

Week 5 Loyal Love (9/24)

The Bible describes God's unconditional or loyal love for us using the Hebrew word *khesed*. Learn about its meaning along with some examples in Scripture.

- **Watch on RightNow Media:**
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/434053>
- **Watch on the Bible Project website:**
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/loyal-love/>

Discussion / Study Questions

1. The Hebrew word “*khesed*” combines the ideas of unconditional love, generosity, and enduring commitment. Read [Psalm 136](#) aloud in your group, with each person using a different translation if possible. How do various translations help you understand the rich meaning of God’s forever enduring *khesed*?
2. Read [Ruth 1:5-19](#). How does Ruth show *khesed* to her mother-in-law? How does this example support your understanding of what it means that God has *khesed* for us?
3. [Titus 3:4-7](#) gives us a good picture of God's loyal love at work in our world. In this passage, what does it look like when God’s loving character appears?
4. God’s loyal love internally motivates Jesus’ followers to generously share what they’ve been given. What do you think it means for God’s love to be inside of a person (see [2 Corinthians 5:14](#), [John 15:9-13](#), [1 John 4:16](#))? How does God’s love affect our actions toward those in need (e.g. [1 John 3:16-18](#))?
5. Take time to discuss other themes or key takeaways from what you read together.

Psalm 136 (NASB 1995)

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
² Give thanks to the God of gods,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
⁴ To Him who alone does great wonders,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
⁵ To Him who made the heavens with skill,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
⁶ To Him who spread out the earth above the
 waters,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
⁷ To Him who made *the* great lights,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting:
⁸ The sun to rule by day,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
⁹ The moon and stars to rule by night,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
¹⁰ To Him who smote the Egyptians in their
 firstborn,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
¹¹ And brought Israel out from their midst,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
¹² With a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
¹³ To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
¹⁴ And made Israel pass through the midst of it,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
¹⁵ But He overthrew Pharaoh and his army in
 the Red Sea,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
¹⁶ To Him who led His people through the
 wilderness,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
¹⁷ To Him who smote great kings,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
¹⁸ And slew \square mighty kings,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting:
¹⁹ Sihon, king of the Amorites,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
²⁰ And Og, king of Bashan,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
²¹ And gave their land as a heritage,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
²² Even a heritage to Israel His servant,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
²³ Who remembered us in our low estate,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
²⁴ And has rescued us from our adversaries,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
²⁵ Who gives food to all flesh,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Ruth 1:5-19 (NASB 1995)

⁵Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was bereft of her two children and her husband.
⁶Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the land of Moab, for she had heard in
 the land of Moab that the LORD had visited His people in giving them food. ⁷So she departed from the place
 where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of
 Judah. ⁸And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the
 LORD deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹May the LORD grant that you may
 find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and
 wept. ¹⁰And they said to her, "No, but we will surely return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said,
 "Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb, that they may be your
 husbands? ¹²Return, my daughters! Go, for I am too old to have a husband. If I said I have hope, if I should
 even have a husband tonight and also bear sons, ¹³would you therefore wait until they were grown? Would
 you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters; for it is harder for me than for you, for the hand of the
 LORD has gone forth against me."

Ruth's Loyalty

¹⁴And they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.
¹⁵Then she said, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your
 sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you *or* turn back from following you; for where you
 go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people *shall be* my people, and your God, my
 God. ¹⁷Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse,
 if *anything but* death parts you and me." ¹⁸When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she said
 no more to her.

¹⁹So they both went until they came to Bethlehem. And when they had come to Bethlehem, all the city was
 stirred because of them, and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

Titus 3:4-7 (NASB 1995)

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

2 Corinthians 5:14 (NASB 1995)

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

John 15:9-13 (NASB 1995)

Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

1 John 4:16 (NASB 1995)

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 John 3:16-18 (NASB 1995)

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.