

IDENTITY & SELF ACCEPTANCE | WEEK 15

LEADERS GOAL

Help students see how loyalty strengthens friendships and challenge them to be faithful, supportive friends.

SCRIPTURES

Khesed Love: 1 John 4:19

ACTIVITIES

Loyal or Disloyal
Make Room

PRAY

SUPPLIES

- Paper with the letters L O V E written down the left-hand side, one per Small Group
- 2 balloons blown up with the words Loyal written on one and Disloyal written on the other (use Sharpie marker to write the words on the balloons)
- Colored pom pom balls, 7 for each student, for the Loyal or Disloyal Game
- Bible
- IPAD to watch Bible story video
- Create welcoming space by engaging with students as they enter the space

BOTTOM LINE

God shows us loyal love, and we can show that same love to others.

AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

As students arrive, invite them to think of adjectives that characterize love beginning with L, O, V, E. Write them on the paper with the letters L O V E written down the left-hand side.

We have been talking about agape love, philia (or phileo) or brotherly love. Today we're going to talk about khesed (pronounced he-sed) love, which means steadfast, loyal love.

STORY CONNECTION

Who in The Lion King showed a loyal, steadfast love?

- Mufasa in sharing his wise teachings with Simba, protecting him, taking good care of the Pride Lands.
- Nala by finding Simba and convincing him to return and fight for the Pride Lands. She believed in Simba and fought alongside Simba.

OUR STORIES

- How can we show a khesed love to others in our family, school, community?
- How might trying to show loyal love change the way we get along with our family and friends?
- What if you try hard to show khesed love but don't receive that same expression of love back? Do you stop showing loyal love?

TRUTH & TREASURE

God loves us with a loyal love—a love that doesn't give up, walk away, or change when things get hard.

The Bible shows us that loyalty isn't just something God does; it's part of who God is. God keeps His promises because He is faithful to His word. What He says, He means—and He follows through. Because God loves us this way, it shapes how we love others.

When we choose to be loyal, kind, and faithful in our friendships, we are reflecting God's love. We don't love just because it's easy—we love because God loved us first.

Let's see a bit more of God's loyal love here: <https://streamable.com/t6wxhu>

DISCOVERY

GAME | Loyal or Disloyal

Supplies: 2 balloons blown up with the words Loyal written on one and Disloyal written on the other (use Sharpie marker to write the words on the balloons)

Each Small Group needs 2 balloons.

Colored pom pom balls, 7 for each student

Small Group Leader reads the Scenarios. Students vote whether the person is loyal or disloyal by throwing a pom pom to the balloon of their choice. The idea is to not pop the balloon but to cast their vote in a fun way.

The Small Group Leader can discuss the Scenarios further by asking questions such as 1) who is the person loyal to and 2) who is affected by the disloyalty?

Scenarios:

- Janet's school class plans to have a car wash in the school parking lot to raise money. Those who could come were encouraged to, but attendance was not required. Janet came with some buckets, sponges, and towels.
- Tammy was sitting with two girls on the bus when one girl said things that weren't true about Tammy's friend. Tammy didn't say anything.
- Jim had a part in a play and practiced every Monday evening. He started studying with a friend, lost track of time, and missed his practice.
- Jason's little brother had a baseball game one night. Jason had a school project to finish, but he worked hard on it until game time. Then he went to cheer for his brother.
- During lunch, a group of kids started laughing at Ben's drawing. His friend Ava stood up for him and said it was creative and cool.
- Ethan enjoyed a new friend group and started ignoring his old friends, even though they had always been there for him.
- Marcus promised his friend he'd work with him on their science project on Saturday. Even though his cousins invited him to a movie, he kept his promise and helped his friend first.



DISCOVERY

GAME | Make Room

Core Idea: Loyal love makes space for others.

Set-Up

- Chairs in a circle
- One fewer chair than players

How to Play

- Music plays → students walk around chairs.
- Music stops → everyone must sit.
- No one is out.
- Each round, remove one chair and restart.

The Twist

- Students must figure out how to fit everyone on fewer chairs.
- Standing = not allowed; sharing is required.
- No sitting on laps allowed- must find a way to squeeze beside each other

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for being loyal to us. You help us. You stay patient as we learn and grow, and don't give up on us when we make mistakes. We can trust your words in the Bible because you do what you say. You never change. Please help us to show loyal love to others. Amen.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Loyal Love in Action: Each day this week, try to show khesed love in one small way:

- Help without being asked
- Encourage instead of criticize
- Be patient when you'd rather walk away

At the end of the week, think about which choice was hardest—and why.

L

O

V

E