burial, and resurrection have secured eternal life for all who believe in Him. God has blessed those who believe with hope through Jesus and calls us to go and be a blessing to the world around us. The greatest way for us to bless others is to share with them how they can receive the same blessing of salvation from sin through faith in Jesus Christ.

READ the following missional application statement in the DDG (p. 33), and encourage group members to choose at least one of the options below as a way to respond to the truth of God’s Word.

Because we have received God’s faithful blessings out of His kindness and grace, we seek to be a blessing to the world around us, ultimately by sharing how others can experience God’s greatest blessing of salvation through Christ.

- What steps will you take in belief that God is faithful to His promises to bless His people?
- How can your group work together to bless your community in the name of Jesus?
- How will you use God’s blessings to you and His promises to share the gospel with unbelievers?

CLOSE IN PRAYER: Father, You are eternally good and always faithful to the promises You have made to Your people. Despite the efforts of Your enemies to curse Your people, You never fail to bring about blessings. Thank You for sending Jesus, the true King, to fulfill Your promises and secure Your blessings. Help us to bring blessing to the world around us by faithfully proclaiming the gospel. Amen.

PACK ITEM 4: EXPECTATIONS: Cut out these bookmarks and pass them out to group members to remind them that our faith in the faithful God should grow and so should our faithful actions.

INSTRUCT: As your group departs, encourage group members to read and respond to the Daily Study devotions in their DDG (pp. 34-36), which build and expand upon the group study. Also advocate for small groups or families to use Encourage One Another (p. 37) for mutual accountability and fellowship grounded upon the foundation of God’s Word.
Daily Discipleship

Throughout the week following the session, use the ideas below to remind and encourage your group members to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Daily Study devotions in the DDG (pp. 34-36) will help group members get into God’s Word and study it for themselves. Encourage One Another (p. 37) will help group members and families fellowship with one another with purpose.

Daily Study

Brief daily devotions in the DDG (pp. 34-36) will help group members take initiative in their own discipleship.

- Make sure all group members have access to a Bible to read. Have some Bibles available to give to guests who may need one, or offer to get one and arrange a time to meet to give it and show how to navigate it for the devotions.
- Share the following idea from the devotion for Day 2 as a part of point 1 in the session: Even though we may face persecution and difficult times, there is nothing that can stop God from fulfilling all that He has planned and promised.

Consider leading by example and reading the daily devotions yourself with your own DDG. Based on your study, use brief messages throughout the week (group text, email, social media) to encourage your group to keep up with their daily time in God’s Word and to live it out. Here are a couple of examples you can use:

- Day 3: “We live in a broken world full of broken people, and we look forward to a life with God where brokenness will be no more.”
- Day 5: “One day Christ Jesus will return, and He will make all things new and kill death for good.”

Visit www.GospelProject.com/Blog for additional content and resources you can use to help group members gain more insight into their daily studies. Send group members a link or a portion of a blog post or other content that you believe will be helpful and encouraging for their time in God’s Word.

Encourage One Another

This brief plan for fellowship and accountability in the group member’s DDG (p. 37) will help groups of 2-4 people to meet sometime during the week to reflect on the session and to share how God is working and they are responding. It could also be used for family discipleship with students and children who are using The Gospel Project in their groups.

- Encourage group members to find meaningful ways in which they can bless one another with their particular gifts in Christ.
- See yourself as a member of the group who also needs encouragement in the faith, and participate in such a group this week.
Additional Commentary

**Point 1:** God blesses His people by delivering them (Num. 23:19-23).

“The story of Balaam reveals the vast difference between the true God of Israel and human beings (23:19) who are swayed by greed, and shows the sharp contrast between the true God and false gods. Balak’s sacrifices and offers to pay Balaam show that he thinks that the gods are unstable, present more in some places than in others and able to be bribed to persuade them to show favouritism. But the true God of Israel is steadfast and faithful to his people. He honours the covenant he made with them and is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. The whole of Scripture bears witness to God’s constant and unchanging nature. The blessing of God rests upon Israel because the true God is with them (23:31). The impossibility of cursing those on whom God has bestowed blessings is a clear indication of God’s presence in the midst of the people of Israel in the desert.” ³

“The couplet ’God, who brings them out of Egypt, is like the horns of a wild ox for them’ (Num. 23:22, NRSV; cf. NJPS, NJB, NASB, NKJV) alludes to the initial expressions of Moabite fear in 22:4-5, but reversing the order of the ‘ox’ and ‘out of Egypt’ ideas. There are two more differences. (1) The Moabites likened Israel to a domestic ox licking up grass (22:4), but the oracle refers to greater danger: the towering horns of a wild ox, which they cannot control or subdue (cf. 24:8; Deut. 33:17; Job 39:9-10; Ps. 22:21). (2) The Moabites spoke of a threat from Israel (Num. 22:4-5), but in the oracle, Israel’s power is that of God. Balaam continues by affirming that no divination ... is effective against Israel. The point is not what Israel can do, but ‘what God has done!’ (23:23).” ⁴

**Point 2:** God blesses His people by keeping His covenant promises (Num. 24:5-9).

“After two failed attempts, Balak reeled from the words of Balaam and called for the prophet to refrain from pronouncing a blessing on them. Then Balaam and Balak resorted to a third cultic center, in the heights above Peor, overlooking Jeshimon, from which they could see Israel encamped tribe by tribe (24:2). The sevenfold ritual is repeated again, without resorting to divination as Balaam had previously done. An ecstatic encounter with the Spirit of God ensued, opening Balaam’s eyes to a vision of God Almighty. Balaam’s utterance forecast the Lord’s blessing upon the land with abundance of water bringing productivity to the crops, and a powerful kingdom that would surpass that of the forces of Agag, the Amalekite. But the strength of Israel was in the strength of her God. The Lord’s blessing was so powerful that even the most renowned divination expert of the day could not turn it back.” ⁵
“Balaam likened the camp of Israelites to a beautiful land of gardens full of healing plants and massive trees. He prophesied that they would have the abundant water needed for fertility and prosperity (24:5-7). He further prophesied that the Israelites would have a king who would be greater than Agag, which could have been a common name for Amalekite kings or a specific reference to the powerful king captured by Saul (see 1 Sam. 15:8,33). The Lord who brought the Israelites out of Egypt would enable them to be like lions overcoming their prey, that is, nations that were hostile to them (24:8-9). Balaam ended by quoting a blessing that the Lord had spoken over Abraham (Gen. 12:3), which was also a warning to Balak that those who curse Israel will be cursed.”

Point 3: God blesses His people by providing a conquering King (Num. 24:17-19; 1 Cor. 15:25-26).

“In [Numbers 24:17-19] a visionary encounter similar to that of the third oracle, Balaam uttered predictive prophecy about the distant future of Israel. The star and scepter are symbols of a glorious and powerful kingdom that would subdue the enemies of Israel, typified as Moab and Edom. In the early Israelite monarchy, David fulfilled this prophecy by defeating and subjugating both Moab and Edom (2 Sam. 8:1-12). But as later Israelite kings failed to obey God’s instructions and as oppression and exile followed, this passage would be interpreted messianically to refer to a coming glorious king. The model of a just and righteous king was brought to ultimate fulfillment in Jesus’s establishment of the kingdom of God.”

“Paul pointed out [in 1 Corinthians 15:25-26] that Christ must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. This verse recalls Psalm 110:1. This psalm spoke of the promise of great victories given to the descendants of David. Every time a Davidic king experienced victory over an enemy, he saw this dynastic promise realized in his life. Paul applied this psalm to Christ, since Christ is the great and final son to sit on David’s throne (Mark 11:10). In Christ all the promises to David’s family come to full realization. Paul focused here on reigning in victory. The New Testament explains that Christ was seated on the throne of David at the time of his resurrection and ascension (Eph. 1:20-21). God once promised that David’s family would rule over the entire earth (Ps. 89:20-29), and this promise now applies to Christ. Thus, it is necessary that Christ eventually reign over everyone and everything.”

References
4. Roy Gane, Leviticus, Numbers, in The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015) [Wordsearch].
A Word from the Editor

Trevin Wax
General Editor—The Gospel Project
Author of multiple books, including
This Is Our Time: Everyday Myths in Light of the Gospel

In these sessions of The Gospel Project, we experience some of the most exciting narratives in Scripture. There are accounts here of sin and judgment, of moral decline and merciful intervention, and of rescuers who need rescue. Through it all, one thing is clear: God is with His people and He is faithful to His promise.

It’s important to keep that central theme in mind because many people read these stories about the conquest of the land and try to find examples for emulation. To be clear, we can learn a lot from these Old Testament heroes (see 1 Cor. 10), but we cannot implement their virtues apart from our connection to the Vine—Jesus Christ Himself, the One who bears fruit in us and through us.

As we walk through our present wilderness, struggling against sin and encountering sorrow, we know that the God who has gone before us is faithful. He is the One who prepares the way for us to be His ambassadors. He is the One who breaks the chains of our idolatry and lifts our gaze to His unchanging glory.