

The background features a repeating pattern of organic, watercolor-style shapes in three colors: a deep navy blue, a warm terracotta brown, and a soft, dusty rose pink. The shapes are scattered across the white background, creating a textured, artistic feel. A central white rectangular box contains the title text.

D W E L L I N G
ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Getting Started

Overview of the Week:

Our theme for the week is dwelling on the faithfulness of God. God's faithfulness is unlike human faithfulness in that it is constant, never wavering. We never have to worry about God being unfaithful to us because faithfulness is part of His character. He keeps every promise, and His word always proves true.

How Do I Prepare?

This week, we're going to look at several psalms that feature the theme/idea of the faithfulness of God. We will study Psalm 138, 136, and 40 this week. As always, on day 5, you will have the opportunity to reflect on the studies of the week and choose one of those passages to dig into more deeply for self and communal application.

Memory Verse of the Week:

"As for you, O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!" (Ps 40:11, ESV).

On the next page, write or "Scripture doodle" your memory verse.

Prayer of the Week:

On the next page, write out a prayer to the Lord, praising Him for His faithfulness. Use Psalm 40 to guide you as you write this prayer.

Songs of the Week:

"Great is Thy Faithfulness," traditional; "Great Things," Phil Wickham; "Forever," Chris Tomlin; "How Deep the Father's Love," Nicole Nordeman; "Gather Round Ye Children Come," Andrew Peterson

Link to playlist: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3BEh5j9yeffglo4EbmVrQW>

Week Five Memory Verse:

Week Five Prayer:

Day One: God is Faithful to Himself

1. Pray

Before we begin reading and examining God's Word, let's ask the Lord to lead us in the study of His Word.

2. Examine

As we begin our study on dwelling on the faithfulness of God, we'll start by taking a look at Psalm 138. We'll study this psalm today and tomorrow. Read Psalm 138 in its entirety.

¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

² I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your
steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.

³ On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks,
O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth,

⁵ and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand
against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.

⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands. (ESV)

The Context:

Psalm 138 is a psalm of David¹ that declares God is worthy of praise by all of creation. The precise historical context of this psalm is unknown. Charles Spurgeon, in his *Treasury of David* notes on the Psalms, divides the passage into three sections: Psalm 138:1-3, Psalm 138:4-5, and Psalm 138:6-8. In the first part of the psalm, we see David being fully confident and prepared to “own his God before the gods of the heathen, or before angels or rulers” (Spurgeon). In the second section, David goes further and “declares that he will instruct and convert kings and nations” (Spurgeon). He closes the psalm by confessing the confidence that He has in the Almighty God to help David, God’s humble servant. Today’s lesson will cover verses 1 and 2, focusing on God’s faithfulness and steadfast love. Tomorrow, we will look at the remainder of the psalm.

David’s opening words are filled with thanksgiving and praise to God. He openly praises the One, True God before the false gods of the world. Here, David isn’t saying that he is physically standing before false gods and praising the One, True God. Rather, David is declaring that his allegiance lies with the God of Jacob alone. He is not afraid to stand and say this because He knows that these gods are not real and, therefore, have no power.

David’s praises are centered around God’s steadfast love and faithfulness. These two concepts are tied closely together, as steadfast love, or *hesed*, in the original Hebrew is translated into various terms by Bible translators. Some variations include “steadfast love,” “kindness,” “faithfulness,” “mercy,” “goodness,” and “loyalty.” The way that this one word encompasses so many meanings is a testament to the vastness of God’s character and to the fact that His infinity is difficult not only to comprehend but also to explain. The simplest way to describe the word is to think of it as love and loyalty combined into one word. As such, understanding God’s faithfulness is incomplete without considering the *hesed* love of the Lord, or His steadfast, constant, never changing love and loyalty He has to Himself and to His promises. In short, when we say that God is faithful, we mean that God keeps all of His promises and His word eternally.

¹ Some believe that David is not the author due to the mention of the temple, which wasn’t built until Solomon’s reign. However, the word used for temple in this passage is used in other psalms of David and could be a simple reference to the place where God’s presence is made known to His people (which would have been the Tabernacle during the time of David’s reign).

The second half of verse 2 states, “for you have exalted above all things your name and your word” (ESV). God’s reputation, or His name, is unstained. His word is pure and true. In order for God to be faithful to His promises and, in turn, to His children, He must first be faithful to Himself. God’s name and God’s word are of the utmost importance to Him. 2 Timothy 3:13 states, “If we are faithless, He remains faithful -- for He cannot deny Himself” (ESV). God honors Himself! His faithfulness to Himself comes first and foremost before faithfulness to anything or anyone else.

Reflection and Application

Cultivating a heart of gratitude is not an easy endeavor. One reason is that in order to be grateful to another, we must humble ourselves and recognize our need for others. As much as we may intellectually know that we owe great debts to the God of the universe, many times, we neglect to thank Him for all that He does not only for us but also to uphold the world on a daily basis. I hope this psalm has encouraged you to reflect with gratitude on who God is, what He has done for humanity as a whole, and what he has done for you personally. I pray that this reflection stirs up thankfulness that spills over in praise to Him.

1. David offers thanksgiving to God with his “whole heart” (Ps 138:1, ESV). Reflect on the past week and times you’ve given thanks to God. How has your thanks been given? Wholeheartedly? Half-heartedly? Why?
2. Every one of us has had times of unfaithfulness. Unfaithfulness to friends, family, God. And we have had others be unfaithful to us. Think about specific times you have been unfaithful or someone has been unfaithful to you. How did this impact your life? Now, remember God’s faithfulness. How does knowing God is forever faithful encourage and strengthen your faith?

Day Two: God's Faithfulness to Himself as It Impacts His Children

1. Pray

Before we begin reading and examining God's Word, let's ask the Lord to lead us in the study of His Word.

2. Examine

As we continue our study of God's faithfulness, we'll return to Psalm 138 and look at how God being faithful to Himself affects His creation. Re-read Psalm 138 before moving on.

¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

² I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your
steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.

³ On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks,
O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth,

⁵ and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand
against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.

⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands. (ESV)

The Context:

Yesterday, we noted how God, who is ever faithful, is first and foremost faithful to Himself. This same God who is continually faithful to Himself, who is constant and steadfast, never changing, who is worthy of all honor and praise, answered David when he called: "On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul You increased" (ESV). When we understand the majesty and glory of God, we can see how a simple answer can strengthen David's soul. Time and time again, David has seen God answer his prayers. He saved David from lion and bear attacks while he was tending his father's sheep, empowered him to bring down the mighty Goliath, and gave him victory after victory against enemy armies. He has witnessed the faithfulness of God personally and is thankful for God's steadfast love to Him.

In verse 4, David notes, "All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth" (ESV). David looks forward to the day when all will give the Lord the praise that He deserves. He specifically mentions the kings of the earth in this verse. David, a king himself, humbles himself before the Lord and recognizes that God is the ultimate authority in the world. While all of the kings of the world do not currently give God the thanks He deserves, a day is coming when every knee will bow before Him and confess that Jesus is Lord (Revelation 1:7). He specifies that the reason that all shall give thanks is due to hearing the words of God's mouth. This element is key, as it demonstrates the importance of God's Word going out from the Israelites to the Gentiles. In order for kings from all the world to know God and to be able to praise Him, they must hear about Him first. David's open praise to God is one example of how others can hear about God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

In verse 6, David comments on the magnanimity of God in that God chooses to stoop down in order to attend to His children. Included in those much lower than God are the kings of the world. This verse shows us another beautiful aspect of God's faithfulness: He chooses to be faithful to all of His children, even though we are so much lower than He is. He stoops down to connect with those who will humble themselves before Him. Verse 7 shows God preserving the life of His children even when they are in trouble and also shows God intervening to deliver His children from their enemies. God's faithfulness is full and ever present; it does not move or falter.

The psalm closes with David's assurance that God will fulfill His purpose for David. David understands that his own life is a part of God's ultimate plan and that whatever that plan may be, God is going to accomplish it, regardless of what David does. Here, we see a beautiful picture of God's faithfulness coupled with His sovereignty. This verse should both make us feel quite small and also give us great confidence, for the God of the universe has a purpose for our lives that He will fulfill, without question. Nothing that we do, for good or bad, is capable of stopping the purpose God has for our lives. He is bigger than us, and His plans are greater than us; therefore, He will fulfill His purposes because He cannot deny Himself.

Reflection and Application

Regardless of our worldly position, whether held in high esteem or low esteem, we must bow down before the God of heaven. Whether our lives have been full of earthly blessings or filled with trial after trial, God deserves our thanksgiving and praise. I hope that through the study of Psalm 138, you have been encouraged to praise God even in the midst of trouble, recognizing the provisions and protections that God gives to His children.

1. Do you ever fear that you have messed up God's plan for your life? How does this psalm inform your view?

2. How have you seen God use you for His purposes? What part of God's kingdom are you currently being utilized in?

Day Three: God's Faithfulness from Eternity Past

1. Pray

Before we begin reading and examining God's Word, let's ask the Lord to lead us in the study of His Word. Ask God to give you a grateful heart before Him today.

2. Examine

Today, we will take a closer look at God's faithfulness to His people from the beginning of time. Keep this idea in mind as you read Psalm 136 in its entirety.

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

² Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever

³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁴ to him who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁵ to him who by understanding made the
heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁶ to him who spread out the earth above the
waters, for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁷ to him who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁸ the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁹ the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁰ to him who struck down the firstborn
of Egypt, for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹¹ and brought Israel out from among them,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹² with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹³ to him who divided the Red Sea in two,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁴ and made Israel pass through the midst of it,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁵ but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the
Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁶ to him who led his people through the
wilderness, for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁷ to him who struck down great kings,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁸ and killed mighty kings,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁹ Sihon, king of the Amorites,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁰ and Og, king of Bashan,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²¹ and gave their land as a heritage,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²² a heritage to Israel his servant,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

²³ It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁴ and rescued us from our foes,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁵ he who gives food to all flesh,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures forever. (ESV)

The Context:

The author of Psalm 136 is unknown, and the direct historical context is also unknown. Its historical practice, however, is clear. 2 Chronicles 7:3 and 6 state that this psalm was sung in Solomon's temple. Charles Spurgeon believes this to be quite a popular hymn among the ancient Israelites due to its striking form and refrain. He praises its beauty and form, saying, "It is tuned to rapture, and can only be fully enjoyed by a devoutly grateful heart" (Spurgeon). The refrain of "for his steadfast love endures forever" means that this was likely a song that was often sung and repeated among congregations.

The psalmist begins by praising the Triune God for His goodness and steadfast love in verses 1-3. Concerning verse 1, Spurgeon writes, "Let us give thanks unto the Giver of all good. For he is good. Essentially he is goodness itself, practically all that he does is good, relatively he is good to his creatures. Let us thank him that we have seen, proved, and tasted that he is good. He is good beyond all others: indeed, 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 goodness of God is immeasurable, and He deserves honor and praise because of it.

Not only is God good, but He also offers mercy and love that are everlasting. We discussed God's steadfast love, or *hesed*, earlier this week. Remember, it is the idea that God's love and loyalty are connected to one another and endure for all of eternity. This idea is the basis of the entire psalm. There is nothing that can remove the steadfast love of the Lord from His people, for He is above all and preeminent in all things (see Colossians 1:15-20 for more information).

After this invocation of praise, the psalmist writes 6 verses of praise to the Creator of the universe. He praises God for His creativity, for His ability to do what would be unimaginable to the rest of humanity. God created the heavens out of nothing! He created the earth, complete with land and water. He gave us the sun and the moon as well as the stars of the heavens. How marvelous is God's creation! He was able to not only determine what would make a good creation but was also able to make it reality!

In verses 10-16, the psalmist turns to praising God for His steadfast love and faithfulness as He brought the Israelites out of Israel. The deliverance of the Hebrew people from Egypt is one of the most beautiful pictures of God's faithfulness seen in Scripture. The psalmist here draws attention to the power and strength of the Lord as He demonstrated His power over life and death, over rulers of the earth, and over nature in order to make Himself known to His people. Author of the *Enduring Word Bible Commentary* David Guzik writes, "God's use of history in this psalm is important. As in countless other places in the Scriptures, God used His work in the past to give hope, faith, and confidence to His people both for the moment and for the future." God's faithfulness to the Israelites in the past gives the Israelites and all of God's people (including us!) confidence in His faithfulness in the future, as well.

In verses 16-22, the psalmist praises God for keeping His promise to bring Israel into the Promised Land. Even after Israel complained in the wilderness and built a golden calf to worship in place of God Himself, God remains faithful to Israel to bring them into the land He has promised. God's faithfulness here is seen even when the Israelites are unfaithful to Him.

The psalmist closes Psalm 136 by calling upon all who read and hear this psalm to give thanks to God, who remembers His children, even when they are "in low estate" or in times of difficulty. God remembers us even when we do not remember Him. Even in times when the Israelites were not walking with God or were complaining, God still was faithful to His promise and delivered them from their enemies. He provided food for them when there seemed to be no way for them to live or to go on. God alone is able to provide and protect even in the most hopeless and dire circumstances. Therefore, He deserves all of our honor, glory, and praise.

3. Recall the time the Israelites spent in Egypt waiting for their deliverer (Moses) to come and rescue them out of slavery. If you're unfamiliar with this story, I recommend watching the Bible Project videos that provide a quick overview (link 1: <https://bibleproject.com/learn/exodus-1-18/> ; link 2: <https://bibleproject.com/learn/exodus-19-40/>). How does God demonstrate His faithfulness and steadfast love to the Israelites?

4. What connection is there between God's being faithful to Himself, as seen in verses 1 and 2, and God being faithful to the children of Israel?

5. In the last part of the psalm, the psalmist shifts from using third person pronouns and discussing God's faithfulness in the past to using first person, personal pronouns. He does this to show that just as God was faithful in the past, He is still faithful to the psalmist and those to whom this song is written. It is likely that this psalm was written during the time of Israel's exile or just after their return, as it is included in book five of the Psalms. Why would it be important for the psalmist to remind the people of God's faithfulness during a time of exile?

Reflection and Application

What a beautiful passage to reflect upon: God's steadfast love and faithfulness endure forever! There is nothing that can stop God from being loving and faithful to Himself and to His children. We have seen His faithfulness from the beginning of time through Creation, in the way that He faithfully brought Israel out of Egypt, in the way that He fulfilled His promise to bring Israel into the Promised Land, and in the way that He continues to remember, rescue, and provide for believers today. Take some time to think through God's steadfast love as revealed in your own life, and thank Him for His goodness before moving on to the application questions.

1. Genesis 1:27 tells us that all of mankind, male and female, is created in God's image. We bear little pieces of the image of God but cannot fully reflect His glory or being due to His infinite nature. Some people God has created with the gift of being wonderful visionaries, able to imagine great possibilities and come up with marvelous plans. Others have been gifted with the ability to put such plans into practice and to help see the details needed to make big ideas possible. How has God gifted you? How can you see aspects of God's image reflected in the way God has made you?

2. Recall times in your life when you were faithless but God was faithful. What does this tell you about God's character, and how does this encourage you?

Day Four: God's Faithfulness in Times of Trouble

1. Pray

Before we begin reading and examining God's Word, let's ask the Lord to lead us in the study of His Word.

2. Examine

We have spent several days studying God's faithfulness as seen in the psalms. Today, let's turn our attention to Psalm 40. Read the psalm in its entirety before we look at it more closely together.

¹ I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
² He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock
making my steps secure.
³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴ Blessed is the man who makes
the LORD his trust,
who does not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after a lie!
⁵ You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts
toward us; none can compare with you!
I will proclaim and tell of them,
yet they are more than can be told.

⁶ In sacrifice and offering
you have not delighted,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.
⁷ Then I said, "Behold, I have come;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:
⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."

⁹ I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation; behold, I have not
restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.
¹⁰ I have not hidden your deliverance within
my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness
and your salvation; I have not concealed
your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.

¹¹ As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain
your mercy from me; your steadfast love
and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!
¹² For evils have encompassed me beyond
number; my iniquities have overtaken me,
and I cannot see; they are more than the
hairs of my head; my heart fails me.

¹³ Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me!
O LORD, make haste to help me!
¹⁴ Let those be put to shame and disappointed
altogether who seek to snatch away my life;
let those be turned back and brought
to dishonor who delight in my hurt!
¹⁵ Let those be appalled because of their
shame who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"

¹⁶ But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad
in you; may those who love your salvation
say continually, "Great is the LORD!"
¹⁷ As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord
takes thought for me. You are my help and my
deliverer; do not delay, O my God! (ESV)

The Context:

Psalm 40 is a psalm of David that is addressed to the Chief Musician. It is classified as a lament psalm, meaning that the psalmist is expressing sorrow and grief in poetic form. What's interesting about this lament, though, is that it is also filled with praise. Psalm 40 shows David reflecting upon a difficult time out of which God delivered Him. The psalmist finds himself in this time of suffering as a consequence of personal sins he has committed.

David begins the psalm by describing how God has delivered him in the past. In verses 1 and 2, David paints a picture of God pulling him out of the "pit of destruction" and a "miry bog." This reminds me of John Bunyan's Christian being pulled out of the Slough of Despond by Help when he first began his journey towards the Celestial City. Here in the lowcountry, we know what getting stuck in the muck and mud feels like and just how hard it can be to get out of if we end up in it too deeply. Here, David had found himself in far too deep, to the point that he couldn't get himself out of the pit and needed the help of the Lord. David contrasts this image of being stuck in the mire and muck with God lifting him out and placing him firmly on a rock so that he could walk forth securely. Once David is able to be firm and secure in the Lord, he sings a song of praise to God, one that the Lord Himself put into David's mouth. The reference here is to a psalm that God inspires David to write. Because David waited on God to deliver him, he is able to give all the glory and praise to God, resulting in others also being able to see and fear the Lord for themselves.

The writers of the *NIV Application Commentary* on the Psalms give further insight into David's situation and mindset in verses 4 and 5: "Perhaps the primary hope the psalmist holds out for divine mercy is that while he has indeed sinned, he has not forsaken Yahweh like those who no longer 'fear him.'" David recognizes that though he has sinned, he still fears and trusts in the Lord to rescue him out of his sin. He understands that though he has not been faithful and obedient to the Lord, God remains faithful to David and has drawn him out of the pit of destruction. David also understands that this is not the only time God has pulled him out of a horrendous situation. He proclaims that God's wondrous deeds are much more than can be told!

In verses 6-8, David discusses what God wants from him as a result of his sin. He comments that sacrifices and offerings are not primarily what God has an interest in in this situation. Rather, God wants David to be attentive to and obedient to God's law and will. So, here we see that while God does remain faithful when we are faithless, this does not mean that God is okay with our remaining faithless before Him and walking opposite His will. No. God's ultimate desire is that we will learn from our past sins and do as David has done: repent of them and walk in the joy and praise of the Lord.

Not only does God desire that David himself walk in obedience, but he also wants God to act as he does in verse 9 and tell "the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation" with unrestrained lips. David is being obedient by telling others of what God has done for Him, showing how God has helped him out of the pit of destruction and the miry bog. Praising God is one of the most obedient things that a believer can do!

In the latter half of the psalm, David again calls on the Lord to deliver him and asks God to bring dishonor on those who tried to find delight in David's pain and suffering. He asks God to "let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt!" (Psalm 40:14, ESV). He is understandably hurt by people making light of his difficult situation and asks God to make haste to help him not only out of his own sin and difficulty but also with overcoming the gossip and slander of those around him.

The psalm closes with David recognizing his low state before the Lord. He says, "I am poor and needy" (Psalm 40:17, ESV). David recognizes that he is utterly helpless before the Lord. He has been humbled from this experience and is ever thankful that God has remained faithful to him despite his sin. David praises God for being his help and deliverer and continues to call on the name of the Lord to save him from his difficult situation.

Your Turn to Dig In

1. In an article on Psalm 40, John Piper writes, "One of the reasons God loved David so much was because he cried so much." Piper cites Psalm 6:6 and Psalm 56:8 as examples of David weeping and crying before the Lord. Why can crying before the Lord be a positive thing?
2. Here, David begins the psalm by reflecting upon God's past faithfulness to him. Why is it crucial for our relationship with God to begin with reflections of His faithfulness rather than our problems?
3. Read verses 6-10. It tells us in this scenario that there is something God desires more than sacrifices and offerings? What is it that God desires, and why?

4. Read verses 13-16. As a person in leadership, many of David's sins are visible, making them even more painful for him to go through because many rejoice in his downfall. As believers, we should never rejoice in the destruction or downfall of another and should, instead, seek to come alongside and lead others to repentance and holiness, just as we would hope they would do for us. What is your response when other believers around you fall into sin? Do you laugh and sneer? Do you gossip? Or do you pray for them and try to help them back onto the path of repentance and holiness?

5. Read the last line of this psalm. Is David completely out of trouble? How do you know? As David continues to wait for the Lord, what is his mind fixed on?

Reflection and Application

Waiting on the Lord is one of the hardest things for us to do. In our natural, fallen state, we are impatient people who want answers and results right away. Waiting is especially difficult when we are in a situation in which all hope seems lost. In Psalm 40, we see the results of David choosing to wait on the Lord even though all was dark around him. I hope that this renews your hope and strength in the Lord and challenges you to praise God for His faithfulness even when He doesn't answer us sometimes in the timeliness that we would prefer.

1. Just like David, we all have a story to tell. God has brought each one of us out of seemingly hopeless situations. What sins has the Lord freed you from? What difficulties has He faithfully seen you through? Write down a few below, then commit to sharing some of these with those in your circle of influence.

2. David chose to wait on the Lord rather than turning to false gods for help (as many would have done during his day). Even though he was in the midst of what seemed to him to be a hopeless situation, he waited for the Lord to save him. Have you found yourself in a situation that seems hopeless? Are you ever tempted to turn to ungodly measures (lying, cheating, swindling) to get yourself out of it? Why or why not? How does this psalm help to encourage you to patiently wait for God to act on your behalf?

Day Five: Week Five Debrief & PERCH Study

This week, we have focused on dwelling on the faithfulness of God. His consistent faithfulness stands in stark contrast to Israel's constant turning away from Him and our continued fickleness. Through the reading of these: Psalm 138, 136, and 40, hopefully you have seen that there is nothing that can stop the steadfast love and faithfulness of God. His faithfulness is not dependent upon anything other than Himself, so we can be assured that even in times of our own unfaithfulness, God will not turn away but will remain ever faithful to the promises He has made.

Debrief Week Five Using PERCH

Choose a passage from one of the psalms we read this week. It can be an entire psalm, or it can be a small portion of a psalm. If you chose a shorter passage, write out the passage below. If you choose a longer passage, choose key verses and keywords to write below.

1. Pray

Before moving forward, pray and ask God to speak to you through the study of His Word.

2. Examine and Reflect

Answer the questions below.

1. What does this passage teach about God?
2. What does this passage teach that we must obey?
3. How does this passage connect to the gospel?

Change: Prayerfully ask God how you can apply this passage to your life. Prayerfully consider what changes you need to make in your actions or beliefs in order to make the application of this passage to your life. Write these below.

Help: Prayerfully consider how you can help others using this passage. How can you share it with them? How can you spread the Truth of this passage to both believers and non-believers?

