

CHANGELESS!

By Shari Miller



What changes have occurred in your lifetime that have impacted you in a positive way? In a negative way? Explain your answer with a partner or in your small group.

During this Bible study, we will explore our changeless God and His “constants” in our lives. His power, presence, promises, and love for us in Christ Jesus are faithful and steady, even in our turbulent, changing, and often storm-tossed world. We are strengthened by God’s amazing truth in Hebrews 13:8: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*. Remembering God’s faithfulness in the past, we can confidently look to our future, as we live today with our changeless God leading and guiding us.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, You are our awesome and unchanging God! Thank You for Your plan of salvation in our lives and for sending Your Son Jesus to live a perfect life, suffer, die, and then rise again from the dead for us. We know that because He lives, we, too, have eternal life in heaven if we have faith in our Savior. We praise You that You have sent us the Holy Spirit who engenders and nurtures our faith even in the midst of change and trials in our lives. Help us by the power of the Spirit to share the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday and today and forever. Give us wisdom and insight as we read and discuss Your Word. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Jesus Christ ... Yesterday

The words of the meaning to the Second Article in *Luther’s Small Catechism** remind us: “I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.”

How is Jesus Christ identified as true God in the following Bible passages?

Divine names: **John 8:58 (Exodus 3:14); John 20:28; 1 John 5:20** _____

Divine attributes: **Matthew 28:18; Matthew 28:20b; John 1:1–2; John 21:17** _____

Divine works: **Matthew 9:6; John 1:3; John 5:27; Hebrews 1:3–4** _____

Divine glory and honor: **John 5:22–23; Philippians 2:10** _____

How is Jesus Christ identified as true man in the following Bible passages? **1 Timothy 2:5; Matthew 26:38; Luke 24:39; Matthew 4:2; John 11:35; John 19:28; Hebrews 4:14–16** _____

Read **Genesis 3:15** and **John 3:16–17** for God’s salvation plan. _____

How did our loving God and Savior fulfill God’s plan and promise of salvation for the world? See **John 10:11; John 11:25–26; Romans 3:23–26; Galatians 4:1–7; Ephesians 2:1–10**. Be specific. _____

What difference has that made in your life? _____

Read **Psalms 77: 10–15**. Asaph begins this Psalm in a state of trial and tribulation but then meditates on what the Lord has done for him. What does he remember about God? _____

How can remembering what God has done in our lives in the past help us to live today and into the future? _____

In **Hebrews 13:5** we are reminded that our Lord promises, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” How does knowing that God always keeps His promises — including this one! — affect our attitude during turbulent and changing situations in our lives? _____

Faith Talk: Being immutable, or unchangeable, is another attribute of God. When you consider the many attributes of Jesus Christ, which one is most meaningful to you and why? Share with a partner or the small group.

Jesus Christ ... Today

Read **Isaiah 35:3–6** and **Matthew 11:2–6**. How did Jesus fulfill the prophecy made by Isaiah? _____

We might say to ourselves, “Yes, Jesus did these things then, but He is not doing them now.” However, consider the following examples of the sinful condition we were all in before our salvation in Jesus Christ. Read the Bible verse and explain what God is doing today to transform the lives of His people. (Refer also to **Matthew 11:5**.)

Eyes blinded by the gods of this world: **2 Corinthians 4:6**; **Ephesians 1:17–18** _____

Those crippled by sin: **Romans 6:4** _____

Ears deaf to the Word of God: **John 10:27**; **Romans 10:17** _____

Those dead in trespasses and sins: **Colossians 2:13–14** _____

The poor not receiving the Good News: **1 Corinthians 15:1–11** _____

How does the Lord accomplish all this in our lives today? See **John 15:26** and **Titus 3:4–7**. _____

The Holy Spirit works in our lives through His Word and Sacraments. Why is it so important to daily read God’s Word, daily remember our Baptism, and regularly participate in the Lord’s Supper? _____

Faith Talk: How can we live our lives by the power of the Spirit to the fullest today, trusting in the promises of our unchangeable God? What does that look like in our daily living?

Jesus Christ ... Forever

It would not be enough to say that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today if somewhere down the road He should cease to be. But the truth of our God is that the best is yet to come! Read **1 Corinthians 15:50–58**. Define the future of every believer in Christ. _____

Read **Hebrews 11:10**. What was Abraham in the past looking forward to in the future? _____

Read **1 Corinthians 15:19–20** and **Hebrews 10:23**. What is our hope and what is it based upon as believers in Christ? _____

As we look forward to our future, forever, with our Lord, what does **Romans 5:1–5** say our lives in the present will look like? In addition, what does **1 Peter 3:13–16** encourage us to do? _____

Faith Talk: Think outside the box. What color would you use to paint the hope that is within you because of our resurrected Savior? Why? Share with a partner or the small group.

Faith Talk: Read **Philippians 3:14**. How do the changeless promises from the past and the blessings from God today help us to focus more clearly on the future hope we have in Jesus Christ? Share with a partner or the small group.

Why is it so important to know and trust that *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever* (**Hebrews 13:8**)? We are God’s children through Holy Baptism, redeemed and forgiven by the blood of our Savior Jesus, looking forward with hope to eternity with our Lord in heaven. Our God is immutable — He does not change and His promises are sure. Even in the midst of chaos and change in our world, He remains steadfast and sure. We confidently sing with hymnist,

“Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;
Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.” (LSB #878:4)

Faith Walk

1. Think of ways that the Lord has blessed the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League over the past 75 years. Make a thanksgiving list and pray it aloud to our changeless and faithful God.
2. Think of ways that the Lord has blessed Christianity in the last 500 years and the changes that have happened following the Protestant Reformation. Talk about the blessings and changes around your table and remind one another that it is still all about Jesus!
3. Look for opportunities to share the Good News about Jesus with a special woman in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance.
4. Celebrate that Jesus Christ is the *same yesterday and today and forever* and that He has made you His own child in Baptism, a recipient of His grace and an heir of heaven.
5. Memorize the words to the fourth stanza of “Abide With Me.”

Closing Prayer: (sing or speak together): “Abide With Me” (LSB #878; LW #490; TLH #552).

**Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, ©1986, 1991, Concordia Publishing House. See Questions 118, 119, 120.

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