Learning Activity:
God's Faithfulness in the Historical Texts

Faithfulness

God shows his faithfulness throughout the historical texts as we see a repeated cycle of God's chosen people choosing to follow other gods and live separated from God, then repenting and returning for a while before falling away again. Even in their darkest hours, God was with the Israelites, just as he is with his Church today. In reading the historical texts, we can see just how trustworthy God is and how very much he loves us. He promises to never leave us nor forsake us. He is faithful even when we are faithless.

Materials

- Business card magnets (1 card makes 3; each student will have 6 bookmarks)
- Cardstock (white for bookmarks, assorted colors for cutouts)
- Sample icons and names for eras
    - Old Testament (Conquest, Judges, Kingdom, Exile, Return only)
    - New Testament (Acts only)
- Smaller printouts of icons for gluing
- Gluesticks
- Colored pencils

Prepare Beforehand

Use these directions to:
1. Pre-cut magnets into ⅓ and then each ⅓ in half
2. Pre-cut white cardstock and fold with one side shorter
3. Assemble bookmarks (6 per student)

Directions

1. Hand out the bookmarks (6 per student)
2. In turn, go over the icon and its meaning. Have students decorate their bookmark then place it in their bibles at the appropriate places:
    - Joshua 1: Conquest
    - Judges 3: Judges
    - I Samuel 16: Kingdom
    - II Kings 13: Exile
    - Ezra 1: Return
    - Acts 2: Church

Conversation Starters:
Historical Texts

While students are working to complete their crafts, use the following conversation starters:

1. If someone was writing about you for people thousands of years from now to read, what stories should they tell from your life so that the readers got a real idea about who you are and what's important to you?

2. Who is one person you have learned about from the Old Testament? What do you remember about him or her?

3. Why do you think God told us so much of the bad stuff that his people did in the Old Testament?