



## Remaining in a Leaving Culture

### Priscilla Shirer

**Focus** Today's culture is marred by men and women who once said they would be faithful to God but are now leaving their faith and the path of integrity. When people around us are giving up, we must decide to remain faithful to God.

**Fun** If you were born in another century, which century would you pick and why?

**Review** **Key Scriptures:** 1 John 2:12–14

#### 1. Children

When you are in the infancy stage of your walk with God, you must come to know the Father. Developing a strong relationship with God the Father is the purpose of the infancy stage. It is important to stay faithful and build a strong foundation during this season. You are creating the scaffolding that will strengthen your house and help it remain when storms come. You must take time to get to know your Father so you will recognize when imitators come.

#### 2. Adolescents

In the adolescent stage, you are strong on the inside, but it isn't visible on the outside. During this stage, we experience resistance, but resistance helps us build our strength in Jesus. The key point for the adolescent stage is to learn how to abide in Jesus and not quit. If there is a weight on you, do not give up. Lift it by the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### 3. Parents

Hearing the testimonies of believers who have been walking with God for a long time builds our faith. We need men and women of God who can impart to others the wisdom they have gained. These spiritual parents know who God is and can testify about God's power to others. To become spiritually mature, you have to

stay committed to doing what God has called you to do. Be faithful, have integrity, and no matter what stage of growth you are in, don't give up.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Prepare for the new semester through prayer. Pray for your members—the ones you know and the ones you have yet to meet. Ask God for wisdom as you lead and wisdom to identify those in your group who can help you.

### **Discuss**

1. When you think of a person who is faithful or what makes a faithful person, what comes to mind?
2. Why is it more important to be faithful and steadfast than it is to be popular and well-liked?
3. Read 1 John 2:12 and 1 John 2:28. When we are new in our walk with Jesus, what are some of the main foundations that must be laid in our faith?
4. How does God use the challenges we face to help us grow in our faith?
5. What are some areas of resistance you've faced in life that have made you stronger in your walk with God?
6. What does it look like to abide and remain in Christ? How can we do this on a regular basis?
7. What does it look like when a person is a father or mother in faith? Why is it important for people in this category to intentionally invest in others?
8. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Where do you need to grow, deepen your faith, strengthen your foundations, or invest into others?

### **Take Home**

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Jesus wants us to abide.
- Jesus wants us to not give up.
- Jesus wants us to be faithful.

## Prayer

Lord, thank You that You are coming. When You come we want to have lives that show our house is still standing. Make us faithful so we can hear from You, "Well done." In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** As the semester begins, it is important to communicate healthy ground rules for the group. Some examples of good ground rules are: show respect for each other, honor confidentiality, allow time for everyone to share, listen, and avoid gossiping. These ground rules help create a safe environment and help people to feel comfortable being honest and sharing.