



## **Steadfast Love and Faithfulness**

Exodus 34:6-7

“And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, **abounding in love and faithfulness**, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

### **SERMON SUMMARY**

Steadfast love and faithfulness. These are covenantal words from God to us.

#### **Hesed: A love that will not lose its grip on us**

- It is a loving kindness, steadfast, goodness. It’s a covenantal term which wraps up all the positive attributes of God.
- It is a covenantal loyalty. See Isaiah 45:10, God’s steadfast love will never depart from us
- It is an action. This type of love acts to relieve an essential need for the recipient. See Lamentations 3:31-32.
- It’s often the powerful acting on the behalf of the weak (ex: Ruth)

#### **Emet: trustworthy in the long run**

- God is faithful and consistent; He will never give up on us. It is the opposite of us as humans, we often bail when things are hard.

Hesed and Emet are often used together in the Bible. His love is His faithfulness and His faithfulness is His love. Read Psalm 89:1-2 and Psalm 117:2 for examples.

**God's love is loyal, never abandoning his people. God is faithful no matter the cost.**

- Many may question why there are struggles in our life if God's love is loyal and God is faithful. To understand this, we need to understand this covenantal language.
  - Covenant: in the biblical context, it is a promise between God and man
- God makes a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3). God declares that he will bless Abraham and through Abraham, others will be blessed.
  - God never promised an easy life to Abraham
- God then reaffirms his covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15, and tells Abraham in a vision that even if he and his children are unable to keep their end of the bargain, God will still keep his promise
  - Even if we fail, Jesus will still take the weight of our sin
  - Israel's story is our story
- Read 2 Timothy 2:13, Yahweh remains the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow

**Our response:**

- **Trust in the one who is loyal in love**
  - God's promise is that He will bless you, so that we can bless others. And in time, He'll return to set all crooked things straight.
- **Be faithful in the long run**
  - Spiritual growth happens over time
- **Demonstrate loyal love to others**
  - Act and seek the best for those around us

**DISCUSSION**

**Reminders for small group leaders:**

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited number of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!
- Set aside a time to pray for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.

- Regularly recap how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
  - The teaching happened on Sunday at church. The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions: 1) What is God saying to me in His Word?, 2) What is He asking me to do in response?
  - Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.
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RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself

- What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?
- What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?
- How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?

## QUESTIONS

**Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss or make up your own!**

**Getting to know you:**

- How have you seen steadfast love lived out in your life or in those around you?
- Is it hard or easy for you to show steadfast love to those around you?

**Into the Bible:**

- Read Psalms 136. Steadfast love is repeated over and over
  - How have you seen God's steadfast love endure in your life?
- Steadfast love and faithfulness are mentioned together as a pair multiple times in the Bible. Read Psalm 89:1-2 and Psalm 117:2 for some examples.
  - Why do you think that is?
- If someone asked you, why they are struggling if God is faithful and loyal, how would you answer them?
- Read John 16:33. An easy life isn't promised to followers of Jesus.
  - How have you faced trials because of your walk with God?
  - How do you stay encouraged and trust in God?

- We are to be faithful in the long run.
  - What does this look like if you are a student?
  - What does this look like for your family? Or for your marriage? For your job?
  - What does this look like in the midst of trials?
  - What does this look like in evangelism?
- God blesses us so that we can bless others.
  - This week, how can you demonstrate loyal love to others?

### **Pray**

- Pray that you will trust in God's faithfulness and love
- Pray that we can demonstrate God's love to those around us

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **College:**

- Epic large group is on Thursday in Mu13
- College Praise Night is on 11/22

### **All church:**

- Baptism Sunday is on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Email [andrea@grantavebc.org](mailto:andrea@grantavebc.org) if you're interested in getting baptized.
- Thanksgiving Food Boxes are due on November 24<sup>th</sup>.