

WEEK OF JANUARY 29, 2023



The Steadfast LOVE OF THE LORD

PREPARE



BEFORE
YOU BEGIN



TALK TOGETHER

WHAT COMES TO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF THE WORD LOVE?

When you think of the word love, you might think of hearts, someone you really like or even your favorite pet! But God's love for us is very special. The Bible uses the word "steadfast" to describe God's love. That means there is no ending to the love He has for His people. It's a type of love many humans on Earth are unfamiliar with.

In the Old Testament book of Nehemiah, we learn about God's steadfast love for His people. Nehemiah took place during a time when the kingdom of Israel was broken. The Israelites had repeatedly disobeyed God, so He allowed their enemies to defeat them and take them away as captives. But even though they were far from home and had to live under a new government and different king, God didn't leave them.

CONT...



TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



Nehemiah, was a cupbearer to the Persian King. At the time, Persia owned the land of Israel; but God is more powerful than earthly kings. God had the king give Nehemiah permission to go to Jerusalem and help the people rebuild a wall around the city to keep their enemies out. Nothing can stop God from loving His people, not even captivity or earthly kings.

Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem and helped the people rebuild the wall! After the work was finished, the people gathered together to read God’s word and praise Him. The people confessed their sins and recognized the great love God had for them, even when they had disobeyed Him. **Can you help me find Nehemiah, chapter 9? Let’s read verses 32-33 together.**

NOW, THEREFORE, OUR GOD, THE GREAT, THE MIGHTY, AND THE AWESOME GOD, WHO KEEPS COVENANT AND STEADFAST LOVE, LET NOT ALL THE HARDSHIP SEEM LITTLE TO YOU THAT HAS COME UPON US, UPON OUR KINGS, OUR PRINCES, OUR PRIESTS, OUR PROPHETS, OUR FATHERS, AND ALL YOUR PEOPLE, SINCE THE TIME OF THE KINGS OF ASSYRIA UNTIL THIS DAY. YET YOU HAVE BEEN RIGHTEOUS IN ALL THAT HAS COME UPON US, FOR YOU HAVE DEALT FAITHFULLY AND WE HAVE ACTED WICKEDLY.

NEHEMIAH 9:32-33

What did the Israelites tell God? They told Him they knew they had done wrong and they knew He still loved them. The people of Israel realized there were consequences for their sins. When we do something wrong, like disobey our parents or say mean words to a friend, we get in trouble. But God doesn’t stop loving us.

The story in Nehemiah shows us that God’s love is steadfast. His love is without end, unlike our love for temporary things here on Earth. He will not abandon His children no matter how many times we choose to turn away from Him. He will forgive and welcome us back. **We can trust that He will never leave us and never stop loving us.**

GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING
GOD CREATED
WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED,
AND SIN PASSED TO
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN
YOU AND ME.

REDEMPTION



THOUGH ALL OF
US ARE SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED
FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL
COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: LAMENTATIONS

This week's memory verse comes from the book of Lamentations. Lamentations is called a prophetic book. We can't be sure who wrote this book, but it's possible Jeremiah, the Weeping Prophet, wrote it. Lamentations follows the book of Jeremiah and features sad poetry that mourns the fall of Jerusalem due to its sin.

JOURNAL

Think about a time you experienced God's love. Write about that experience as a story of around 500 words. When the story is finished, read it to your family or a close friend.

OT-NT CONNECTION

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he talks about just how incredible the love of Christ is. **Let's read about it in Ephesians 3:14-19.**

- In verse 18, what does Paul want the Ephesians to grasp about Christ's love?
- What is one way you see Christ's love for you in your life?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT I WAS CREATED FOR GOD?

Proverbs 3:11-12 says: *My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of His reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.* Punishment helps us learn from our mistakes. When we receive correction for the wrong things we do, we are reminded to ask for forgiveness from those we hurt and ask God for help to make better choices in the future.

♥ WHY DID GOD ALLOW HIS PEOPLE TO FALL INTO CAPTIVITY IF HE LOVED THEM?

In Nehemiah 9 we learn the people of Israel had repeatedly disobeyed God. Those choices led to their capture by another country. Our God is a just God, and that means there are consequences for our sin. God always follows through on His promises. Because of that, we can trust His character. He wanted Israel to learn from their mistakes and come back to Him. Although they were punished for their sins, He never stopped loving them.

READ



Take a moment and explore Nehemiah 9 to learn more about the depth of Israel's sin and the depth of God's love for you. Now think about a time you encountered a body of water so deep you could not see the bottom. Remember that God's love for you is deeper than you can imagine.

★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

WEEK OF JANUARY 29, 2023

♥ MEMORIZE

**THE STEADFAST
LOVE OF THE LORD
NEVER CEASES, HIS
MERCIES NEVER
COME TO AN END;
THEY ARE NEW
EVERY MORNING;
GREAT IS YOUR
FAITHFULNESS.**

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

**Q: HOW DOES GOD
LOVE?**

**A: THE LOVE OF THE
LORD NEVER CEASES.**

FIND

This week's verse is found in the book of Lamentations. Help your child find the book of Lamentations. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there?

SHARE

Think about a time you were thankful God's love is different from the love we experience on Earth. Why were you thankful for that? Share the experience with your children.

WATCH



Watch this week's Memory Melody video with your kids to memorize this week's verse!

PRAY

**THANK YOU, GOD FOR
YOUR NEVER-ENDING
LOVE FOR US. YOU ARE
ALWAYS PRESENT AND
WILL NEVER LEAVE US.
AMEN.**

CAPTURE

Help your child go outside and take five photos of things that remind them of the steadfast love of God!

CREATE

Make a collage of things that remind you of the steadfast love of God!

Materials needed: Scissors, magazines, paper and glue

Flip through a magazine with your child and have them select images to cut out. Glue the pictures onto the blank sheet of paper to make a collage that reminds them of how much God loves them.

DRAW

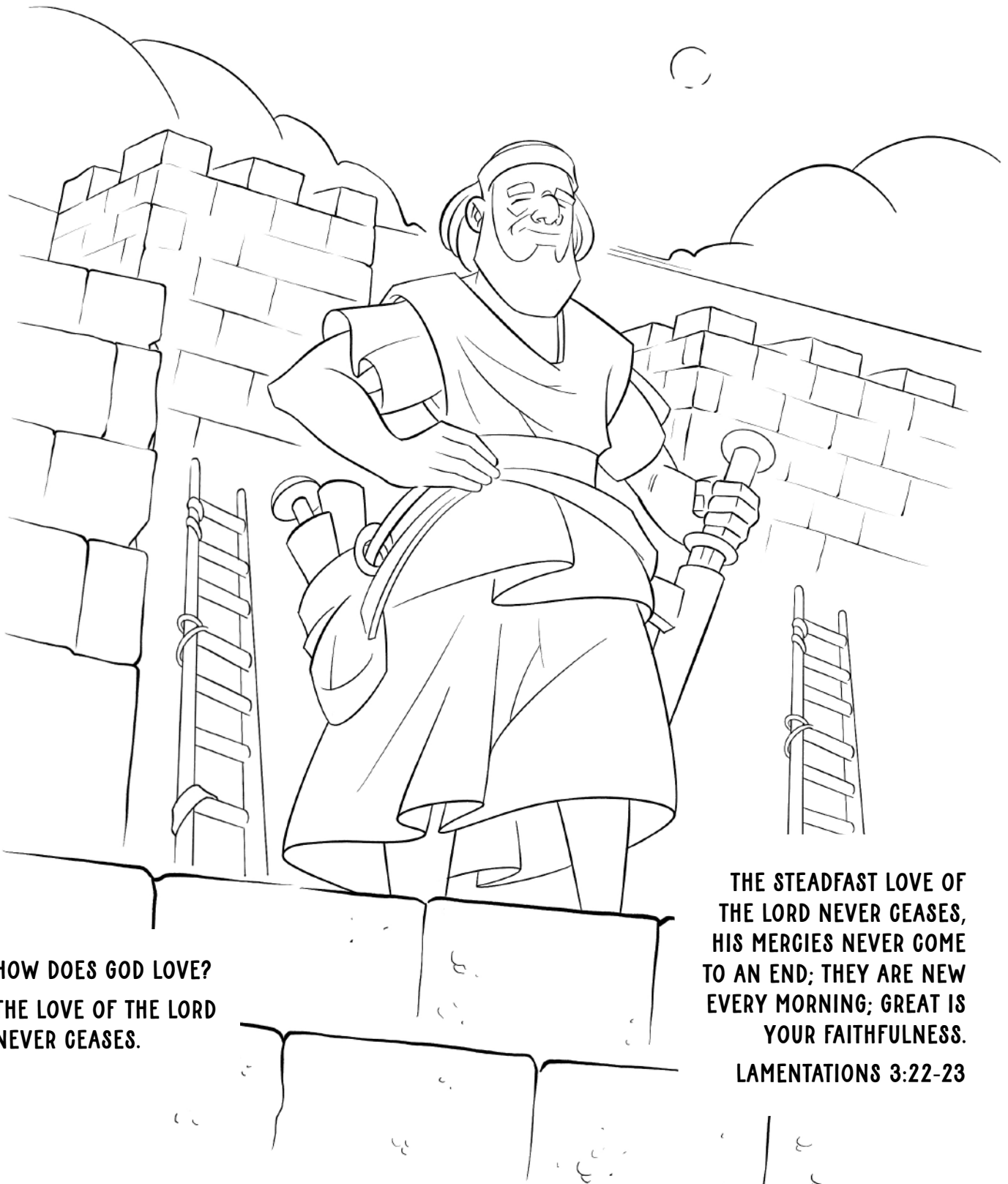
Have your child draw a picture of someone in their life who has shown God's love to them! Encourage your child to verbally share the story behind the picture.

SING



Listen to this playlist throughout the series to celebrate The Steadfast Love of the Lord!

**SCAN HERE TO LISTEN
WHEREVER YOU ARE!**



HOW DOES GOD LOVE?
THE LOVE OF THE LORD
NEVER CEASES.

THE STEADFAST LOVE OF
THE LORD NEVER CEASES,
HIS MERCIES NEVER COME
TO AN END; THEY ARE NEW
EVERY MORNING; GREAT IS
YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

NAME: _____