

Week 2: Remember...

hesed = steadfast love; "the behavior that one person has the right to expect of the other in light of promises that were made."

God establishes a _____ with Abraham.

In Psalm 85 we find a lament that is focused on _____ of God based from the _____ of this covenant.

- Yahweh translated LORD
- Use of this name conveys the _____ and the reality of his _____ with all _____ of his people.
- They are asking God to be faithful in spite of their _____.
- _____ and _____ are connected.
- When we seek _____, _____ will come with it.

So we too must remember the steadfast love and faithfulness of God in the past.

1. We do this....

- through the stories we are given in _____.
- through the stories of _____.
- through the stories of our _____ and _____.
- through stories from our _____.

2. _____ the broken _____ around us.

3. _____ the ways we have been _____ to God.

4. Continuing to _____ God's steadfast love for us now.

Start talking.

- Relatives excepted, who gave you your first kiss? Was it what you expected? Did you try again?

Start thinking.

- What verses are about the past? The present? The future? To what does “restored fortunes” refer in v1?
- How is the present going? What tension do vv1-3 and 4-7 create? How would you explain the word “revive” in v6?
- What do vv4-7 give as the cause of God’s anger? What is a sign of revival, both personal and corporate (v6)?
- What is dangerous about a crisis of faith (v8)? What does it mean for God’s glory to dwell in the land (v9)?
- What truth is expressed in vv10-12? What is God’s part of the deal? What is the peoples?

Start sharing.

- How does “believing backward” help you “believe forward”?
- Are you disappointed that something didn’t turn out the way you hoped it would? How might this psalm help you?
- What are some “national laments” of today? Does God show favor to certain nations? Why or why not? How can we express our corporate laments?
- What pattern of faith unfolds in this psalm? In your life?
- What does it mean to let God’s glory dwell in your life?

Start praying. *Be bold and pray with power.*

God, sometimes it seems that everything in life is bearing down on me and I feel helpless and alone. I also recognize the brokenness of our world as I look around me. May I remember your steadfast love that goes before me every day and that I would live into the hope that gives me to live as an example of your love to those around me.

Start Doing:

- Remember and tell a story of God’s faithfulness.
- Recognize and lament the broken covenants in your life and in those around you.
- Confess and repent to God your struggles and sin.
- Celebrate God’s steadfast love as you live your life.
- Acknowledge and thank God for His faithfulness in the past and place your current struggles at his feet and receive and live into the hope of what only He can do in your life.