

Bible Study - God's Character

Week 5 - Loyal Love

Recap

- ❖ God gets angry, divinely angry, when people choose to disobey His commandments and break the covenant.



Opening Question:

Why is loyalty
important to you?

Objectives for today's Bible Study

- ❖ Define loyal love
- ❖ Summarize human loyal love
- ❖ Summarize God's loyal love



Loyalty Loyalty Loyalty

- ❖ In Hebrew, *khesed* is a noun meaning “loyal love”
- ❖ *Khesed* is best described as a relational trait between two people or groups. It assumes a pre-existing relationship and refers to actions that demonstrate a commitment to the protection, preservation, and flourishing of said relationship.

Loyalty Loyalty Loyalty

- ❖ Depending on your Bible's translation, *khesed* has been translated to mean
 - Mercy
 - Lovingkindness or mercy
 - Steadfast love
 - Love or unfailing love
- ❖ Out of all the mentions of *khesed* (245 in the OT), 75% of them are referencing God's *khesed*

Human Acts of *Khesed*

- ❖ People do *khesed* when they fulfill their commitments to another person in their immediate and/or extended family. Notable examples include:
 - Jacob's sons bury their father - Genesis 47:28-30
 - Ruth stays with and supports Naomi - Ruth 1:16-17
- ❖ People also do *khesed* when they fulfill their commitment to someone they've made a covenant agreement with. Notable examples include:
 - Abraham to Abimelech - Genesis 21:22-24
 - David to Jonathan and Jonathan's son - 2 Samuel 9:1-7

Summarize Human *Khesed*

- ❖ *Khesed* is when someone treats another as a close friend or family member, doing what is necessary to ensure their well-being and the health of the relationship. While the action may be an obligation or duty, *khesed* also refers to the emotional motivation of love that drives expressions of generosity and care.
 - Give an example of when you showed *khesed* to someone
 - Give an example of when someone showed *khesed* to you

Human Acts of *Khesed*

- ❖ People do *khesed* when treat someone as if they are in a committed relationship (even if they're not). Notable examples include:
 - Pharaoh's winemaker to Joseph - Genesis 40:12-14
 - The spies to Rahab - Joshua 2:12-15

God's *Khesed* to His People

- ❖ Throughout Israel's history, God shows many acts of *khesed*
 - Genesis 32:9-12 → God promises to protect Jacob and his offspring
 - Exodus 15:11-13 → God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt
 - Numbers 14:11-19 → God forgives Israel's rebellion in the account of the spies
 - 2 Samuel 7:12-18 → God remains committed to David's family

God's *Khesed* to His People

- ❖ In Psalms, God's *khesed* is mainly expressed by saving people from disaster, death, and/or oppression
 - Psalm 31:7-8, Psalm 94:16-18, Psalm 57:2-5
- ❖ God's acts of *khesed* in the past are the basis for hope of future *khesed* in the restoration from the exile
 - Psalm 44:23-26
- ❖ God's *khesed* is what motivates forgiveness of his covenant people's failure and rebellion
 - Psalm 51:1-2

People Showing *Khesed* to God

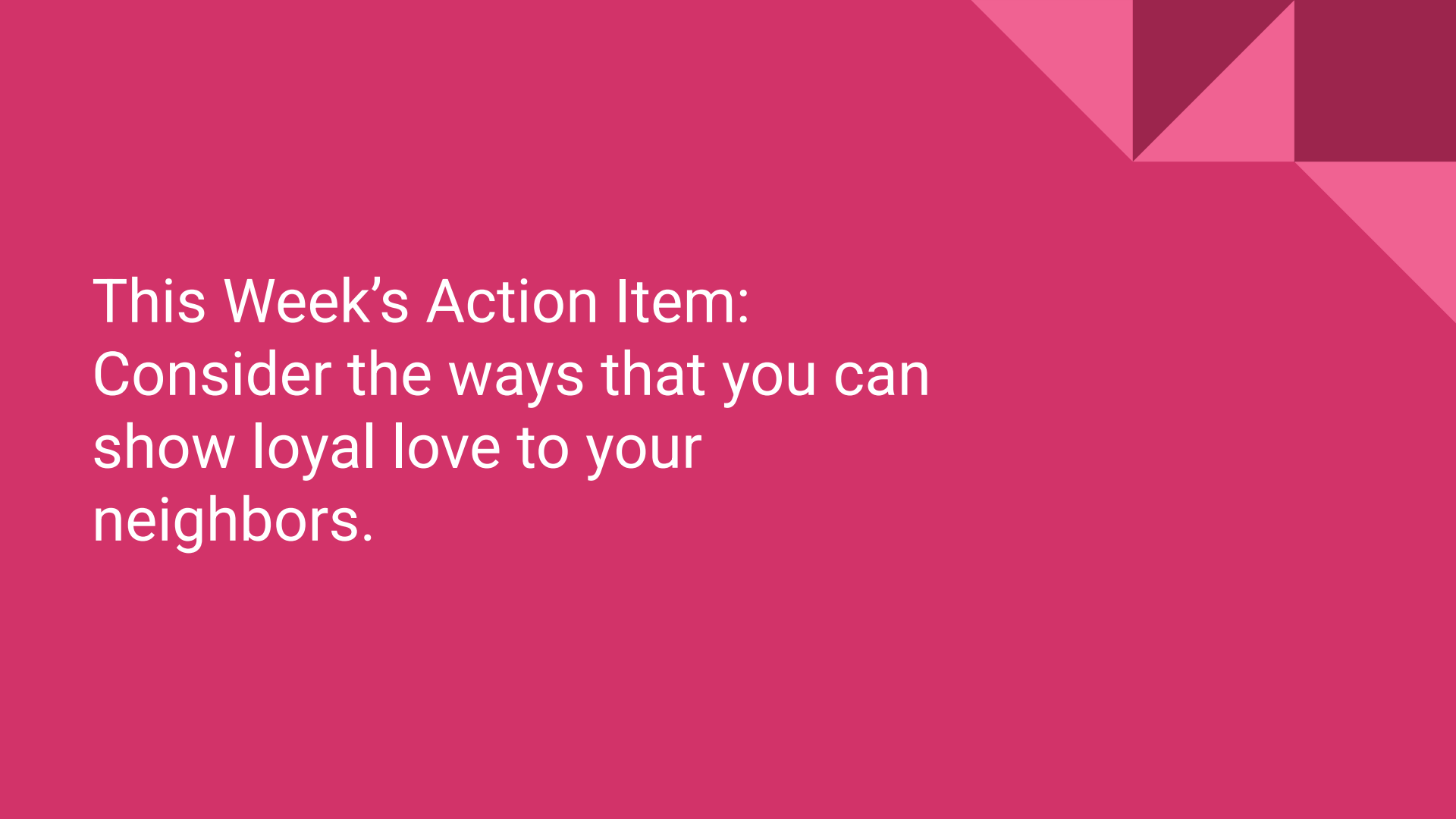
- ❖ In seeking out a covenant partner, God desires that His people show *khesed* to Him, just as He has shown *khesed* to them. Israel is supposed to demonstrate their *khesed* by honoring their terms of their covenant with God, but they fail repeatedly
 - Hosea 4:1-2
- ❖ Israel's *khesed* is contrasted with God's
 - Hosea 6:4-6
- ❖ The destruction of Israel in the exile was an act of God's anger, and their restoration will only happen as a result of God's *khesed*
 - Micah 7:18-20

Khesed in the New Testament - *Eleos*

- ❖ In the NT, *khesed* got translated to the Greek word for mercy, *eleos*
 - This translation is used 221 times in the NT
- ❖ The Hebrew meaning of *khesed* is evident in many NT uses of *eleos*
 - Luke 1:45-55
 - Ephesians 2:1-5
 - Paul uses the phrase “rich in mercy” as an equivalent to saying “great in loyal love”

Jesus, God's Khesed in the Flesh

- ❖ God's ultimate act of khesed and His loyalty to his covenants made to Abraham, Noah, and David are embodied in Jesus.
- ❖ Jesus came to receive and show God's khesed and to restore the partnership between God and humanity
- ❖ Compare the opening chapter of John with key passages from the OT
 - John 1:14 → Exodus 25:8-9
 - Exodus 33:20-22
 - Exodus 34:6-7



This Week's Action Item:
Consider the ways that you can
show loyal love to your
neighbors.