



NOTE: Our lesson questions are based on the NIV 2011 edition. Our preference is your first time through the questions, you answer without consulting commentaries - delight in what the Holy Spirit will reveal to you.

Hesed

Lesson 1

Exodus 34:6-7a, Psalms 86

1. As you reflect on last week's Overview of the extraordinary women of the Bible and the God who refused to abandon them, in what areas do you hope to grow in knowledge or spiritual maturity?

2. Prayerfully read **Exodus 34:6-7a**, which contains God's description of Himself during His appearance to Moses prior to the making of the covenant with Israel. *Hesed* is the Hebrew word that appears in these verses, variously translated as love and faithfulness, unfailing love, faithful love, steadfast love, or loyal love. As you ponder God as "abounding in love", what makes you marvel and what questions surface?

3. Read **Psalms 86** and listen for the heart of David as he cries out and as he recounts what he knows about the Lord.
 - a) What does the psalmist ask of God?

 - b) Describe the view of God you find in this Psalm.

- c) What are some of the circumstances for which the psalmist seeks God's intervention?

4. How do the following verses reflect God's heart toward those who are His own:

- **Exodus 15:12-13**
- **Ezra 7:27-28**
- **Psalms 6:4**
- **Psalms 33:18-22**

5. Read **Psalms 136** out loud. From these verses:

- a) Write a truth about God's loyal love, His *hesed*. NOTE: A truth is about God or about humanity, and it remains true for all times, all people, everywhere.
- b) Identify some things for which you can personally thank God as prompted by this Psalm.

6. What aspect of the *hesed* of God is emphasized in the following verses, and how do they expand your view of His love?

- **Deuteronomy 7:7-9**
- **2 Samuel 7:10-16**

- **Nehemiah 9:16-20**

- **Micah 7:18-20**

7. Where do you need to experience the *hesed* of God? Consider a personal struggle or a particular challenge you are facing.

8. Pray the *hesed* of God over someone or some situation that is burdening your heart. Use **Psalms 136** as a model for your prayer.

9. **GOD IS: HESED**

The gospel, the message of God's salvation and forgiveness of sin in Jesus, is rooted in the *hesed* of God. According to **Ephesians 2:4-5**, "But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even then we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved." Spend some time recalling how God saved and forgave you, and then praise Him for His *hesed* displayed in Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

*"And [the Lord] 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." **Exodus 34:6-7a***

NAME**PRAYER REQUEST**