

RECHARGE

DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

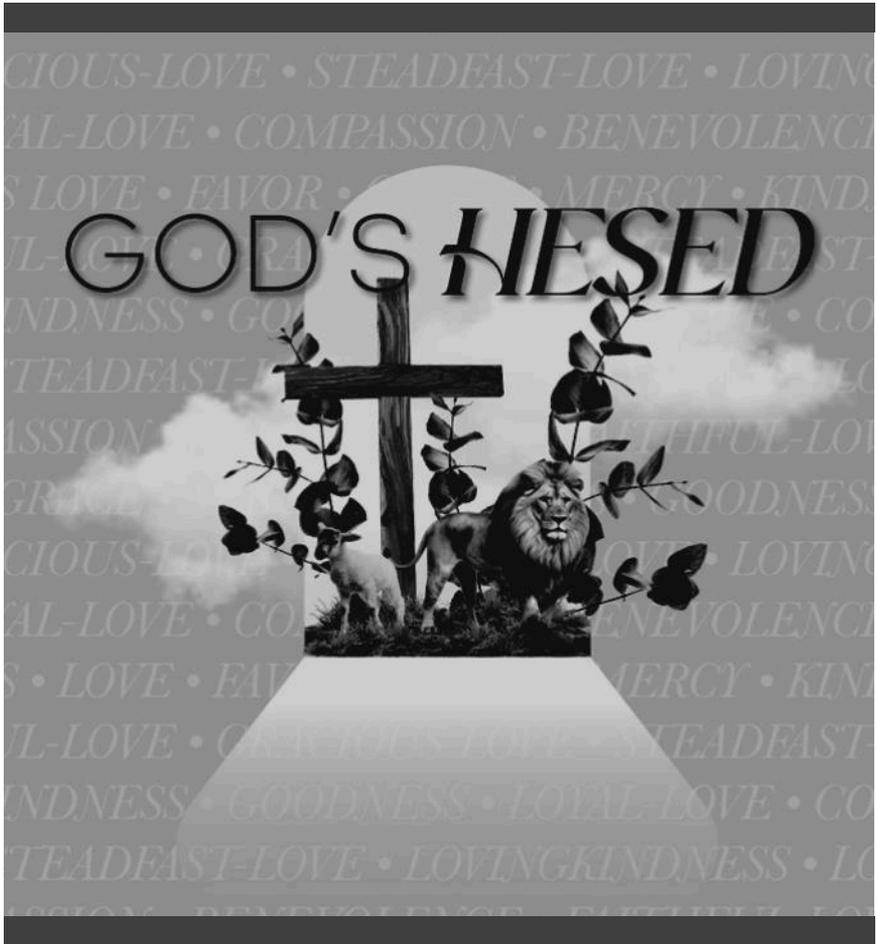
GOD'S WISDOM



WADE ALLEN

RECHARGE

DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Temple
Baptist
Church



TEMPLEROGERS.ORG

INTRODUCTION

**“Open my mind and let me discover
the wonders of Your Law .”**

Psalm 119:18 (CEV)

Welcome to Spring! At least that’s what the calendar says, even if the thermometer doesn’t! Our Spring Session for Community Groups and *Recharge* books is here. For the next six weeks, we’re going to focus our attention in **Psalm 107**, a call to the members of the community to give thanks to the Lord for His steadfast, enduring love. This booklet will be your guide to diving deeper into this idea of *HESED*, God’s steadfast love. Each week, you will have a place for notes from the Sunday morning message and a place for notes/prayer requests from your community groups. We will also provide you with three opportunities to spend time alone with God and His Word. There is a passage for you to read and SOAP journal, plus two inductive studies that will correlate with the Sunday morning message.

We try to be very strategic in the developmental process for all these studies. What is preached on Sunday mornings is expounded on in the *Recharge* books and community group studies. It is true that we learn through repetition, but that’s not exactly the goal in doing this. When each of these reinforce the other, it allows us to experience different levels of comprehension, which increases our overall understanding of Scripture and deepens our spiritual growth!

It is God’s plan for your life to be transformed into the likeness of His Son—Jesus Christ. In **Ephesians 4**, Paul told us to “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (**4:15**). The combined efforts of listening to the weekly message, participating in the weekly community groups and working through the studies in this booklet will help you do just that—mature in your faith in Jesus Christ!

INTRODUCTION TO *HESED*

I hope that the title of this book intrigued you rather than making you not want to pick it up! That is always a risk when spending time exegeting a word from the original languages of Scripture. I know that word studies and analyzing sentence structure in an unfamiliar language can become tedious (and maybe even boring), but I believe that this is a word that you need to know and understand.

Recently, I read a book called *The Other Half of Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation* written by Dr. Jim Wilder (PhD in Clinical Psychology, M.A. Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary) and Michel Hendricks (author, engineer, inventor and frustrated pastor). This book seeks to answer the question: “Could brain science be the key to spiritual formation?”

By using brain science, Dr. Jim Wilder—a neurotheologian—identified that there are two halves of the church: the rational half and the relational half. This book asserts that too many churches members are only functioning with half a brain when it comes to church—the rational half—which can cause churches to become unhealthy places where transformation doesn’t last and narcissistic leaders flourish. I don’t think that any of us want a church like that!

So, why *HESED*? What does any of this have to do with *HESED*? I’m so glad you asked! Michel Hendricks explains the concepts behind Dr. Wilder’s research: “Our brains draw life from our strongest attachments to grow our character and develop our identity. **Who we love shapes who we are.** Character formation is the central task of the church. Our brains are designed to use our attachments to form our character... Attachments are so indispensable to brain development that Jim set out to find them in the Bible. He found what he was seeking in the Hebrew word *hesed*.” (emphasis mine) There is much more to unpack when it comes to this word—just take a look at the cover of this book and you will see some of the ways *HESED* is translated!

NEW SERMON SERIES IN PSALM 107

Our focus for the next six weeks will be the text of **Psalm 107**. The word *HESED* occurs 251 times in 241 verses in the Hebrew Old Testament—six of those occurrences are found in **Psalm 107**. This word is found throughout the Old Testament because it is the fundamental description of who God is and how He interacts with us.

The sermon series will follow the division of the psalm itself. It is a psalm of restoration, a psalm of hope, a psalm of testimony. It contains testimonies of people who are in despair, in bondage, in rebellion and in crisis. For each group of people, the psalmist ponders the *HESED* of God—His steadfast, faithful, kind, gracious and merciful love.

SPRING 2024 RECHARGE STUDIES

In this issue of *Recharge*, we will be studying and SOAPing through various psalms. For our inductive studies, we'll be exploring some of the historical context to Psalm 107, as well as, studying through some related Old Testament narratives. As you work through this book, you will notice that each week of study contains:

- TWO pages to take notes from each Sunday's sermons.
- A QR code link to the YouVersion study notes for each week.
- A page for notes/prayer concerns from your Community group.
- A Bible reading plan to SOAP Journal through the passages that parallel the passage from our weekly sermon text. Instructions for SOAP Journaling and a Table of Contents for your journal entries are located on pages 42-43.
- And two inductive studies each week from the Old Testament which have been developed to coordinate with the Sunday morning sermons.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or one of our pastors. Our prayer is that these studies will provide you with a daily *Recharge* for your life!

Pastor Wade Allen

Sermon Title: **God's *HESED* to Those He Restores**

Sermon Text: Psalm 107:1-3

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: **Psalm 85**

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

This week, we started a new sermon series from **Psalm 107**. This psalm begins with a reminder to be grateful to the Lord for His never-ending kindness and compassion. The historical context for this psalm is the return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity. Let's explore this further.

The southern kingdom of Judah was taken into captivity as a result of their disobedience to God. According to the prophecy in **Jeremiah 25:8-14**, how long would God's people be punished?

Near the end of their captivity, the Babylonian Empire was overthrown by the Medo-Persians. Read **Daniel 9:1-19**. After realizing that this time was almost complete, what was the first thing that Daniel did?

What was the essence of his prayer? What was he confessing? (**9:3-15**)

What requests did he make of the Lord? (**9:16-19**)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In the previous study, we learned about Darius the Mede (**Daniel 9:1**). He is also mentioned in **Daniel 6** as the ruler who set up 120 governors to rule over the kingdom. But at the end of that chapter, it refers to the “reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” There is much debate over the identity of each of these men is; however, there is a lot of evidence that suggests that they are the same person—Darius is his Median name and Cyrus is his Persian name.

Understanding this, the prayer of Daniel (**9:3-19**) was lifted up to God in the time when Darius was made king. Read **Ezra 1:1—2:1**. How did God answer Daniel’s prayer of confession and repentance? In what ways did God use King Cyrus/Darius to bring about His will for His children?

Read **Romans 13:1-2**. The Bible clearly states that ALL governing authorities have been instituted by God. Verse four goes on to refer to a ruler as “God’s servant for your good.” How should this affect the way we look at governing authorities?

Is it really possible that God uses ungodly, pagan leaders to bring about His will in this world? Can you think of other biblical examples of when He did?