

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PSALMS-LESSON 30
WEEK OF May 3–May 8
HIS EVERLASTING LOVINGKINDNESS
PSALM 136

“**Psalm 136** is known as the Great Hallel or Great Psalm of Praise. This Psalm rehearses God's goodness in regard to his people and encourages them to praise Him for His merciful and steadfast love. Each verse contains a reason why God's people should praise Him and give thanks to Him. Following each praiseworthy act or attribute of the Lord, the psalmist used a repeated refrain using just three Hebrew words which have been translated in a number of ways: “for His steadfast love endures forever”, For his loving kindness is everlasting.”(NASB); For His loving kindness endures forever” (LSB); “For His mercy endures forever”; For His loyal love endures forever”.

“This repeated liturgical response may have been said or sung by a Levitical choir or the congregation. In a simple reading of the Psalm, it may seem to be a monotonous repetition, but it is actually a forceful refrain. It focuses the attention of the congregation on the Lord's intervention by his loyal love.”

The Psalms, Vol.3, Allen P. Ross, pg 775-776.

May God use this Psalm to change the way in which we worship, praise and give thanks to our God whose loving kindness is everlasting.

Read Psalm 136:1-3 The Call to Praise

1. In **verse 1a**, why are we to thank God? What does it mean that God is good? (See **Luke 18:19**; **1 John 1:5**; **Psalm 119:68**; and add others)

“He is good beyond all others! He alone is good in the highest sense. He is the source of good, the good of all good, the sustainer of good, the perfecter of good and the rewarder of good. For this, He deserves the constant gratitude of His people.” The Treasury of David, C. H. Spurgeon, pg 1388

2. The core of the refrain in **verse 1b** is translated from the Hebrew word “*hesed*”, meaning steadfast love, loyal love, lovingkindness. How does the refrain in **verse 1b** when coupled with God's goodness from vs.1a give you great appreciation for the Lord?
3. In **verses 2 and 3**, what words describe the supreme majesty of the Lord?

Read Psalm 136:4-9 The Goodness of God and His Lovingkindness Displayed in Creation.

4. How is God described in **verse 4**?
5. What great works of the Lord does the psalmist describe in **verses 5-9**?
6. How should the redeemed respond to His great works described in **verses 5-9**? How does God describe His creation in **Genesis 1:4,10,12,18,21,25,31**? How is that related to **Psalm 136:1**? What does **Ps 119:68** say about God's goodness?

“We confess that God has been good to us by making the world and by placing us in this very good world to enjoy his creation.” [Psalms, Vol.3](#), James Montgomery Boyce, pg 1181

Read Psalm 136:10-15 The Goodness of God Displayed in Faithful Deliverance

7. Describe the events and acts of the Lord in His miraculous deliverance and provision for His people Israel?
8. How does that display His lovingkindness and goodness? What confidence in the Lord does that provide to you personally? How have you seen God’s goodness in your life recently?

Read Psalm 136:16-22 The Goodness of God Displayed in Provision of An Inheritance

9. Read **Exodus 13:17-21** and **Ps.136:16** and describe God's provision for His people.
10. Read **Numbers 21:21-35** and **Ps. 136:17-20**. How does this account display God’s goodness and faithful love for His people Israel? What encouragement do you find from this?

“Every wonderful and amazing work that He did was a demonstration of His faithful love. The psalm did not dwell on Israel's failure to trust the Lord that led to the wilderness wandering, the open rebellions, the constant murmuring against the Lord and the sin with the golden calf--the people knew all about those events. Rather, it focused on the Lord's wonderful acts of covenant love--which were even more praiseworthy considering how many times Israel failed.” [Psalms, Vol.3](#), Allen P. Ross, pg 781

Read Psalm 136:23-25 The Goodness of God Displayed in Provision and Protection of His People

11. How is God’s providential care shown in **verses 23-25**?

Read Psalm 136:26 Concluding Call To Praise

12. How is this concluding verse similar to the opening call to praise in **verses 1-3**?
13. How does remembering and giving thanks for God’s acts of faithful protection and provision from the past, help you in response to your current challenges?

“Since the New Testament claims that we find ourselves face to face with that steadfast love in all its costly glory in Jesus Christ, it is not surprising that Colossians defines one of the marks of the Christian life in the words, “With psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, sing from the heart in gratitude to God” (Col. 3:16). What better Psalm with which to do this than Psalm 136? [The Vitality of Worship](#), Robert Davidson, page 439