

Love in a Time of Social Distancing

Small Group Bible Study

Psalm 136 New International Version (NIV)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

²Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

³Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

His love endures forever.

⁴to him who alone does great wonders,

His love endures forever.

⁵who by his understanding made the heavens,

His love endures forever.

⁶who spread out the earth upon the waters,

His love endures forever.

⁷who made the great lights—

His love endures forever.

⁸the sun to govern the day,

His love endures forever.

⁹the moon and stars to govern the night;

His love endures forever.

¹⁰to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt

His love endures forever.

¹¹and brought Israel out from among them

His love endures forever.

¹²with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;

His love endures forever.

¹³to him who divided the Red Sea asunder

His love endures forever.

¹⁴and brought Israel through the midst of it,

His love endures forever.

¹⁵but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;

His love endures forever.

¹⁶to him who led his people through the wilderness;

His love endures forever.

¹⁷to him who struck down great kings,

His love endures forever.

¹⁸and killed mighty kings—

His love endures forever.

¹⁹Sihon king of the Amorites

His love endures forever.

²⁰and Og king of Bashan—

His love endures forever.

²¹and gave their land as an inheritance,

His love endures forever.

²²an inheritance to his servant Israel.

His love endures forever.

²³He remembered us in our low estate

His love endures forever.

²⁴and freed us from our enemies.

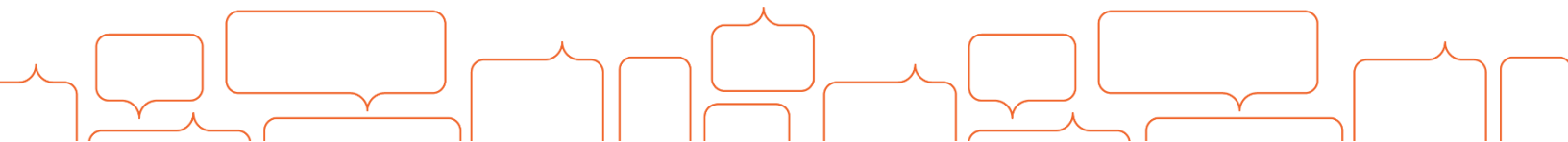
His love endures forever.

²⁵He gives food to every creature.

His love endures forever.

²⁶Give thanks to the God of heaven.

His love endures forever.



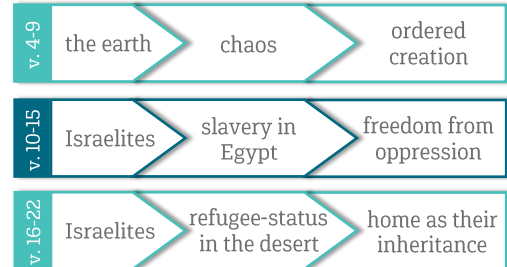
Love in a Time of Social Distancing

Small Group Bible Study

Introduce

The book of Psalms is a collection of song lyrics used in worship by the people of God for thousands of years. The lyrics reveal God's desire for them, their response in faith, their fears and failures, and a relentless persistence in prayer through it all. The people faced struggles familiar today. Psalm 136 is a call and response in corporate worship, remembering and rejoicing in God's love in the midst of troubles.

God delivered...



Read Psalm 136

Discuss

- What's the communal impact of remembering God's faithfulness throughout history?**
 The psalmist gives thanks for God's deliverance as a sign of God's enduring love. How might remembering God's steadfast, enduring love throughout their history have impacted the people of God in corporate worship?
- How does giving God thanks relate to God's enduring love?**
 The psalmist begins and concludes the song with commands to give thanks to God. Why? How do you think giving thanks to God is related to God's enduring love?

Apply

- Name God's qualities and actions.**
 The psalmist sees God's acts of deliverance and names them as enduring love. Similar to the psalmist, let us recount God's ongoing deliverance of us all in this season. Name the qualities and actions of God that you recognize as his enduring love. In prayer, thank God.
- Discern your next step.**
 Social distancing may seem like an obstacle to loving people. People who are close may be triggering us. People who are not in our immediate network may seem too far away to help. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you who you need to reconcile with or to whom you should reach out and love. God's love is enough for the world!
- 7-day prayer challenge.**
 Take another love risk by texting IV+IJM to 52886 to sign up for a 7-day prayer devotional on loving the oppressed in our global neighborhood.

Text **IV+IJM**
to **52886**

Conclude

Let's pray together and trust God as the source and example of love.

For tips on leading a small group online, [watch this!](#)

