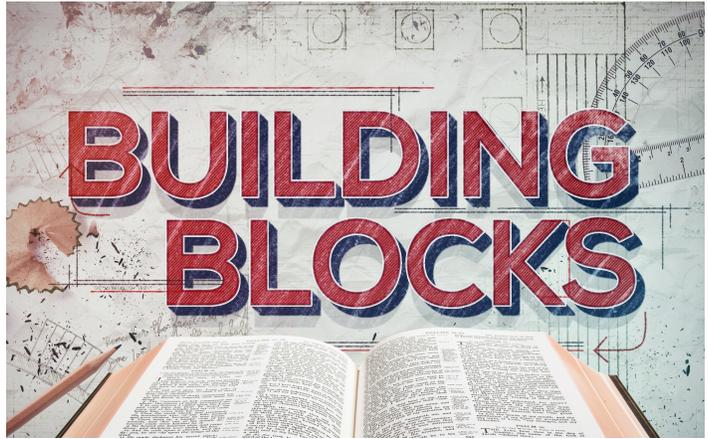


What is God Like?

04 / Abounding in Steadfast Love

The LORD passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in _____ and faithfulness..." (Exo 34:6)



Steadfast love is enduring commitment to what is best for others. It's **selfless** _____ that keeps its _____. One of the great examples of steadfast love in Scripture is Ruth in her relationship with her mother-in-law, Naomi (Ruth 1:8).

But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where ____ go __ will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but _____ parts me from you." (Ruth 1:16-17)

And God? What is **he** like? He "abounds" or overflows with steadfast love. Throughout Psalm 136, _____ times the psalmist tells us:

...for his steadfast love _____ forever.



Throughout the Psalms—127 times—this truth is repeated over and over again (33:4-8; 36:5-6; 103:11-12; 118:1-9, 29). God's steadfast love is what causes our own "cups" to "overflow" (Psa 23:5-6) with love, joy, faith, and peace.

In fact, when we **don't** follow God's lead, when steadfast love is missing from our lives, God calls us out (Hos 4:1-3; 6:4-6; Mic 6:8).

Nowhere do we see more clearly the abounding, steadfast love of God than in Jesus Christ, which is why Paul prayed what he did in Ephesians 3:14-19.

What is God like? He **overflows** with **loyal love**.

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Ruth was mentioned in our video as a good example of "steadfast love." What other Biblical examples of such selfless loyalty come to mind?
- ▶ Let's revisit Psalm 136. When the psalmist thought of instances of God's steadfast love, what sort of things came to his mind?
- ▶ "The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD" (Psa 33:5). Where can you see it in your own life?
- ▶ "Steadfast" is very different than what we sometimes call "fair-weather." What do we mean by that phrase? Proverbs 18:24 might be helpful here...
- ▶ Let's read Philippians 1:9-11 and 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 together. What might it look like this week for you to "abound" in "steadfast love"?
- ▶ Why do you think the call for such love to "abound" in our lives is frequently tied by the Holy Spirit to our knowledge of God (Eph 3:19; Phil 1:9)?