

Small Group Guide:

The Deliverer That Always Delivers

Based on Psalm 34:17-18

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to open hearts and minds to receive His Word and to help each person understand His faithfulness as our Deliverer.

Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Share a time when someone came through for you when you really needed help. How did that make you feel about that person?

Key Scripture

Psalm 34:17-18 (NCSB)

"The righteous cry out and the Lord hears and rescues them from all of their troubles. The Lord is near the brokenhearted and he saves those crushed in spirit."

Main Takeaways

1. God Hears the Cries of the Righteous

God is not distant or indifferent. When we cry out to Him, He leans in closer and listens with intention to deliver us.

2. Trust in God's Timing

Deliverance doesn't always come overnight. We didn't get into our troubles overnight, and God often uses the process to strengthen our faith and character.

3. Faith in God's Power

Our faith must be rooted in God's omnipotence—His ability to do "immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

4. Assurance of God's Presence

We are never alone in our struggles. God promises to be with us always, even in the darkest valleys.

5. Transformation Through Trials

Like the eagle that must go through painful renewal at 40 to live beyond 70, our trials transform us and deepen our relationship with God.

Discussion Questions

Part 1: God Hears Us (15 minutes)

1. **The sermon emphasized "honest prayer" with God.** What prevents us from being completely honest with God about our struggles? How can we overcome this?
2. **Read Psalm 107:6.** Share about a time when you cried out to God in distress. How did He answer? Did His answer come in the way or timing you expected?
3. **The pastor said, "Why waste your breath telling somebody your troubles who has no ability to help you?"** How do we balance sharing our burdens with others while ultimately trusting God as our primary source of help?

Part 2: Trust God's Timing (15 minutes)

4. **In our "overnight delivery" culture, how does impatience affect our spiritual walk?** What are practical ways to cultivate patience while waiting on God?
5. **The sermon stated, "It didn't take you overnight to get in trouble, so it won't take overnight to get out."** How does this perspective change the way you view your current challenges?
6. **Read Isaiah 40:31.** What does it mean to "renew your strength" in the Lord? Share a time when hoping in God renewed your strength during a difficult season.

Part 3: Faith in God's Power (15 minutes)

7. **The pastor mentioned the stories of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel.** What do these accounts teach us about faith when facing impossible situations?
8. **"In my weakness, He is made strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).** How have you experienced God's power being perfected in your weakness?
9. **The sermon says, "You have not because you ask not."** Are there areas in your life where you've been hesitant to ask God for help? What holds you back?

Part 4: God's Presence and Transformation (15 minutes)

10. **Read Psalm 23:4.** How does knowing God is with you change your perspective on the "valleys" you're walking through?
11. **The eagle illustration showed that renewal is painful.** What painful transformation has God brought you through that resulted in spiritual growth?
12. **"You can't praise God and worry at the same time."** Has anyone experienced this truth? Share about a time when worship shifted your perspective in the middle of trouble.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose One

Option 1: Practice Honest Prayer Each day this week, spend 10 minutes in completely honest prayer with God. Don't sugarcoat your struggles—tell Him exactly what you're feeling and experiencing.

Option 2: Testimony Sharing Share your testimony of God's deliverance with at least one person this week—someone who might be going through a similar struggle.

Option 3: Worship in the Storm When you face a challenge this week (big or small), immediately respond with praise before you respond with worry. Keep a journal of how this changes your perspective.

Option 4: Trust Exercise Identify one area where you're trying to control the outcome. Surrender it to God daily and trust His timing, even if it's uncomfortable.

Reflection Questions for Personal Growth

- Where do I need God's deliverance right now?
- Am I being honest with God about my struggles?

- What is God teaching me in this season of waiting?
- How can I encourage someone else with my testimony of God's faithfulness?
- Am I trusting in my own strength or in God's power?

Prayer Focus

As a group, pray for:

1. **Those facing trials** - That they would experience God's nearness to the brokenhearted
2. **Faith to trust God's timing** - Even when deliverance doesn't come as quickly as desired
3. **Boldness to share testimonies** - That group members would encourage others with their stories
4. **Transformation through trials** - That God would use current struggles to deepen faith
5. **Specific needs** - Allow time for group members to share prayer requests

Memory Verse for the Week

Psalm 34:17-18

"The righteous cry out and the Lord hears and rescues them from all of their troubles. The Lord is near the brokenhearted and he saves those crushed in spirit."

Closing Thought

Remember: **The Deliverer that always delivers is not a myth, but a reality to be experienced.** When you cry out—whether in quiet moments or in the middle of a storm—God hears you, sees you, and acts on your behalf.

Before Next Meeting

- Practice your chosen application challenge
- Memorize Psalm 34:17-18
- Come prepared to share how God showed up for you this week

Group Leader Note: Create space for authentic sharing. Some may be in the middle of difficult trials right now. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and allow time for ministry to one another.