**Community Group Discussion Guide**

Psalm 34 – June 13th, 2021

**I. Starter Questions:**

When in your life have you sought the Lord? Was it a time of joyfulness and praise or a time of trial and tribulation?

* 1. What was the outcome of seeking the Lord?
	2. What did you learn about God?
	3. What did you learn about your relationship with God?

**II. Discussion of Scripture:**

**Psalm 34:*****Taste and See the Lord is Good:***

I will bless the LORD [p](https://www.esv.org/Ep5.20%3B1Th5.18)at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2  My soul [q](https://www.esv.org/Ps44.8%3B1S2.1%3BJr9.24)makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and [r](https://www.esv.org/Ps119.74)be glad. 3  Oh, [s](https://www.esv.org/Ps35.27%3BPs40.16%3BPs69.30%3BPs70.4%3BLk1.46)magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! 4  I [t](https://www.esv.org/2Ch15.2%3BMt7.7)sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. 5  Those who look to him are [u](https://www.esv.org/Is60.5%3BPs4.6)radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. 6  [v](https://www.esv.org/Ps34.15%3BPs34.17)This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and [w](https://www.esv.org/Ps34.17%3BPs34.19%3B2S22.1)saved him out of all his troubles. 7  [x](https://www.esv.org/Dn6.22%3BHb1.14)The angel of the LORD [y](https://www.esv.org/Gn32.1-2%3B2K6.17)encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. 8  Oh, [z](https://www.esv.org/Hb6.5%3B1P2.3)taste and see that [a](https://www.esv.org/Ps100.5)the LORD is good! [b](https://www.esv.org/Ps2.12)Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! 9  Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! 10  [c](https://www.esv.org/Jb4.10-11)The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who [d](https://www.esv.org/Ps84.11)seek the LORD lack no good thing.11  [e](https://www.esv.org/Ps66.16)Come, O children, listen to me; [f](https://www.esv.org/Ps32.8)I will teach you the fear of the LORD. 12  [g](https://www.esv.org/1P3.10-12)What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may [h](https://www.esv.org/Ec3.13%3BEc6.6)see good? 13  [i](https://www.esv.org/Ps15.3%3BPs39.1%3BPs141.3%3BPr13.3%3BPr21.23%3BJm1.26%3BJm3.2%3B1P2.1%3B1P2.22)Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from [j](https://www.esv.org/Jn1.47%3BRv14.5)speaking deceit. 14  [k](https://www.esv.org/Ps37.27%3BIs1.16-17%3BJb28.28)Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and [l](https://www.esv.org/Rm14.19%3BHb12.14%3BRm12.18)pursue it. 15  [m](https://www.esv.org/Ps33.18)The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous [n](https://www.esv.org/Ps34.6%3BPs34.8%3BPs145.18%3BJn9.31)and his ears toward their cry. 16  [o](https://www.esv.org/Jr44.11%3BAm9.4)The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to [p](https://www.esv.org/Ps21.10)cut off the memory of them from the earth. 17  [n](https://www.esv.org/Ps34.15)When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. 18  The LORD is near to [q](https://www.esv.org/Ps51.17%3BPs147.3%3BIs61.1)the brokenhearted and saves [r](https://www.esv.org/Is57.15%3BIs66.2%3BLk15.17-24)the crushed in spirit. 19  [s](https://www.esv.org/2Tm3.11-12)Many are the afflictions of the righteous, [t](https://www.esv.org/Ps34.6%3BPs34.17%3BPs34.22%3BAc12.11)but the LORD delivers him out of them all. 20  He keeps all his bones; [u](https://www.esv.org/Jn19.36)not one of them is broken. 21  [v](https://www.esv.org/Ps94.23%3BPr24.16%3BPs7.15-16)Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. 22  The LORD [w](https://www.esv.org/Ps25.22)redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be [x](https://www.esv.org/Rm8.33-34)condemned.

**Content & Questions:**

* This Psalm is one of thanksgiving for the protection and care of the Lord for those who trust Him. The author not only speaks to the protection and care of God, he also adds a wisdom section in these verses. Rightfully so, for it is those who are wise (the ones who are trusting in the Lord) that are in need of God's protection.
* There is a poetic feel to this psalm. The first section vs 1-3 is about praising God and the encouragement for others to join him. Then the author leads into the Lord's faithfulness and his deliverance from a situation vs 4-7. In verses 8-14 the author writes about the benefits and command of fearing the Lord. Finally, the author finishes up with verses 15-22 writing about the protection that Yahweh gives those who fear Him with the destruction that will ultimately come to those who are wicked and unrepentant.
* ***Word Study***: in the first part of the Psalm the author focuses on the word “*Boast”* in Hebrew that word is halal, it describes praising the Lord proudly to others. This is a focus on the Lord's accomplishments and not driven by pride in self. The word Hallelujah, meaning praise Yahweh, is derived from this term.
1. When the palmist discusses blessing the Lord, what does he mean? Is it ‘earthly blessings’ like we think about? How can we, if we can at all, bless the Lord?
2. How can we taste and see that the Lord is good?
3. How can we think, speak, and act in a manner that boasts in the Lord, that is glorifying to the Lord, and is in fear of the Lord?
4. Vs 13-14 speaks to: [*i*](https://www.esv.org/Ps15.3%3BPs39.1%3BPs141.3%3BPr13.3%3BPr21.23%3BJm1.26%3BJm3.2%3B1P2.1%3B1P2.22)*Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from* [*j*](https://www.esv.org/Jn1.47%3BRv14.5)*speaking deceit. 14* [*k*](https://www.esv.org/Ps37.27%3BIs1.16-17%3BJb28.28)*Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and* [*l*](https://www.esv.org/Rm14.19%3BHb12.14%3BRm12.18)*pursue it.*How does this play out in our lives? How can we all do better with this? (Ephesians 4:29)
5. Verse 18-20:18  *The LORD is near to* [*q*](https://www.esv.org/Ps51.17%3BPs147.3%3BIs61.1)*the brokenhearted and saves* [*r*](https://www.esv.org/Is57.15%3BIs66.2%3BLk15.17-24)*the crushed in spirit. 19* [*s*](https://www.esv.org/2Tm3.11-12)*Many are the afflictions of the righteous,* [*t*](https://www.esv.org/Ps34.6%3BPs34.17%3BPs34.22%3BAc12.11)*but the LORD delivers him out of them all. 20* How does this verse comfort you? Recount a time in your life when you were brokenhearted and crushed in spirit. Share if you feel led.
6. The final verse of the chapter, *22  The LORD* [*w*](https://www.esv.org/Ps25.22)*redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be* [*x*](https://www.esv.org/Rm8.33-34)*condemned.* How encouraging is this verse? The God of the universe redeems the life of His servants! This is the best part of the whole chapter, and this should provide so much comfort to the reader. No matter what this life throws at you, the Lord has you in His arms.

**III. Responding in Prayer**

* Take turns praising God for who He is and thanking Him for what He does.
* Pray for those you know that desperately need to taste and see that the Lord is good.
* Pray for those you know that are crushed in spirit and brokenhearted.
* Pray for the final preps for VBS to go smoothly, as hundreds of children will be here to hear the gospel.
* Pray for all the new people we continue to have each week, that the Lord would draw them to our church and connect them deeply.
* Pray for our summer efforts at living sent in our community. Pray for our church to all individually take ownership of the mission God has for us. Pray for God’s power to continue to rest on our church and our people as we worship and serve, seek holiness and grow in faith.