

# THE COMMUNITY OF MERCY: COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS

Ruth 3:1-8

*But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he had denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

**1 Timothy 5:8**

*By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

**1 John 3:16-18**

Hesed is a Hebrew word that expresses, far better than any English translation, the essence of life in relationship—in covenant—with God and others. This word incorporates all of our concepts of faithfulness, steadfast love, kindness, mercy, loyalty, and sacrifice into one.

## I. BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

## II. MODERN RELEVANCE

## III. ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE

Rest for Ruth – 1:9 // 3:1

Wings of Refuge – 2:12 // 3:9

Hesed of God – 1:8; 2:20 // 3:10

End of Emptiness – 1:21 // 3:17