



Show Me Your Glory – Loving

August 4 | Group Guide

Pray, read Scripture, and have large group discussion (30 minutes).

Begin your group time in prayer. Ask for the Lord to help each of you take his word into your life.

Read **Exodus 34:6-7** and then read **Hosea 1:1-3:5**.

Questions to ask:

- How does our culture define “love?”
- What is your understanding of the term “hesed” as used and exemplified here in Exodus and Hosea? How does it differ from other concepts of love?
- How is “hesed” reflected in God’s relationship with his people in the Old Testament? Can you provide specific examples?
- In what ways have you experienced God’s “hesed” in your personal life? Can you share a specific moment when you felt God’s steadfast love? How does the cross exemplify God’s love in an ultimate sense?

Break into smaller groups for same-gendered accountability (30 minutes).

- In what ways do you sometimes struggle with understanding God’s loyal love towards you? Emerson mentioned three things that can influence us: (1) sometimes “life” gets in the way; (2) sometimes other people get in the way; and (3) sometimes we get in our own way. Do any of these resonate with you right now? Explain.

- In his sermon, Emerson also mentioned that, “If you want the loyal love of God to pour into your life, you’ve got to allow it to. If you’ve been hurt, you must open your heart to love and be loved again. If others have hurt you, you must move to allow God’s love to heal that pain. If you’re thinking God’s going to smite you because you’re imperfect, you need to cut the bad theology. If you’re entangled in unrepentant sin, you must cut it out of your life. And if you’re in the throes of self-rejection, you’ve got to allow the love of God to ‘constitute the core truth of your existence,’ in the words of Henri Nouwen.”

Which of these prescriptions for experiencing God’s love come closest to what you’ve needed most in your life to get God’s love “in you”?

- Are there any areas where you need to confess a lack of loyal love towards the people in your life (spouse, kids, friends, family, etc.)? *Allow people to share openly. If someone shares, be sure to receive their confession by simply saying, “The blood of Jesus covers you, friend. Thank you for sharing.” Then, have someone pray over them.*
- Where are you needing God’s love to meet you today?
- What practical steps can you take this week to show “hesed” to someone in your family, workplace, or community?

Come back together as a large group to recap your time together and pray (10 minutes).

Like each week, spend time in prayer asking for God to show you more of his nature and character throughout this series. Specifically, ask for more of an awareness of God’s loyal love in your life. And pray for God’s help in being loving towards others.

Finish with logistics and prayer requests (5 minutes).

1. Make sure to inform your group about the study devotionals available to help you more deeply dive into God’s character! You can find that material at thecreek.org/devotionals.
2. Finish your group session with prayer requests.