

*November 3, 2019*

# NORTH METRO CHURCH

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## NMC SERMON SERIES CONTENT



### **“Dependent” SERIES OVERVIEW:**

This four-week series covers four different psalms expressing thankfulness, gratitude, and a postured heart toward God and his faithful actions toward his people. A thankful heart is always a dependent heart. How do we continue to thank God in the midst of dry seasons?

# "DEPENDENT"

## WEEK 1

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### Icebreaker:

Can you think of a time where you had to be totally dependent on someone else? What was the circumstance? How did it feel? What did you learn?

### Discussion Questions:

#### Read Psalms 107.

What was your main take away from Sunday's message?

With which part of the Psalm can you most readily identify?

Which section is puzzling?

*"Psalm 107 begins what is labeled in many Bibles as "Book V" of the Psalms. This book—or collection—of Psalms was most likely assembled upon the Israelites return to the land of Israel at the end of their captivity in Babylon. After 70 years of captivity, the return to Israel was a monumental sign of the Lord to those returning, something that is very rare in all of human history. How many times has a nation that was conquered and dispersed found their way back to their original country and re-formed themselves? So it's no surprise that the very first Psalm in the final book of the Psalms strongly emphasizes "hesed"—the Hebrew word translated in the NASB as "lovingkindness".*

*Human love is almost always expressed by a different word in Hebrew, "aheb", which when referring to man's love for or towards God usually involves obedience. God's love expressed to man is most often expressed as "hesed", most closely meaning "lovingkindness". The closest NT equivalent may be "grace", but that doesn't quite get it. "Lovingkindness" is the expression of God's determination to keep His promises to His chosen people in spite of their sin and rebellion. It's not an apathetic response to sin, but a deliberate act to bring the sinner back to God. It's God's divine mercy and forgiveness toward sinners when repayment of sins through the sacrificial system was no longer effective. "Hesed" is always an expression of love by God to someone with which He has a relationship. The 2 words it's most closely associated with are "covenant" and "faithfulness".*

*Imagine how precious this concept was to a nation thought at one point to be completely destroyed—even dead—only to come back to life and returned to Him both physically and spiritually. Although the returning Israelites experienced spiritual reawakening in their covenant and faithfulness to God, they were painfully aware it was nothing they accomplished on their own but only by His lovingkindness alone.”*

Where and how do you see God’s lovingkindness on display in Psalms 107?

What do you learn about the character and nature of God through Psalm 107?

God’s people often encounter hardships, just as the Jews did while returning home from Babylon. How do you typically respond to these inevitable hardships?

Why might God allow an enemy to afflict a believer? Why should we trust Him in difficult times as well as in good times?

What do you cling to (scripture, etc) to help you navigate through the storms of life?

*“A man was the sole survivor of a shipwreck. He was able to make a raft from some of the ship’s cargo and drifted to a deserted island. There he constructed a makeshift shelter and lived on what little food he had been able to salvage from the wreckage. Time after time he tried in vain to attract the attention of a passing ship. Finally, he saw a ship approaching more closely and hurriedly lit a signal fire. To his dismay, the ship passed by and was quickly fading from sight.*

*Accidentally, the flames from the signal fire set the thatched roof of his shelter on fire. The man watched helplessly as all of his provisions burned to ashes. All was lost, he thought. He didn’t see how his life could last much longer. But then he noticed that the ship which had passed by him had turned around and was approaching the island again. To his relief, he was seen by the crew and rescued.*

*Once on board, he went to the captain to express his thanks. He asked, “What caused you to turn around after you had already gone by me?” The captain answered, “We saw the smoke you made by setting your shelter on fire.” The very thing that seemed to seal his doom was the means of his delivery.”*

In what ways can you identify with this illustration?

How has He led you out of a wilderness? Smashed the chains that bound you? Spoken a word that healed you? Hushed the storms in your life?

What should our response be to God’s loving-kindness towards us in our story?

Rob’s bottom line was “when we tell our stories (of God’s faithfulness), it brings God glory.”

What does it mean to bring God glory?

How do our stories bring God glory? How can you bring glory to God by sharing your story this week?

Looking back at this week’s teaching and study, is there one thing you’d especially like to remember this week?

What questions do you still have?