

A Song of Thanksgiving

Forever - day 1

Foundation

Bible passage: Psalm 136

In units 6 and 7 we will look at another contemporary hymn; “Give Thanks to the Lord, our God and King” by Chris Tomlin. It is also known as “Forever”. The song reflects some of the words of Psalm 136. Aim to learn verses 1 and 2 in this unit. The chorus comes after verse 2.

The expression “Give thanks to the Lord... for his steadfast love endures forever” and variations on it occurs several times in the Old Testament including 1 Chronicles 16.34, 41 which we will look at in unit 16.

Psalm 136 verses 1, 2, 3 and 26 mention giving thanks to God because He is good and He is above all else and His love endures forever. In fact, all twenty six verses of the Psalm include the words “for his steadfast love endures forever”. In English steadfast means to stand fast, or to be fixed in place. Therefore, the Psalmist is repeatedly telling us that God’s love is utterly sure

Verses 1 & 2

Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King:
His love endures forever.
For He is good, He is above all things.
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever.
For the life that's been reborn.
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.
Sing praise, sing praise.



and certain, it can be neither moved or shaken, and nor does it fade. At times this can be hard to believe because things can happen that make us wonder whether God really loves us. But in the Bible God is telling us that His love is steadfast. The Psalm goes on to mention God’s works in creation, providence (upholding the world) and his saving work amongst the people of Israel.

“Give thanks to the LORD,
for He is good ...”

Booklet:

What did the psalmist give thanks for? - That God is good and His steadfast love endures forever.
How did the psalmist give thanks? - In a song.

Reflection:

Who do we know who loves us? How can we show our thanks to them?
Do things sometimes happen that make us wonder if someone does really love us?

It can be hard when we feel that people don’t love us, and we can feel the same way about God. Yet God tells us that even if a mother might forget her child, He does not forget His people (Isaiah 49.15).



The suggested key teaching point for the unit. This will be repeated over the page.